

Harley Benton TE-20MN CA Standard Series

89 €, ordered on December 14th, 2021, delivered on December 16th, 2021

Linden body - screwed maple neck - maple fingerboard

Dot fingerboard inlays – Neck profile: Modern C – Double-Action Trussrod

Fingerboard radius: 350 mm - Scale length: 648 mm - Nut width: 42 mm

22 frets – pickups: 2 TE-style single coils

1 volume and 1 tone control - 3-way switch

Chrome Hardware – DieCast Mechanics

Factory string gauge: .009 - .042

Color: Candy Apple Red high gloss

I hadn't actually had a Telecaster on my radar before, but at that price...

The first thing you notice is that the red is much darker than in the Thomann photos, for me it's rather wine red to violet with a slightly metallic sheen, depending on the light, but also beautifully and cleanly painted. The shape of the headstock differs slightly from the original, but looks good. I found no indication of where the instrument was made, either on the packaging or on the instrument. Weight 3.55kg.

As with almost every new guitar, minor adjustment work is required. So of course the string position still has room for improvement, and I was also able to fine-tune the octave purity, whereby - as with the earlier original Teles - two adjacent strings have to share a rider. The truss rod is adjusted correctly, the strings vibrate freely without any background noise.

The pickup switch is a bit stiff and, like all Teles, is too close to the volume potentiometer. In general, these guitars - also because of the angular body shape - are not exactly a model of ergonomics, in contrast to the Stratocaster, for example. The grub screws for adjusting the string position protrude uncomfortably because I use them. especially with the high E string, had to be unscrewed until the saddle rested on the bridge plate in order to achieve a usable string position. The "ashtray", as the cover plate on the model is often called, is not there anyway and is

usually removed because it would prevent palm muting. When I get the chance, I'll probably unscrew the neck to change its angle and thus gain leeway when adjusting the string position...

The volume and tone controls rotate smoothly, react evenly and are therefore easy to use. In addition, there is the typical Tele sound compensation on the volume potentiometer using a capacitor (which, however - after looking inside - does not seem to be there). Neck PU 5.75 k Ω ; Bridge PU 6.2 k Ω ; both together 3.02 k Ω .

Sound: Played dry, Tele-typically percussive with good sustain, but on the amplifier the neck pickup sounds extremely dull and quieter than the bridge pickup.