

HarleyBenton CST-24T Emerald Flame

Delivered by Thomann on February 27th, 2021 (€249)

Ser.No. (21)748232GA02112, made in Vietnam

Wilkinson WVPC vibrato; Body/neck (glued) mahogany with binding, top maple, fingerboard Roseacer ("roasted" Jatoba), neck profile C, fingerboard radius 350 mm, 24 frets (Blacksmith stainless steel), scale length 635 mm

Graphite saddle (42 mm), closed tuners (DLX)

Pickups: 2 Roswell HAF AlNiCo-5 OpenCoil humbuckers with coil split; 3-way switch (tone control with push-pull function)

Weight 3.26kg

Criticism:

I've always liked green guitars, and I finally bought one, which wasn't a difficult decision given the price. I think it just looks classy.

I leave the strings on for now, even if they are a bit too flimsy for me - especially the low ones. Speaking of flabby: The vibrato lever shakes in all directions (i.e. 360°), which some might like. However, I always need it to hand, so I first reduced the play in the guide by stuffing a piece of string into it so that the lever "stays" in any position. I only found out later that the lever can be fixed with a well-hidden Allen screw; Apart from two Allen keys and a funny sticker, there are no instructions included. Otherwise, the "wimmer hook" works perfectly after I adjusted it a little "softer" by unscrewing the two wood screws by about one turn. Thanks to the slots in the cover plate on the back, it doesn't even have to be removed.

The workmanship is flawless all around, the only thing that could be criticized is the accuracy of fit of the cover plate in question. There are three tension springs installed that can be seen through the slots. With the included Allen key I was able to "lower" the string position a little without any rattling.

The pull switch in the tone control (push-pull pot) doubles the usual three pickup combinations by splitting the humbucker coils and also enabling single-coil sounds. The neck pickup is approx. 8.2 kΩ, the bridge pickup is approx. 8.4 kΩ. In single coil mode it is approx. 4.3 kΩ each. The output volume is therefore slightly lower than e.g. B. with my Ibanez. The toggle switch was mounted at an inconvenient angle: it points either up

or down. So I turned it so that when I turn on the bridge pickup, it points backwards instead of downwards (or forwards for the neck pickup), like you're used to with a Strat or Tele. Otherwise I would always have to think about which pickup is "bottom" or "top".

There is no sound compensation on the volume potentiometer (such as on the Telecaster), so when you turn it back the sound not only becomes quieter, but also duller. This could easily be changed by soldering in a capacitor.

The knobs have no markings whatsoever, so I drew some myself with permanent marker (purists may hyperventilate at this).

When changing the strings, a tuning peg turned out to be stiff: Thomann sent a replacement part without any problem.

Sound: With the new strings (Elixir Nanoweb .009046) the guitar sounds more balanced and sustain-rich in the lows, but still quite shrill in the highs, especially in single-coil mode, which I need more often.

Because of its handiness, playability and, last but not least, its beauty, it is currently the favorite among the guitars I play live.