

The Tom Hanks

Reverend Club King RT

THE CLUB KING RT IS AS CLOSE TO HOLINESS AS a reverend should be. The Korean-made instrument is very well crafted, and its honey-colored top, amber-tinted neck, off-white trim, and chrome pickup covers give it a look that's simultaneously retro cool and timeless—especially when you factor in the unique and classy “shooting star” f-hole. The 3-position pickup selector and master Volume and Tone controls are arranged vertically—in the style of a certain seminal solidbody out of Fullerton, California—while the passive Bass Contour knob (more on this later) sits on the upper bout. The Volume knob is relatively easy to reach for on-the-fly adjustments, but it's a bit of a stretch for the Tone control if you like performing wah-like knob spins while picking.

The oval-shaped neck might feel a bit thick for players with smaller hands, but its satin

finish lets your hand slide freely up and down the fretboard. The frets are perfect. They're smooth, polished, and have rounded, “hot dog” ends that you can barely feel if you run your fingers along the edges of the fretboard. In fact, everything about the RT's construction is pretty much perfect. I couldn't find any flaws—even the setup was superb, right out of the box.

The Club King RT's Reverend RevTron mini-humbuckers sound fantastic, and, along with the aforementioned Bass Contour knob, you can dial in seemingly endless variations of blues, rock, jazz, funk, and country sounds. The Bass Contour adds enough bass that, when using the neck pickup with the Tone rolled off, the RT can almost sound like a baritone guitar—or like any number of evil bass motifs that warn you of danger when playing *Call of Duty* or *Left 4 Dead*. You can also crank the knob down to *reduce* bass, of course, and depending upon how you set your Volume and Tone controls (and pickup selector), the Contour can deliver anything from steely midrange punch to thin and chimey highs to an almost neutered sound that works great for crafting counterpoint lines you don't want interfering with a vocal. Every tone this guitar produced sent shivers down my spine, and, in fact, the RT sounds full, balanced, and sweetly articulate even *before* you plug it in.

The Club King RT is a superb guitar that almost feels like it *belongs* in your arms. It's nothing short of a pleasure to play—which is why it gets the “Tom Hanks” award as a “good vibes” personality who delivers masterful performances. —Reggie Singh

SPECS |

Reverend Guitars

(586) 775-1025; reverendguitars.com

MODEL Club King RT

PRICE \$899 retail/\$699 street

NUT WIDTH 1.66"

NECK Maple, bolt-on

FRETBOARD 25.5"-scale rosewood

FRETS 22 medium jumbo

BODY Korina with spruce top

PICKUPS Reverend Revtron mini-humbuckers

CONTROLS Volume, Tone, Bass Contour, 3-way pickup selector

TUNERS Reverend Pin-Lock

FACTORY STRINGS StringDog.net, .010-.046

WEIGHT 7.6 lbs

KUDOS Rich, balanced sound. Resonating lows via Bass Contour control.

CONCERNS None.

