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The Electric Blues Box Slide Guitar



Synopsis

(Accessory). Learning to play the Blues Box Guitar is easy and entertaining with accomplished musician Nick Bryant's simple instructions. The instructional You Can Play Blues Box Slide Guitar book contains a history of the cigar box guitar; information about the Blues Box Guitar, including how to assemble and tune it; strumming, picking and slide techniques; and exercises that you can play along with to the tracks on the CD so you'll be strumming with ease in no time! Increase your blues-playing confidence with the comprehensive audio CD which contains companion tracks to all the exercises in the book, as well as a tuning track, blues scale, and a demo track played on the Blues Box Guitar with a backing band, which will inspire you to be the next Blues Box Guitar sensation!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

easy to assemble and nice sound

It's not a toy! You can really play the Blues.

More put together than I wanted it to be, but still a fun little instrument kit for a decent price.

Good starter CBG

I'm saving it as a project for me and my son. It looks so cool on display still all boxed up.

Okay; I love this little thing! For what it IS, it's a nice, well made product- I'd call it a beginner's slide guitar. But there is a bit of a ****warning****-- I bought mine in a bookstore, so I could see it "in person" and tell what it was-- the ad here on relies on a picture that MIGHT give you the wrong idea-- -so you should know before you buy, it's NOT actually made from a wooden cigar-box. This is a prefab kit that lets you string and play a slide guitar, in the style of a 'DIY' cigar-box guitar. The frets are painted on -- as they would be on such an instrument-- so you cannot finger chords, it's exclusively a slide-instrument. And the 'box' body-- well, I'm pretty sure it's just a thick cardboard-- but the picture does make it look like wood. No, the NECK is wood, but not the body-- it has a giant decal that covers it and gives it the LOOK of wood-grain with fake 'burned' logo in the center. Don't get me wrong, I love this lil item, which is why I give it four stars---it's cute, it's playable, stays in tune... it's even got a jack so you can play it thru an amp. But, be aware, it's on the level of a beginner's instrument-- maybe a bit better quality than a "toy".

This baby is awesome, absolutely unbeatable for the price. Completely playable right after assembly and stringing. It sounds very credible ... for a cigar box, right? No one should compare this to a Martin or Taylor. It has it's own sound. Kind of like the Martin Backpackers have their own sound ... but I prefer the sound from this cigar box. Like another reviewer said, it's not **really** a cigar box. But at this price, let's not get into the finer points of tonewoods, right? I don't think there's any rosewood, mahogany, or spruce in this one. I've played LOTS of guitars over the past 45 years: acoustic, electric, bass, resonator, slide, classical... This guitar has been the most fun in a long, long time, because it is so different from all the others. Half the strings, double the fun? An exaggeration perhaps, but this guitar gets picked up a lot compared to others since it was gifted to me 6 months ago. It is absolutely a slide-only guitar. Mine was a gift, and did NOT come with a slide. I have several, but took this guitar with its extra-high action as a reason to get this heavy metal slide-- Dunlop 228 Chromed Brass Slide. Give that slide's weight and this guitar's light strings, that kind of turns it into "exercise", but it's a lot of fun. But hey, any slide will do. I took it backpacking, it's so light. Friends liked the sound (but everything's better when camping, right?). It's tuned to G, and so can't really do just to the Allman's "Little Martha", but I improvised something similar which folks thought really cool. I had fun playing Led Zep's "When the Levee Breaks" and "In My Time of Dying", Keb Mo's "Am I Wrong", Lucinda Williams' "Can't Let Go". And Lonnie Mack's "Oreo Cookie Blues". And ... you get the idea. The built-in "pickup" seems to be a microphone, with attendant

feedback-galore; caution required. This and a pignoseÂ Pignose portable amplifierÂ might be just the ticket for busking-on-the-cheap-and-light. At this price, if you've ever been curious about playing slide guitar, do yourself a favor and get this ... it's about the cost of what, 3-5 sets of guitar strings?

As an musician who is largely focused on instruments, I'm always on the look out for new things to try out. I also have a heart for folk instruments from many cultures...so naturally this "cigar box guitar [CBG]" caught my eye. So while walking through Barnes & Noble, I came across this little guy...and for it's low cost, I had to give it a shot and see what it was all about. I wasn't expecting much since it was in a retail store and at such a low price...but it greatly surprised me at the quality. This makes a great present for both child and adult...and definitely a much better gift than some of the toy instruments out there since this Blues Box Guitar is a fully functional instrument that is only limited to one's ability and initiative.

NOW THE PRODUCT: About the product developer=Nick Bryant's purpose in this product was to produce a functional instrument at an extremely affordable cost...one that would inviting to customers to purchase it. And in this way, it would bring further awareness to folk instruments. This is not a true CBG, but that's not the point. It still follows the spirit in construction. In short, this was a way to get a folk instrument into as many hands as possible. The cheapest real CBG I've seen was around \$79...and most are \$100+.

Construction: This CBG features a solid wood neck and saddle. It is short-scale though...so not as long as what has become the typical CBG length. Being a slide guitar, it also lacks frets, but does have printed markings for reference. The body is made not of cardboard, but reinforced MDF and is fairly thick and strong. The body has a faux wood skin wrapped around it to visually mimic the cigar boxes it imitates. The nut and bridge, true to CBG form, are actual construction bolts. The strings it comes with are legitimate guitar strings as well. It also has a pickup and jack (typical guitar .25-inch). I wasn't able to pop it open since the box is completely sealed, but they seem like piezo pickups (which in my opinion is a good thing if you prefer to amplify a more natural timbre of what an acoustic instrument would be like).

Extras: In addition to the actual BBG, it also comes with a concise introduction book into some basic techniques and excercises. It also comes with a demonstration CD which features the exercises, a demo track of what the actual BBG can sound like in capable hands (through an amp), and some backing blues tracks to give you a band to play with from the get-go. Finally, as an additional resource, Nick Bryant has put together some youtube videos to help further help one starting out. It also comes with a rather nice glass slide...though I'm purchasing a heavier brass one for added weight.

MY THOUGHTS: First off, let me just say that Mr. Bryant has certainly fulfilled his purpose in me. I'm thoroughly interested CBGs and related instruments. Up to now, folk instruments

I was familiar with were things like Chinese Erhus, Japanese Sanshins, Filipino Bandurias, etc. I hadn't really been exposed to CBGs let alone had a chance to play one. This set opened a new world for me and I'm searching out full-scale ones to purchase and have some plans to build certain variants (because what I have in mind is not as commonly found in current CBGs). BUT AS TO THE PRODUCT ITSELF, I really am digging it and having tons of fun. Again, what I love about it is that it's a fully functional instrument that you could use to play with others. Mine holds its tuning quite well. And the machine tuners themselves are snug with good resistance to prevent string slippage. It's also a good size for a both child and adult...and the weight is very very light. The instrument is solid enough refine one's slide guitar skills. My only two quips about it (though for its purpose, these are minor), is that: 1) unplugged, it's very quiet as the material does not conduct vibrations as well as other common CBG materials [but I kinda guess this is a good thing for parents if they are giving it to a child lol], and 2) I don't think the piezo pickups were sealed as well as they could have been...when running through both my modeling amp or tube amp via a clean channel, it's fine. But when throwing in overdrive/distortion effects/pedals, there's crazy feedback if you aren't far enough from the source. BUT ALL IN ALL...even with these two negatives, I'd still totally gift this item to others as well. And I'd totally still buy it for myself. The thing is this, compared to all the music toys out there, this one totally beats them all. This is a REAL instrument that functions as a REAL one. I remember from my childhood that the "toy" instruments that stuck with me the most were the ones that did not have pre-fab recordings or did the work for you. The actually produced notes that you, yourself had to create and control. Those kinds of things really powered my imagination and gave me confidence. In fact, they helped developed the skills and familiarity I have with the instruments I play today. If more toys could be like that, it can help people realize their untapped potential. And the good thing about this particular "toy"...it's not just for children ;)

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