



## Sketches of Spain

TEYE EL DORADO SOLIDBODY GUITAR

{ BY ADAM PERLMUTTER }

**A**S THE OWNER of two guitars built by Tony Zemaitis, Austin-based luthier Teye is the first to admit that his instruments owe more than a little to the designs of the legendary British guitar maker. But the singularly named Teye (pronounced TIE-ya) draws his inspiration from other sources, as well. For his opulent El Dorado solidbody, the stimulus was guns from the Sahara dessert.

"I first saw these enormous Bedouin

rifles in the southern Spanish town of Granada, and their image has always stayed with me," he says. "They're made from dark, polished rosewood and inlaid all over the place with mother-of-pearl and brass studs. Everything is done by hand, so they look kind of rough but have so much soul."

The guitar shown here is one of just two El Dorados ever made. The first, which has different inlay and engraving patterns along with gold hardware, was built to

accommodate a special challenge. "I have a customer in Canada who bought my La Perla model, which has a 500-piece mother-of-pearl mosaic in the center," Teye says. "He started stoking the flames under my butt, asking me to outdo that guitar. So I came up with El Dorado."

For the client's El Dorado, Teye cut into a plank of ziricote—an exquisitely figured South American rosewood—that he'd been reserving for the right occasion.