

At a glance**Encore Blaster Series E2**

BODY: Solid wuton
NECK: Maple, bolt-on
FINGERBOARD: Rosewood, with dot inlays
SCALE: 25"
PICKUPS: 2x Guitar Tech singlecoils at neck and bridge
CONTROLS: 1x volume, 1x tone, 3-way pickup selector
HARDWARE: Chrome tuners and bridge saddles
FINISH: Black (pictured), Sunburst
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Body

TG found the E2's body stylish, lightweight and easy to manage

Pickups

The twin Guitar Tech singlecoils supply plenty of vintage tone



£99

This model is good enough to play proper gigs and it felt instantly at home in TG's hands

Neck

The E2's bolt-on maple neck is chunky and great for rock riffs

ENCORE BLASTER SERIES E2

You probably spend £99 on Pot Noodles a month. Wouldn't you rather have the E2?

Since the dawn of time, mankind's greatest minds have pondered one question: how does Encore make its electrics so darn cheap? A few months back, we'd have sworn there was no way these Chinese workhorses could get any better without slipping into the dreaded mid-price zone. We were wrong. With spec upgrades across the board, but a price tag that doesn't exclude anyone, the Encore Blaster Series E2 has just raised the bar. Again.

The sizzle: JHS isn't just the UK's Encore distributor, it also owns the brand, oversees its production in China, and has been kicking its entry-level ass into shape over the past few months. "We've revamped the whole Encore range," says JHS guru Gibson Keddie, "and we've had [resident JHS design legend] Trev Wilkinson overhaul the spec, but we're still hovering around

that critical hundred-pound mark for the new Blaster Series. With the E2, you're paying just under a ton for a perfectly playable electric guitar that's lightweight and really easy to handle."

We say: The profit margin on the E2 must be wafer-thin. There's nothing fancy about the raw materials or the way they've been put together – a chunky maple neck is bolted to a lightweight wuton body in no-nonsense fashion. But this model is good enough to play proper gigs, felt instantly at home in TG's hands, and turned in a suitably vintage-style quack and pop via the excellent twin Guitar Tech singlecoils. More discerning players will want to push their wallet for more tonal character and a cooler name on the headstock, but if you want to get out there and gig, the E2 is *literally* impossible to fault.

Henry Yates

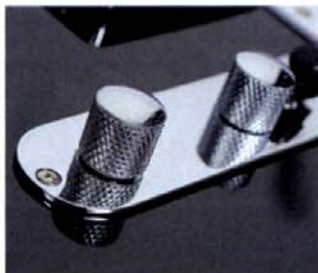
SUMMARY

For: It's a solid workhorse electric, the price

Against: At this price, only a tosser would start nit-picking



TG says... Our head exploded at the price/performance ratio



The E2's chrome hardware sets it off beautifully

