

Set Neck Reviews

Lyle Long from A Sharp Music Co.

I have been a fan of Don Grosh's work for a very long time. Even before he started his own shop, I was in awe of his skills. The new Set Neck Model from Don Grosh Custom Guitars may very well be his finest achievement yet. This guitar is the result of long intense thought and obsession about what the ultimate Set Neck guitar should be. Drawing inspiration from the classic Ted McCarty design, and yet not completely derived from it, the Set Neck is a visual and sonic feast. It addresses the balance and neck access design issues of that classic design, while maintaining a strong identity all its own.

This guitar is stunning! I really love the visual balance and flow this guitar has from the headstock to the body. So many builders fail to achieve this. The Set Neck's body is built from master grade Honduran Mahogany, and is capped with an insane Tubular Quilt Maple Top. No "10" top, "Plus" top, or "Premium" top upgrade charges. You get nothing but master grade, real deal killer tops from Grosh Guitars. No extra charge! When you build in a limited production environment, you can afford to get picky! This Set Neck also features a very cool inset black binding. This feature accents the always-classy natural maple binding edge around the top.

Our first Set Neck is stained a gorgeous Turquoise, with Don's usual impeccable Nitro Lacquer clear coats. The neck is Honduran Mahogany with a Brazilian Rosewood fingerboard, and a matching Quilt Maple Headstock overlay. Our guitar also has the very cool Limited Inlays in blue green Abalone. All tone woods are sonically matched and selected by Don for maximum harmonic color and resonance. The neck is attached with an extended full sized tenon. This provides better tonal transfer and strength between the neck and body than the original McCarty neck joint design.

This guitar really amazed me. The balance and weight is perfect. It has a thick, carved top body and yet the weight is exactly right. That is what happens when you pick great materials and treat those materials the right way when you build. No baloney drilling of holes in the body under the top, where you cannot see the deception, like, say the current Paul's. Sitting down or on a strap this guitar is perfectly balanced.

Unplugged, the Set Neck is so alive and rich it is unreal. That truly is what separates the men from the boys in guitar tone. You can really hear complex overtones blooming in this guitar. Unreal! Play a hip chord voicing and this thing just purrs! Plugged in, the Grosh Set Neck does all those fat classic tones with a great harmonic clarity. I've only run across a couple guitars in over 27 years of playing that had that quality in this type of guitar. And they cost more than a house these days! Notes explode and take on a three-dimensional quality that is totally infectious. Sustain is unending and rich. Wicked! The Set Neck is equally at home rockin' out, playing some smoky blues tones ala early

Clapton, Bloomfield, or Peter Green, or laying down some sophisticated jazzy chords and lines. The tones are real and very intoxicating!

The playability of this guitar is also unmatched in quality. Having total and clear access up the neck without resorting to double cutaways, or goofy neck joint designs is very welcome. The fretwork gleams in that typical Grosh fashion. Fretting and bending is very clean and precise. The intonation of this guitar is perfect. The neck shape is comfortable and feels like an old friend. Don is offering many different neck set-ups so you can get what feels just right for you.

Speaking of getting what you want, do you realize how much effort has been made to make this design adaptable? The Set Neck will eventually be available semi-hollow and fully hollow. Don and his crew are capable of building the guitar of your dreams.

The Set Neck is very limited in its production and therefore is only available at a few select dealers. A Sharp Music Company is proud to have been involved in the development of this guitar. It is a great honor to be able to offer this incredible new instrument.

I believe Don Grosh is one of the greatest luthiers of all time. Don and his crew deserve a standing ovation for this one. This guitar is a testimony to their brilliance and vision. I'm in serious "guitar lust" over this one! The Don Grosh Set Neck is the finest set neck guitar I have ever experienced. I do not make that statement lightly. This is THE must have new guitar! Great job Don!