



GEAR

REVIEW

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ZEMAITIS REDUX

The Teye Super Coyote

Teije Wijnterp has been around. Born in the Netherlands, he studied flamenco guitar in Spain before relocating to Austin and eventually joining Joe Ely's band.

Through his years as a pro musician, Teye (as he is commonly known) kept a running "bitch list" of problems that frustrated him with guitars he could buy. When it grew too long, he decided the time was nigh to build himself a guitar to right those wrongs. Friends tried it out and wanted one of their own. Next thing he knew, Teye was a guitar builder.

Back in the day, Teye became friends with legendary British maker Tony Zemaitis, commissioned a couple guitar builds, and today remains inspired by Zemaitis' work. Yet while Zemaitis' guitars are oh-so-English in style, Teye's adornments lean on his fascination with flamenco and Andalucia, the Moorish region of Spain.

The Super Coyote obviously mimics the shape of a Zemaitis-style Les Paul. It's adorned with acid-engraved aluminum plates to Teye's design (he also offers opulent hand-engraved custom models, pearl inlays, exotic woods, numerous finishes, and aging). The body and neck are mahogany with a maple cap, and while the result isn't light, any back pain is made up for in tone.

A 24-fret ebony fretboard leads to the

two Jason Lollar humbuckers with proprietary electronics, bridge, and locking tailpiece.

Now, about that tone. Plugged into a new Supro Thunderbolt and inspired by the Super Coyote's Keef vibe, we dimed the separate pickup Volume and master Tone controls. The tone was gloriously clear, with a suitably in-your-face attack; this guitar thrives on gain and bite.

The five-way selector offers in-between settings with the pickups out of phase, and this is where things start getting exciting. The Teye's tone rocks from the get-go, providing a lowdown Stonesy grind but retaining faithful note articulation.

That's only the beginning. Teye's electrics include a Mood knob, which blends the pickups to access single-coil and humbucking modes, opening a rainbow of potential. You can dial in twang or churn out Zep-esque rock; it's incredibly flexible.

Teye has



Price: \$3,650 (list)
Info: www.teye.com

also started adding his Mojo control, which serves as a cross between (another) Tone control and a Gain dial. Whatever, it dramatically broadens the sonic potential.

The Teye's neck is about as thick as a Les Paul 'burst, but with a wider fretboard. It provides an ideal stage for rocking double-stops, bluesy bends, and pull-offs – all of which fit the vibe of this guitar to a T.

—Michael Dregni
VG