



Vintage AV1P 'Special' £429

The **Vintage** AV1P is part of Vintage's Advanced series and features clever design tweaks and Wilkinson hardware.

Its body is two-piece mahogany, with a subtle flame maple veneer, and is slightly slimmer than a Les Paul thanks to a deep belly scoop and top-edge waist contouring.

The angled top-cutaway isn't just for visual effect, it offers excellent upper fret access, while a batwing-style neck join provides ample palm comfort.

Pickups are Wilkinson stacked soapbars, with a roll control for graduation from single-coil to 'bucker. We also get Wilkinson Deluxe tuners, tune-o-matic-style bridge and stud tailpiece.

The AV1P plays as well as any of our quartet; the mahogany neck and rosewood fretboard embodies that classic Gibson sixties slinky feel.

The finishing is a little untidy but these purely cosmetic issues don't manage to take the shine away from an otherwise delightful instrument.

Sounds

Tonally, the AV1P is a little more rounded in the top end

than the PRS and the mids are fuller. Played clean, the AV1P demonstrates an almost Tele-like character, especially when picking nearer the bridge, which adds extra bite to country riffs or choppy indie.

Under ample gain, the AV1P is very transparent; the overall tonal quality remains and offers a really interesting blues-rock alternative to a humbucker-equipped LP-style guitar.

The roll control adds some hum, even on the full 'bucker selection, though it does offer some interesting versatility. The full humbucker setting sounds so sweet we feel no need to thin out the tone, instead reaching for the volume control to tame things when needed.

The Bottom Line

We like: Distinct looks; Gibson-inspired feel; sweet and varied tones

Guitarist says: The AV1P has great feel, sounds good and is a rewarding experience for reasonable outlay