



REVEREND BUCKSHOT

BUILT IN KOREA AND SET UP IN DETROIT, THE BUCKSHOT PROVIDES CLASSIC TONES WITHOUT LOOKING LIKE JUST ANOTHER CLONE. **LOUIS THORNE** CHECKS OUT A PLANK WITH SPANK

Although not the most high-profile of brands, Reverend guitars have been seen in the hands of the Smashing Pumpkins' Billy Corgan and Iggy and the Stooges guitarist Ron Asheton, among others. Originally an American-made marque, nowadays these guitars are built in Korea before being inspected, strung and play-tested at the Reverend HQ in the US.

This should guarantee a better standard of quality control than your average Far-Eastern electric, and Reverend also uses decent woods and some above average hardware, including bespoke Reverend pickups. This helps these guitars stand out from the rest of the congregation and, at the risk of a metaphor stretched too far, the Rev may well win a few more converts with the Buckshot.

BODY & NECK

The first thing that's likely to strike you about this guitar is its individual look. The solid korina body is, in true Fender Tele style, an uncontoured slab, but the body shape has a trapezoidal lean that is rather more Jazzmaster or Jaguar than Telecaster. Despite its decidedly square cross-section, the Buckshot is very comfortable to hold, and the fairly generous thickness of the body gives the instrument a

GBINFO

REVEREND BUCKSHOT

PRICE: £399

BUILT IN: Korea

SCALE LENGTH: 648mm (25.5 inches)

NUT WIDTH: 42mm (1.65 inches)

STRING SPACING AT NUT: 37.5mm (1.48 inches)

BODY: Korina

NECK: Maple, bolt-on

FINGERBOARD: Maple, 305mm radius (12 inches)

FRETS: 22 medium jumbo

PICKUPS: 1 x Reverend T-Style single-coil, 1 x Reverend Revtron mini-humbucker

CONTROLS: 1 x volume, 1 x tone, 1 x bass contour, 3-position selector

BRIDGE: Tune-o-matic-style bridge & stopbar tailpiece

STRING SPACING AT BRIDGE: 51mm (2 inches)

MACHINEHEADS: Wilkinson E-Z-Lok, staggered

WEIGHT: 3.9kg (7.75lbs)

FINISHES: Cream (shown), 3-tone sunburst with rosewood fingerboard

CASE: No

LEFT-HANDERS: No

CONTACT: Dolphin Music
PHONE: 0151 448 2080
WEB: www.reverendguitars.com

reassuring weight without making it unwieldy when worn on a strap.

The cream colouring of the top is complemented by some cream plastic binding, while the back and sides of the body are black all the way, with a glossy finish all over that looks like it will withstand a good few gigs. The Reverend's lower cutaway allows good access to all of its 22 medium-jumbo frets, though dedicated top-fret widders should remember that this instrument has a bolt-on neck with a square heel, in classic Telecaster fashion. A peek around the back reveals a four-bolt neck plate and a

very tidy neck pocket that is typical of this guitar's solid build.

The maple neck has a fairly flat 305mm-radius maple fingerboard and terminates with a headstock whose design is a variation on the classic six-on-a-side theme. The neck has a comfortable medium oval profile with a nice chunky feel to it that should please all but the most die-hard shred heads. The whole neck has been stained yellow for a more vintage look, with a nice satin finish. It appears that this tint is applied after fretting, since there is some thin yellow finish over the frets that soon flakes away with a



Fender meets Gibson - a Tele-style pickup and a Tune-o-matic-style bridge

bit of playing. This in no way affects playability and is probably a more efficient or cost-effective way of doing things, but it might have been nice if the frets had been scraped clean before the guitar was shipped, if only for aesthetic reasons.

HARDWARE & PARTS

The hardware on this guitar is pretty impressive, especially given the asking price, and while there's nothing especially fancy, it's all good-quality, player-friendly stuff. Let's start with the pickups. Rather than generic units here we have Reverend-designed pickups - a 'Revtron' mini-humbucker in the neck position mounted on the scratchplate, and a 'T-Style' single-coil in the bridge position screwed directly into the body.

The pickups are wired to a three-way selector switch and master volume and tone controls, all of which feel sturdy and hard-wearing. The volume pot has a capacitor wired across it so that treble frequencies are preserved as the volume is turned down. Something similar (but different) is happening over on the upper shoulder of the guitar. This additional pot is Reverend's 'bass contour' control, which allows you to thin out the sound of either pickup, and is a way of adding a bit more tonal variety to this classic pickup configuration.

The three-ply plastic scratchplate features a printed-on tortoiseshell-style pattern with a couple of quirks in its printing, though they're only visible from up close. The Tune-o-matic-style bridge and stopbar tailpiece are very neatly fitted and add a Gibson flavour to this otherwise Fender-y melange. Wobble warriors might like to know that there is a vibrato option available for about £60 extra.

At the top end of the guitar is a well-cut graphite nut and a single roller string tree. Only one is required because this guitar features six Wilkinson E-Z-Lok tuners that are staggered in height. The 'E-Z-Lok' bit refers to their dual-hole design - there are two holes through the capstan at right-angles, one above the other, which grip the string without it needing to be wound around the post multiple times.

SOUNDS

Play the Buckshot unplugged and you get a good idea of where its tonal fealty lies. A bright and spanky tone, no doubt helped in part by the maple fingerboard, and

GBOPINION

REVEREND BUCKSHOT

GOLD STARS

- ★ Good standard of build and parts
- ★ Great, varied tones
- ★ Excellent value

BLACK MARKS

- None

IDEAL FOR...

Country, rock or blues players after a more individual look

GBRATING



The Filter'Tron-style neck pickup is great for warm, jazzy sounds



The Buckshot's headstock is at once original and familiar



good sustain bode well for the guitar's amplified tone, and with its 10-46 strings and good setup, it's great fun to play from the off.

When plugged in, that bridge single-coil reveals that it's quite a pokey unit. With the bass contour control down (thus thinning out the tone), a clean amp sound and perhaps a bit of slapback delay, it's impossible to resist a bit of chicken pickin' and some unison bends. Roll the bass contour control back up and things fatten up nicely, moving into almost P-90 territory, and with plenty of gain the Buckshot can rock out quite impressively.

The Gretsch Filter'Tron-style mini-humbucker at the neck is great for those jazzier moments, although you should expect more Gatton than Metheny. That said, the tone control seems to be well voiced to roll off just the really high frequencies, and it's possible to get some very mellow tones without too much loss

of volume. Once again, the bass contour pot can provide a brighter sound for cleaner lead lines, and, played with a lot of gain, the neck pickup provides a smooth and round tone that's not quite as thick as a standard humbucker.

The middle position has some nice hollow tones that work very well both clean and dirty, and overall the Reverend-designed pickups do a great job of producing some classy tones.

CONCLUSION

The Buckshot feels and sounds great, and it gives the impression of being a rather more expensive instrument than it actually is. Solid hardware and a US setup help to make this a real player's instrument that should easily satisfy the pro or semi-pro after something affordable in the fat Tele mould. The Reverend's melting pot of design cues hangs together rather nicely and makes this guitar ideal for those after some classic tones in an individual-looking package. **GB**