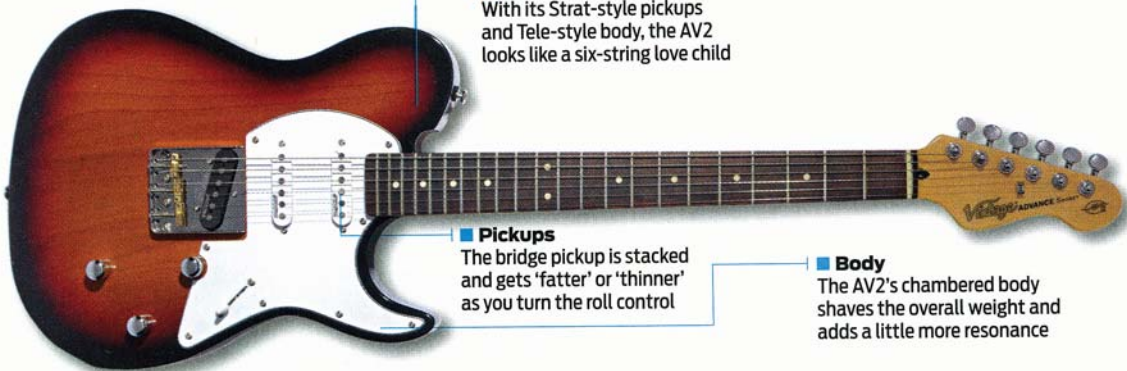


Vintage Advance AV2 S3

£399

Advance by name



Body
With its Strat-style pickups and Tele-style body, the AV2 looks like a six-string love child

Pickups
The bridge pickup is stacked and gets 'fatter' or 'thinner' as you turn the roll control

Body
The AV2's chambered body shaves the overall weight and adds a little more resonance

We've all had the five-pint conversation about grafting Angelina Jolie's head onto Jordan's body. This is the guitar equivalent, with a Strat-esque trio of pickups astride a Tele-ish singlecoil.

The sizzle: Vintage has sure pushed the envelope since letting designer Trev Wilkinson loose on the Advance Series in 2006. Take the innocuous-looking AV2 model, which manages to raise



eyebrows with a chambered alder body ("this gives it a lighter tone, a little more acoustic"), a thumb cutaway ("so it's easier to play the top frets"), a sustain-boosting bubinga heel on the

back of the neck, and a stacked bridge singlecoil that's made fatter or thinner via a roll control.

We say: If the AV2's chambered body is open to debate, then the neck is less divisive, offering a slip-sliding platform that's as good as anything here. Elsewhere, it's mostly good news, with the bubinga heel a reassuring presence, the thumb notch actually working and the roll control unlocking a cracking array of clean voices

(even if the neck/middle items are more Strat-sounding than Tele purists might hope). All of which makes the AV2's slight lack of punch when distorted a let-down – it delivers a racket that's more 'watertight' than truly unforgettable. Give it a road-test before swiping your credit card.

SUMMARY

For: Packed full of smart ideas
Against: Distorted tone lacks balls
★★★★☆

TG says: Clever but not for purists

At a glance

Vintage Advance AV2 S3

BODY: Chambered alder
NECK: Maple/bubinga, bolt-on
FINGERBOARD: Rosewood with dot inlays
SCALE: 25.5"
PICKUPS: 3x Wilkinson singlecoils (stacked at bridge)
CONTROLS: Volume, tone, roll control, pickup selector
HARDWARE: Nickel
FINISH: Sunset Sunburst [pictured]
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