

Patrick Eggle Kanuga

Patrick James Eggle makes some of the world's finest acoustic guitars - by hand. For this issue's Quiet Room professional class guitar review, we borrowed one of Patrick's Kanuga slope shouldered dreadnoughts and handed it to **Jamie Humphries**. It was love at first sight.

Patrick James Eggle has been building guitars for 30 years, from his first guitar as a school project at the tender age of 15, up to running large production of solid body guitars that bore his name during the early '90s. Patrick eventually left that company and continued to build flat top acoustic guitars under his own name, Patrick James Eggle - not to be confused with the original solid body company that still produces electrics. Patrick now operates out of a scaled-down workshop in Shropshire, producing limited numbers of guitars a month, with the focus very much on quality over quantity. He also boasts a diverse list of endorsers including Albert Lee, Aziz Brahim and Ben Powell.

For this review I was presented with the Kanuga, a slope shouldered dreadnought with a solid Canadian cedar soundboard and solid Indian rosewood back and sides. The neck is constructed from mahogany,

Patrick James Eggle Kanuga

Gj RATING ★★★★★

with a soft satin finish and an ebony fingerboard. The bridge is made from ebony too, while the guitar includes a Tusq nut, cocobolo binding, and PJE classic chrome tuners. You can see from this list that total care and attention has been taken when selecting specific high quality materials for this instrument. This guitar is a traditional style, and doesn't include a pickup system, so this is a guitar for the serious acoustic musician and lover of pure acoustic tone.

The moment you pick up this instrument it becomes instantly clear that you are holding something special. The guitar is well balanced, with a one of the most comfortable necks I have ever held. The finish is exquisite, with no rough fret edges, and the action was low enough to make playing a dream - but not so low that the guitar would

03
[...>]

Check the Spec.

GO

Get the product info you need.

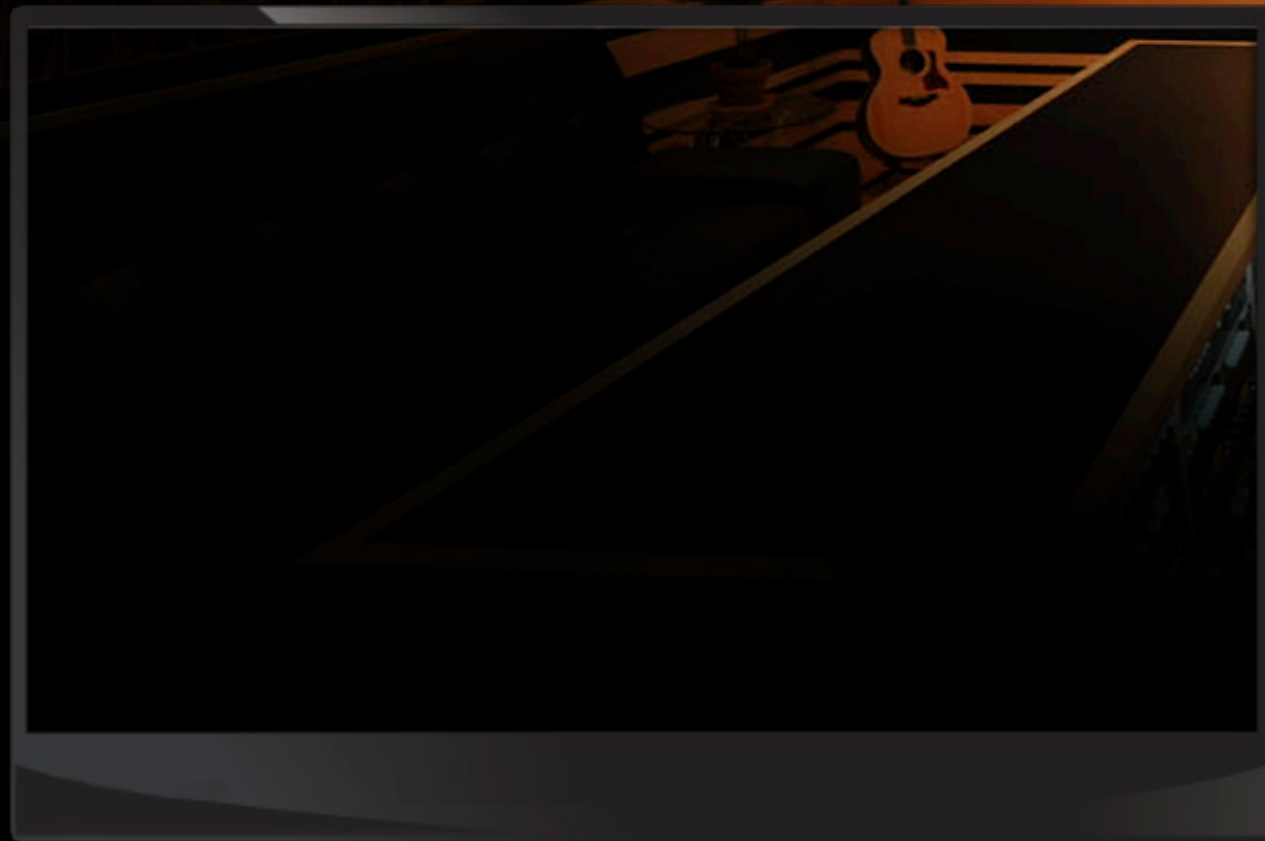


buzz. Out of the box, this guitar's set-up is absolutely first class.

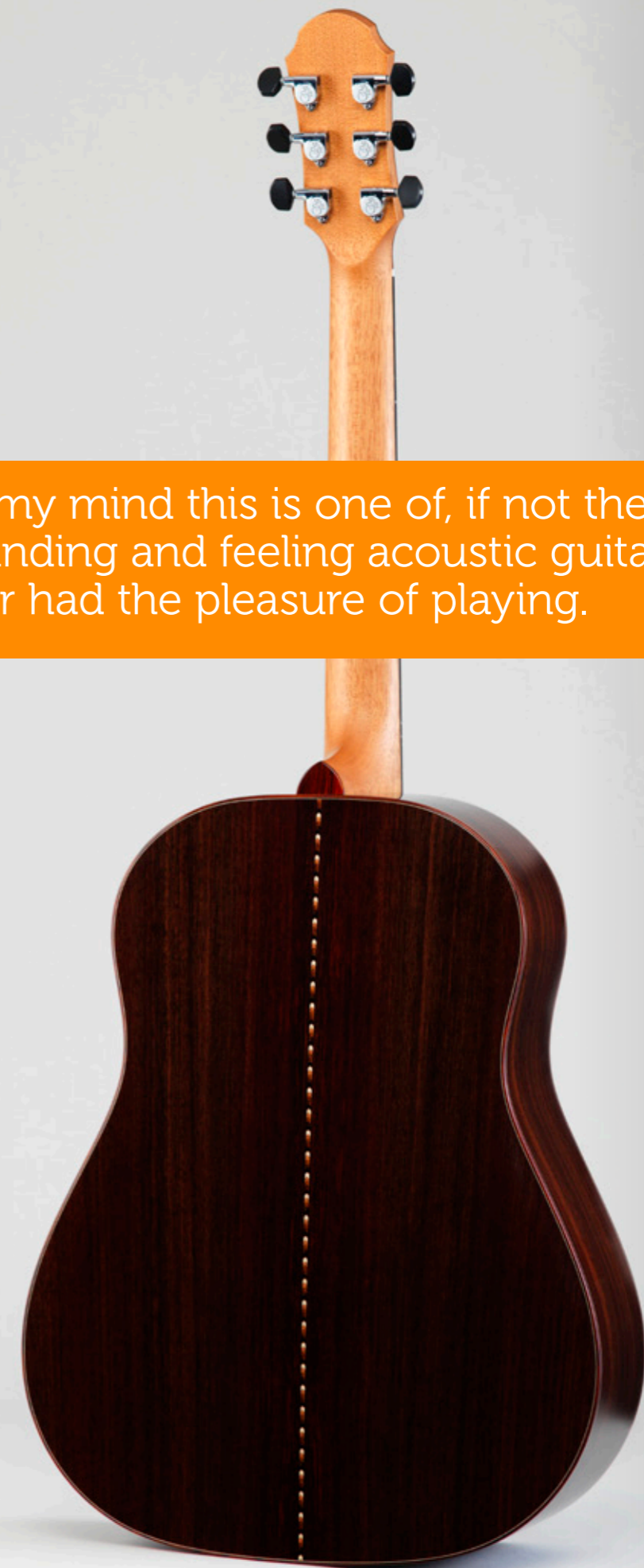
The Kanuga's tone is very rich and full, and produces a large sound with a full bottom end. Just playing a few basic cords produces a beautiful sound, and makes you want to just play this guitar for ages. Even with my limited fingerstyle skills, some basic fingerstyle chords sound full and round. Be sure to checkout the video to see and hear how beautiful this guitar sounds in front of a mic. I could write a thousand words about how wonderful this guitar sounds and feels, but the video gives you the sound and no words would convey how good this guitar was to play!

To my mind this is one of, if not the best, sounding and feeling acoustic guitars I have ever had the pleasure of playing. Great feel, full natural tone, that would be at home as a solo fingerstyle unaccompanied instrument, or as an accompanying instrument recorded and well seated in a mix. I could imagine having this and my vintage Tele side by side on stands, but not as a display piece - as guitars that you would want to reach for and play.

Let's get down to the facts of owning a guitar like this. The Kanuga is not cheap, but as I mention in the video review it's like owning a vintage instrument, it's an investment, and a guitar that will mature with age. The more you play it, the more the oil from



05
[...>]



To my mind this is one of, if not the best, sounding and feeling acoustic guitars I have ever had the pleasure of playing.



your skin will season the neck and the tonewoods will mature and the tone will improve. Like I said, you have to be serious about this instrument, especially investing a considerable amount of money into it. Yes, there are other big name brands on the market, but this is a piece of pure British craftsmanship, and one of the things I love some much about this is Patrick's hands on approach. How many companies can you pick up the phone to and actually talk to the guy with the name on the headstock and tell him what you are looking for, and be advised?

We thought long and hard about how to rate this one - aware that both the other acoustics in this issue - one low, one mid-priced - had also received top marks. We put that down to good luck this time around, rather than any sentimentality in our marking!

In the end, we decided that however we looked at it, we couldn't give any less than our top rating to date for the Kanuga. Here's the reasoning. A top-end acoustic is always going to be expensive - but how much would you expect to pay for a Martin, a Taylor, a Collings or any of the other professional quality acoustics? Well, if it was one of this sort of quality, probably more than Patrick James Eggle is asking for a guitar he made himself. That's how we came to the conclusion that a guitar costing so much is, actually, conspicuously good value for money.

Do yourself a favour, if you're serious about buying a new acoustic then I, personally, based on having played this beautiful instrument, would make a Patrick James Eggle top of my wishlist.



Collings