



TERRY PACK PLRS & SJRS

Terry Pack guitars are made in Vietnam, set up right here in the UK and come with the offer of a free annual setup and a lifetime guarantee. Review by **Huw Price**

The factory that makes these guitars is located close to Ho Chi Minh City and the small workforce performs most of the guitar building tasks the old fashioned way - by hand. Both guitars have AAA-grade solid sitka spruce tops, solid rosewood back and sides, ebony for the fingerboards, bridges and bridge pins, and rosewood overlays on the front and back of the headstocks.

The one-piece necks are made from mahogany, while the satin urethane finish indicates that they're finished separately from the gloss bodies and attached later in the production process - a nice touch. The nut and compensated saddle are bone, and gold-plated Gotoh diecast tuners with black buttons are standard.

PLRS

Although the appearance might suggest that this is a travel guitar, the 'parlour' tag is justified. We placed the PLRS back-to-back with an antique Washburn New Model parlour and the body lengths were almost identical; however, the PLRS is about an inch wider in the lower bout. The PLRS scale length is 3/8" shorter, so it's compact but not cramped, and the fingerboard is a picker-friendly 44mm at the nut. The proportions look and feel balanced.

The materials are all top-notch, and the detailing of the herringbone and



Solid sitka spruce top and an ebony bridge with pearl 'P' inlays

solid maple binding joints is as good as it gets. The lightweight Gotoh tunes are smooth and super accurate... ideal for exploring various tunings.

Sounds

This guitar possesses a lot of charm. The laws of physics dictate that such a small box won't deliver enormous volume or copious amounts of bass energy, but the PLRS punches well above its weight and size on both counts. There is a trace of boxy midrange thud that seems to characterise very small-bodied steel-string guitars, but the PLRS has an overall fullness and solidity that makes it more reminiscent of a full-sized guitar



Solid rosewood back and sides and maple binding, all for under a grand

with the 'volume' turned down than a parlour or a travel guitar.

Given the lower string tension due to the short scale length, we'd be inclined to experiment with slightly heavier strings to coax even more

FACTFILE Terry Pack PLRS

DESCRIPTION **Cutaway parlour-sized acoustic guitar. Made in Vietnam**
 PRICE **£899 inc. mock croc hard case**

BUILD **Solid sitka spruce top, solid rosewood back and sides, 18-fret one-piece mahogany neck, ebony fingerboard and bridge, bone nut and compensated saddle, Gotoh diecast tuners**

ELECTRICS **Optional**
 LEFT-HANDERS **Yes**
 FINISH **Gloss body, satin neck**

SCALE LENGTH

24"/610mm

NECK WIDTH

Nut 44mm

12th fret 57mm

DEPTH OF NECK

First fret 19mm

10th fret 24mm

STRING SPACING

Nut 38mm

Bridge 56mm

ACTION AS SUPPLIED

12th fret treble 2.5mm

12th fret bass 3mm

WEIGHT

1.6kg/3.5lbs

CONTACT **Terry Pack Guitars**
07970 111404
www.terrypackguitars.com

Like this? Try this...

Recording King

RP2-626-C

00-sized cutaway with solid AAA spruce top, solid mahogany back and sides, V profile maple neck, ebony fretboard, Grovers, ivoroid body binding, ebony bridge and hand-buffed nitrocellulose finish
 RRP **£651**

Maton

Mini EML/6

Small body non-cutaway, Queensland maple back and sides, solid sitka top, Queensland maple neck, rosewood fretboard and bridge, Maton AP4 pickup system, natural satin finish
 RRP **£981**

FINAL SCORE

TERRY PACK PLRS	
Build Quality	20/20
Playability	19/20
Sound	16/20
Value for money	17/20
Looks	18/20
TOTAL	90%

FACTFILE
Terry Pack SJRS

DESCRIPTION Cutaway small jumbo-sized acoustic guitar. Made in Vietnam
PRICE £1795 (£1995 with LR Baggs Anthem) inc. mock croc or ostrich hard case

BUILD Solid sitka spruce top, solid rosewood back and sides, 20-fret one-piece mahogany neck, ebony fingerboard and bridge, bone nut and compensated saddle, Gotoh tuners

ELECTRICS LR Baggs Anthem or Carlos Juan
LEFT-HANDERS Yes
FINISH Gloss body with satin neck

SCALE LENGTH 25.5"/646mm
NECK WIDTH Nut 44mm
12th fret 55mm
DEPTH OF NECK First fret 19mm
10th fret 22mm
STRING SPACING Nut 38mm
Bridge 55.5mm
ACTION AS SUPPLIED 12th fret treble 2.5mm
12th fret bass 3mm
WEIGHT 2.1kg/4.62lbs

CONTACT Terry Pack Guitars
07970 111404
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Like this? Try this...

Gibson
CJ-165

With a compact version of the J-200 body plus a cutaway body, Sitka top and rosewood back & sides, maple neck, MOP parallelogram inlays and a piezo pickup with Fishman Aura Pro system, the CJ's a frontman's delight
RRP £1674

Lakewood
J-32 CP

Typically solid work from the Germans with a cutaway jumbo body, solid European AAA spruce top, rosewood back and sides, a one-piece mahogany neck, ebony fretboard and LR Baggs Anthem. Hiscox case comes included
RRP £1982



LR Baggs Anthem has Vol, Mix and Phase controls inside the soundhole



The comfort curve is usually the territory of high-price custom builders

The Terry Pack SJRS's mellow, midrangy woodiness and refined tone make it an easy guitar to fingerpick and strum

tone out of the PLRS. Even so we found its combination of clarity, harmonic complexity, dynamic energy and high-frequency chime an addictive combination for strumming and fingerpicking alike.

SJRS

This is a jumbo, with a rather gorgeous top with a subtle tint taking the colour towards cedar rather than solid spruce. The real standout features are the 'armrest' style binding in the cutaway and on the lower bout. They're carved from a hardwood called paduak that's naturally crimson in colour. The effect on this guitar is spectacular, with the swirly grain resembling congealed blood. The abalone rosette with thick brown banding also catches the eye.

Like the PLRS, it's almost effortless to play. The low, buzz-free action allows for fast lead playing and easy barre chords, even with the stock set of 12 gauge Elixir strings. Once again the neck profile has a slim, modern C feel that fits right into the crook of your hand.

Sounds

Acoustically the SJRS isn't particularly loud, but string-to-string balance is very even and a mellow woodiness underpins the overall sound. The bass response is well focussed and solid without being snappy or bright in the upper harmonics. It's not an especially deep tone, but certainly in line with most 000 sized guitars. The SJRS reserves most of its punch for the midrange.

The treble end has a crisp and sprightly quality that can approach the

featheriness of a Martin - especially when you engage in delicate fingerpicking. The SJRS really takes to open tunings, and dropped low strings track nicely without flapping out. The refined and slightly compressed tone makes the SJRS an easy guitar to fingerpick and strum, but some might crave more thrills and dynamic response.

Of course that's only half the story because the SJRS has an electric side too. The LR Baggs is a superior-sounding acoustic guitar pickup system because it relies primarily on a condenser microphone signal, while the undersaddle pickup piezo is there to bolster the low end. In most dual transducer systems, the microphone merely augments the undersaddle pickup.

We experienced no feedback issues and the LR Baggs system delivered a bright, clean and discernibly 'acoustic' tone. Basically it sounds like the SLRS has been close-mic'd with a bright-sounding condenser microphone. Output levels are on the low side so whatever you're plugging into will require a decent quality preamp, and the tone might benefit from a small degree of treble roll-off.

Verdict

By any standards the build and finish quality of these are second to none. They're essentially flawless, and this came as no real surprise given our previous experience with Vietnam-



manufactured Baden guitars. The standard of these guitars is certainly commensurate with their price. The tone, style and playing feel are modern rather than vintage-inspired so they won't suit all tastes, but the designer clearly loves guitars and has the technical knowledge to back it up.

FINAL SCORE

TERRY PACK SJRS	
Build Quality	20/20
Playability	19/20
Sound	16/20
Value for money	16/20
Looks	18/20
TOTAL	89%