

DELTA RESONATOR GUITARS
Handmade in the UK by John Alderson
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"If I were a carpenter " said John "and U were an engineer" to Colin "should we marry our skills anyway, would you help me make a baby". Fortunately John Alderson is an expert carpenter and guitar maker, and Colin Oldham is a serious engineer and instrument maker (Bagpipes!) and their marriage has so far produced three offspring two of which were at home when I called them in the village of Sapcote just to the left of Leicester on page 34 of the AA big book of roads.

So much for the parents then, what's this baby I've been left holding, well it was at this point that my musical life was changed by the most awesome guitar I've had the pleasure to strum. Technical details will follow but for the moment I have to try to put feelings into words to best describe the Hand Made Wood Bodied Tri-Cone Resonator that has me firmly under its spell, just so playable and the sound, wow, I kept looking at it to see where the sound was coming from, a magic box possibly, lets hand this guitar to John and do a proper sound check.

Lets try the full bodied guitar, tuned to open G (a beautiful chord in its own right), John has a heavy plectrum style and a 30 year old bottle(of Harvey's Bristol Cream)neck and even though the strings are set at an easy frettable height you can just hit it as hard as you wish its solid all the way and loud! Jesus 103 decibels, no, 103.2 decibels (there's been some interesting, nay bizarre, but necessary research along the way), but what about the tone though I hear you ask? Pure as you like I reply.

Now lets swap to the cutaway model, open D this time but a much deeper piece of music this time, in the style of Blind Willie Johnson if you like, and check out the ring from those cones, three high spec hand spun Delta Deep South Cones (there are different cones available), the bottom end is very deep and warm but that ring goes on forever, its another voice as Colin rightly puts it and a wonderful voice at that, this is a guitar to take home and just explore in your own time it'll talk to you and make some REAL sweet music, it'll make you play and want to discover just pure glorious sound, young or old, professional or beginner its been conceived and(still being) developed basically by players for players.

Technically the examples here are of laminated mahogany construction with the headstock fully faced with pearloid (no logo as yet). The neck is a three piece affair with a serious, hand carved, V profile topped with a first quality ebony fingerboard, diamond shaped inlays and bound in Ivoroid, there's also a fully adjustable truss rod in there and is very comfortable to play. The metalwork on the body is all hand made shaped along traditional Art Deco lines whilst the carpentry skills are second to none, check the quality carving around the sound holes, and its all bound in pearloid. The depth of the body has been meticulously researched and also hides a lot of construction secrets but whatever's in there it all combines to make a real dream machine. Great guitars, great people and great value for money, be amazed, £1595.