

Vintage Metal Axxe Wraith Bass **£349**

Mean, moody and very metal. Be scared...

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If any guitar or bass visually depicts a musical genre then it has to be the appropriately named Metal Axxe models from Vintage. These are mean, moody and magnificent beasts that look as if they've come straight from hell, with a visual attitude clearly aimed at the heavy metal fraternity.

We get a glorious Helms Black Flame finish with a serrated body edge, like bites out of a slice of burnt toast, and with the severity of the sickle-like headstock, this bass is packed with visual attitude. But, being loaded with both a split-coil pickup and a single-coil, it can also deliver plenty of the right sounds.

Sounds

The Wraith certainly benefits from having Wilkinson-

designed pickups for this P/J configuration that's ideal for giving any hard rock bass player the cutting tones required. Having active electronics is a huge boon and allows this bass to deliver throaty primal sounds with tons of attitude, but it also cleans up like a shaved hog. The bridge pickup adds the extra punch, but the blended sounds are naturally dominated by the solidarity of

the split-coil. There's plenty of tonal variation to hand and the active circuitry provides the muscle to deliver.

Verdict

If a picture paints a thousand words then this writes its own review. Love 'em or hate 'em, these metal monsters are a real fashion statement for those of that particular persuasion. But this sounds so good you could

happily use it in just about any band – looks aside. It simply does what it says on the tin, but quite magnificently. **[RN]**

The Bottom Line

We like: Looks; good feel; tonal punch; solid sounds

We dislike: No complaints

GUITARIST RATING ★★★★★

