



Vintage VSA535-12 £449

A Gibson-styled 12-string semi-acoustic at an affordable price

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This guitar's twin-cutaway slim-depth body is clearly influenced by the ES-335 and construction is equally similar – a glued-in mahogany neck and maple laminate body, the latter incorporating an internal solid centre section.

The bound rosewood fingerboard features 22 medium gauge frets and a 628mm (24.75-inch) scale, while the 'C'-profile neck is the same as on the six-string Vintage version, so quarters are somewhat cramped for

12-string fingering. The nut slots have been left a little high too, and some string sticking is apparent, which makes smooth tuning tricky.

Plastic-buttoned, vintage-style tuners help keep headstock weight down, while

twin humbuckers (and controls for each) maintains the Gibson vibe. The bridge is a standard tune-o-matic type and each string pair shares a single saddle, which compromises intonation, but the bar tailpiece boasts 12 anchor holes.

Sounds

Humbuckers don't always make ideal 12-string pickups, but these examples combine rich lows with a healthy high-end, delivering the necessary note definition and typical ringing chime via all three switch positions.

Verdict

Tuning issues aside, this Vintage should please any player who fancies a good sounding 12-string semi for a wallet-friendly figure that includes a nice hard case. [PD]

The Bottom Line

We like: Sounds

We dislike: Neck width; nut; six-saddle bridge

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

