

Off-print from the magazine

Guitar,

8 Horse and Dolphin Yard,
Macclesfield Street,
London W1,
England

Levin WR 34

Rec. price (without case): £135.00 inc VAT

Overall length: 38 $\frac{1}{4}$ in

Body length: 19 $\frac{1}{4}$ in

Body width: 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ /11 $\frac{1}{8}$ in

Body depth: 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ in

Scale length: 24 $\frac{7}{8}$ in

Width at nut: 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ in

There's more sound in this little Swedish-made guitar than its dimensions would suggest. It's made to roughly classical size and shape, with a small body, short scale length and classical-width neck, which joins the body at the 12th fret. The design of the head and positioning of the bridge are also those of the classic guitar rather than the jumbo acoustic. And yet it has a full, well-balanced and authentic steel-string sound.

The explanation lies partly in the depth of the body, especially in the lower bout, partly in the fine solid spruce top and partly in the excellence of construction. Unlike some other steel-string guitars of this size, it hasn't been too heavily strutted, and the light, vibrant 'feel' of the body adds to its appeal. High marks, then, for volume, tone and balance. Intonation is perfect, as we should expect from a guitar of this price.

The bridge is rather unusual: it has six screw-in plastic 'saddles', so the height of each string can be adjusted individually, according to taste and technique. But to do this, you have to slacken the string off completely – a tedious process if you want to raise the whole action for a spot of bottleneck playing. Also, the small notches in the 'saddles' (we couldn't decide if these are there by design or as a result of string pressure) are sometimes slightly off-centre. Which means that it's impossible to achieve perfect equidistance between strings.

The overall design is simple and pleasing, and the finish is good in an unflamboyant way. We particularly liked the matt finish on the back of the neck – a non-stick surface that doesn't obscure the quality of the wood.

Levin



Levin WR34	Maximum	Points obtained
Sustain	10	8
Balance	10	9
Intonation	10	10
Ease of playing	10	7
Tone quality	10	9
Volume	10	9
Construction	5	4
Nut, bridge & saddle	5	3
Neck & frets	5	4
String tension	5	3
Responsiveness	5	4
Design	5	4
Attention to detail	5	4
Finish	5	4
TOTAL	100	82