Wishlist

PHOTOGRAPHY **Jesse Wild**

Teye La India E Series £5,040

The guitars of the late Tony Zemaitis are among some of the most influential (and valuable) of any British guitar maker. Used by many rock stars, notably Ronnie Wood, replicas of the guitars are still made in Japan under the Zemaitis brand, but they have also inspired makers such as Teye Guitars, who hand-craft guitars in Austin, Texas.

The pictured La India comes from the more, ahem, affordable E series – the full custom A series can cost closer to £15k – and it instantly recalls Zemaitis with its pinched waist single-cut outline, laser-etched aluminium top and, here, turquoise 'tiles' around the outer edge. The all-mahogany guitar features a 648mm (25.5-inch) scale, 24-fret bound ebony 'board, Lollar humbuckers, twin volumes, master tone and a mood knob "that gives full humbucking, single coil and all points in between", says Teye.

This all-passive mood control sounds like a 'presence, punch and definition knob' to our ears. Overall, the La India sounds throaty and fat, a bit like a Les Paul Junior, but with more string separation; with the mood knob rolled all the way up there's a Tele/acoustic-like presence and clarity to the top strings. There's superb definition even on the neck pickup, but you can roll back to 'woman' tone if you want. It sounds great clean, too, and while it's not cheap, we reckon Mr Zemaitis would have been proud.

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