

► The pickup itself is a three-piece undersaddle type, which runs through to four sliders mounted on the front control panel – Gain, Treble, Mid and Bass – and out via a Switchcraft jack. The 9v alkaline battery is tucked away under the panel.

In Use

The hollow body enables the Godin to tip the scales at under 5lb. That's half that of a Les Paul, which is very light indeed. It must be said that the comfort of playing a guitar as light as this is slightly offset by the neck-

heavy feel, but so long as you use a grippy strap then the balance isn't so bad.

Our example comes strung with light electric strings complete with plain third. They suit the neck well, which is a worthy imitation of a Fender-ish profile that comes over more like an old Strat than a Tele. The action is fine, the intonation is good enough, and overall the Godin feels fast, springy and responsive. The acoustic sound is surprising, rather reminiscent of a Dobro with twice the sustain – if your imagination can stretch that far. It's loud enough for practising or songwriting without amplification, and makes a good, grabbable sofa guitar.

When it comes to plugging in, this guitar reveals itself to be an impersonator *par excellence*. With the bass up high and the treble up full, it sounds like a regular, full-sized electro-acoustic. Take out the treble and you're left with a warm jazz sound that's unusual but decidedly effective. Starting again with just a touch of mid, the Godin becomes a Strat on the bridge pickup; increase the mid boost, and you're playing on the neck pickup! To move into Tele territory, just bring the treble back in. One nice thing is the lack of annoyingly unusable extremes offered by many electro-acoustics. Our guitar

showed a tendency to sustain and feed back around B and C on the lower strings, but I couldn't find any deadspots. My only real criticism as far as the electrics go would be to say that fine tone adjustments are tricky because the sliders' travel is so short.

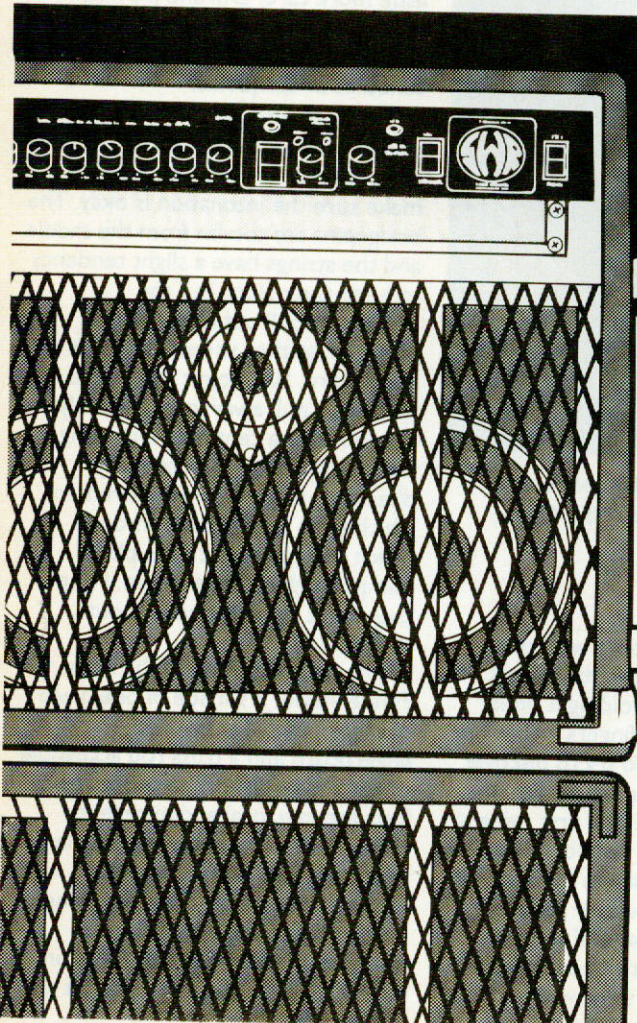
Conclusion

Course, the Godin doesn't sound exactly like everything from a jazz guitar to a solid-body Fender. You never quite lose that distinctive percussive attack, and you've got to be careful about giveaway string noise. Still, they've obviously put a lot of thought into the different amounts of cut and boost available, and the range of sounds is dead good. It's only the balance, a few minor details and that sore thumb of a bridge that stops me saying the Godin is a near-ideal guitar. But it manages to be adaptable and unusual, which is a rare combination. The individualist's all-rounder, maybe?

RRP; £699 including case.

No left-handers available.

For further information please contact *Sonor UK, Assembly Music, Widcome Parade, Bath, Avon BA2 4LD. Tel: 0225-330089* ●



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