

Gear

ROUNDUP



TEYE COYOTE

WE GET A LOT OF GREAT LOOKING GUITARS in the office. There's a difference, however, between a pretty new guitar and a guitar that makes everyone who sees it—players and non-players alike—exclaim “Wow!” Any guesses as to which camp this Teye Coyote is in?

Where to begin? There is so much to admire about the cosmetics of this guitar that it's almost overwhelming. The custom-etched aluminum plates on the top are just impossibly cool, with loads of trippy, intricate detail. Ditto for the headstock overlay (with unfettered access to the trussrod—yay!). The aluminum tailpiece and pickup rings lend a sense of elegant gravitas to the sumptuous finish on the sunburst top. Everywhere you look there's something intriguing to stare at—the knobs, the fretboard inlay, the back plate, you name it.

From a playability standpoint, the Coyote is a dream. Monster bends, rather than fretting out, seem to actually get louder. The frets are smooth and even, making hammer-ons and pull-offs a breeze. This guitar can do something I associate with only the finest instruments: It can play like butter even with high action and strung with .011s. Crazy but true.

I can hear the skeptic chorus already: “Yeah, yeah... but how does it *sound*?!” I get that. Pretty is as pretty does and I'm here to tell you: The Coyote sounds Coyote gorgeous, with two DiMarzio pickups and what might be the sweetest implementation of a 5-way switch on two

humbuckers that I've ever heard. The bridge pickup sounds are beautiful—detailed, punchy, and dynamic. The neck pickup tones are clear, warm, and stringy. Then positions 2 and 4 provide amazing in-between split-coil sounds that are incredibly musical, with none of that thin, nasal quality that sometimes ruins that application. If that was all you got, this would still be a spectacular guitar, but there are also two of the best-voiced Volume knobs ever, with every minor adjustment bringing out new colors and flavors. Add to that an astounding Tone control that never gets muddy or unusable and you have a cornucopia of sonic options.

But wait—there's more. The fascinating Mood knob takes your gaggle of tones (5-way switch x two great Volume knobs x a perfectly voiced Tone knob) and increases them exponentially. This sounds to my ears like a variable mid-cut control, but what it really is is a knob that can take a rhythm tone from fat to skinnier, or clean up a dirty tone, or overdrive a clean sound, or turn your 5-way switch into a million-way switch.

This is not an inexpensive guitar, but considering what you get in terms of quality, sound, and vibe, it's not at all overpriced. You could play it on any gig in any style for the rest of your life and get unreal tone. And on every single one of those gigs, several people would come up to you and rave about how cool your guitar was. Well played, Teye. —MATT BLACKETT

MODEL

COYOTE

CONTACT	teye.com
PRICE	\$3,650 list/\$3,285 street

SPECIFICATIONS

NUT WIDTH	1.687"
NECK	Mahogany
FRETBOARD	Ebony with Teye inlay
FRETS	24 medium-wide
TUNERS	Grover Imperial Rotomatic
BODY	Mahogany with bound maple cap
BRIDGE	Custom Teye Tune-o-matic-style
PICKUPS	DiMarzio humbuckers
CONTROLS	Two Volume, Tone, Mood, 5-way switch
FACTORY STRINGS	D'Addario, .011-.049
WEIGHT	9.02 lbs
BUILT	USA
KUDOS	Stunning cosmetics. Gorgeous tones. Great attention to detail.
CONCERNS	None.