



Unanimously Toneful

The Reverend Rick Vito Model

Reverend has been building guitars since the mid '90s, always with a cool Danelectro-meets-Fender vibe. More recently, the company has moved production overseas and broadened its offerings to include dozens of models that retain their retro cool.

The Rick Vito model does not suffer a lack thereof. Dripping with tastefully executed art-deco bling, it has a solid Korina body with stepped contours and the company's Ocean Side Green or black finish with geometric black-and-white pinstriping, stepped headstock shape, Reverend Pin-Lock tuners with stepped buttons, and even art deco graphics on its bridge-pickup cover. Other retro features include Bakelite-style knobs, large mother-of-pearl block inlays, a chrome tune-o-matic-style bridge/tail piece setup and Reverend's cool two-tone teardrop hardshell case.

The set-in Korina neck has a medium oval profile, 12"-radius Ebony fretboard, 22 jumbo frets, 1¹¹/₁₆" Graphite nut and a tilt-back headstock. The neck pickup is Reverend's P-90, while the bridge is a Reverend Dual-Pro Alnico-magnet humbucker, and they're tweaked with a Blend/Pan control (instead of a three-way) coupled with a master Volume control and two Tone controls; one is a traditional high roll-off treble, the other a bass-contour/high-pass filter.

The Vito's body, headstock, and 24³/₄" scale give it a familiar feel. The neck has a substantial (but not too chunky) profile, with large, nicely installed and polished jumbo frets and excellent access to the upper frets.

Plugged into an all-tube (6V6/EL84, 12AX7) 30-watt head with matching 1x12" cabinet with a Celestion Elite 80 speaker, the two pickups shunned convention in proving well-matched in terms of output and tone. The bridge humbucker is hot and punchy without being harsh, while the neck P-90 is warm and fat while retaining note definition. The Balance/Pan control dials in warmth and roundness to the bridge pickup or adds punch and attack to the neck pickup. The Pan control makes this much easier and quicker compared to the traditional Volume/three-way

toggle setup; one quick tweak gives you the tone you're after. The low-pass Tone control is well-voiced with an even taper that works well for taking the edge off of the high-end response for a softer tone. It also nicely darkens it up for a deep jazz tone. The Low Contour control (high pass) is subtle but effective,

allowing the player to tighten low-end for an old-school, slightly twangy clean tone. It can also dial out low-end rumble and muddiness in high-gain/high-volume situations. With maximum gain dialed in on our amp, the Reverend's bridge

pickup sang nicely, with lots of midrange overtones and clarity – no uncontrollable feedback or muddy over saturation. Tons of usable tones, from

twangy to bluesy to aggressive, are available via the Pan, Tone and Bass contour controls.

Beneath the Reverend Rick Vito model's retro art-deco-inspired aesthetics is a solid axe, with top-notch construction, innovative electronics, effortless playability, and serious tone. – **Phil Feser VG**

REVEREND RICK VITO SIGNATURE MODEL

Price: \$1,599 (retail), \$1,299 (street)

Contact: Reverend Guitars,
phone (734) 953-6984;
reverendguitars.com.

