

## Balanced Beauty

### The Teye Guitars Electric Gypsy

**N**ETHERLANDS-BORN Teye has been a professional guitarist for more than two decades, and like a lot of gigging guitarists spent his share of time searching for a guitar that could cover a variety of tones.

Drawing on his experience, and time spent building and modifying guitars with his father, Teye decided to build an electric that would satisfy his needs, something with the response of his flamenco guitar, the looks and feel of the Zemaitis in his collection, and a variety of usable tones.

With one look at the Teye Guitars Electric Gypsy model (available in color/trim options called La India or La Mora) it's immediately apparent that Wijnterp has a sincere appreciation for the work of guitar builder Tony Zemaitis. In fact, one's first impulse upon seeing the Electric Gypsy likely is, "It's a Zemaitis copy," what with its engraved-aluminum top and narrow-waist single-cut body. A closer look reveals a much more Southwest/Texas vibe, with inlaid turquoise mosaic and longer (25.5") scale length. The Electric Gypsy has a single-cutaway mahogany body with a three-piece set mahogany neck, compound-radius bound ebony fretboard with mother-of-pearl dot inlays, "diamonds and stripes" body inlays, and 24 large frets. Nearly all hardware is hand-made, from the aluminum-capped brass tailpiece and engraved aluminum adjustable bridge, to the engraved pickup rings, truss-rod cover, and switch tip. The only off-the-shelf parts are Grover Imperial tuning machines, Schaller straplock buttons, and the control knobs.

The finish on the La India is a very thin lacquer similar to a French-polish finish you might see on an old violin. Being hand-applied, this type of finish does tend to show imperfections and is more prone to wear than the typical modern high-gloss finish. But those who use it believe it gives the guitar

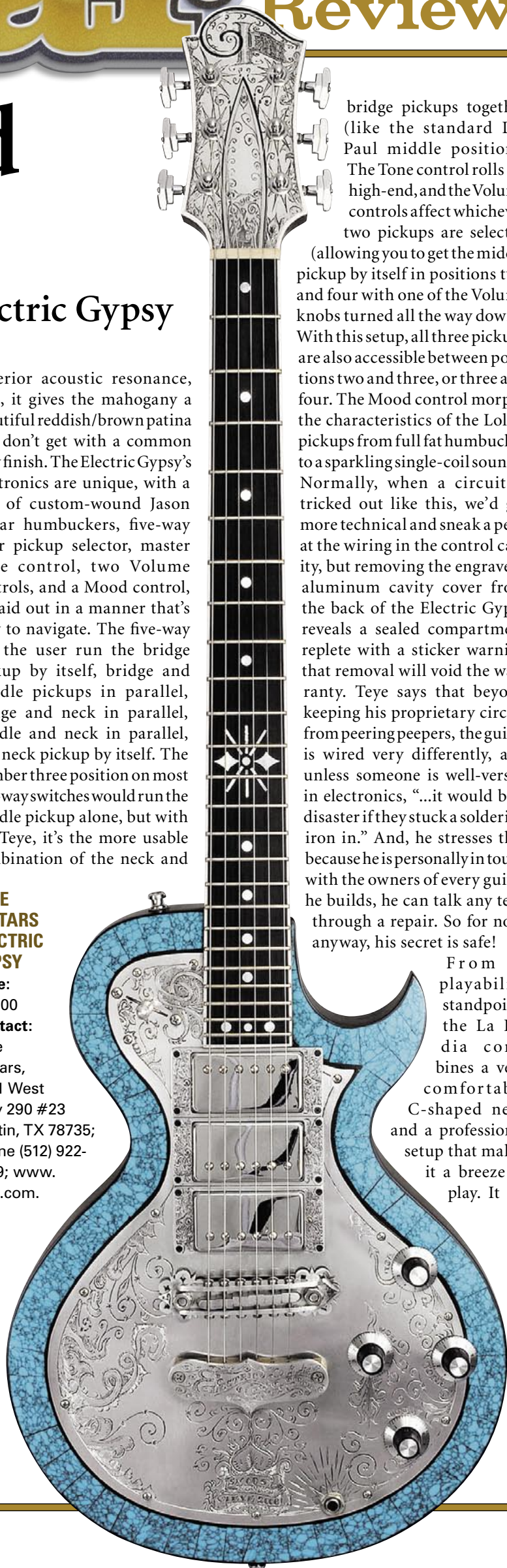
superior acoustic resonance, plus, it gives the mahogany a beautiful reddish/brown patina you don't get with a common poly finish. The Electric Gypsy's electronics are unique, with a trio of custom-wound Jason Lollar humbuckers, five-way lever pickup selector, master Tone control, two Volume controls, and a Mood control, all laid out in a manner that's easy to navigate. The five-way lets the user run the bridge pickup by itself, bridge and middle pickups in parallel, bridge and neck in parallel, middle and neck in parallel, and neck pickup by itself. The number three position on most five-way switches would run the middle pickup alone, but with the Teye, it's the more usable combination of the neck and

#### TEYE GUITARS ELECTRIC GYPSY

**Price:** \$8,500  
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bridge pickups together (like the standard Les Paul middle position). The Tone control rolls off high-end, and the Volume controls affect whichever two pickups are selected (allowing you to get the middle pickup by itself in positions two and four with one of the Volume knobs turned all the way down). With this setup, all three pickups are also accessible between positions two and three, or three and four. The Mood control morphs the characteristics of the Lollar pickups from full fat humbucker to a sparkling single-coil sounds. Normally, when a circuit is tricked out like this, we'd get more technical and sneak a peek at the wiring in the control cavity, but removing the engraved-aluminum cavity cover from the back of the Electric Gypsy reveals a sealed compartment replete with a sticker warning that removal will void the warranty. Teye says that beyond keeping his proprietary circuit from peering peepers, the guitar is wired very differently, and unless someone is well-versed in electronics, "...it would be a disaster if they stuck a soldering iron in." And, he stresses that because he is personally in touch with the owners of every guitar he builds, he can talk any tech through a repair. So for now, anyway, his secret is safe!

From a playability standpoint, the La India combines a very comfortable C-shaped neck and a professional setup that makes it a breeze to play. It of-



## GEARIN' UP



#### AXL BADWATER BASS

AXL's Badwater AP-820 bass uses split and single-coil pickups designed by EMG, a solid alder body with distressed finish, antiqued hardware, and a classic-style pickguard. Check them out [axlguitars.com](http://axlguitars.com).

#### BACKLINE ZENTONE 7

BackLine Engineering's ZenTone7 is a class-A tube amp with control settings that can be saved as presets while maintaining an all-tube signal path. It accepts an array of tubes and allows on-the-fly switching between three preamp gain structures and four output tube configurations. Read more at [backline-eng.com](http://backline-eng.com).



#### DEAN RAZORBACK

Dean Guitars Razorback 255 and Razorback V 255 have a 25 1/2" scale length, wider fret spacing, and EMG 81/85 humbuckers. Learn more at [deanguitars.com](http://deanguitars.com).

#### MAD PROFESSOR EFFECTS

The Mad Professor Deep Blue Delay is a digital/analog delay with an analog direct signal path and can be used either in front of an amplifier or in an effects loop. The Little Green Wonder is a stackable overdrive with adjustable low/mid EQ balance. The Little Red Distortion pedal is an adjustable '80s style compressed gain. Visit [mpamp.com](http://mpamp.com).



#### EXTech HUMIDITY ALERT METER

Extech Instruments' Humidity Alert Meter measures and displays temperature, relative humidity and dew point, and has audible and visible humidity alarms activated when humidity exceeds or falls