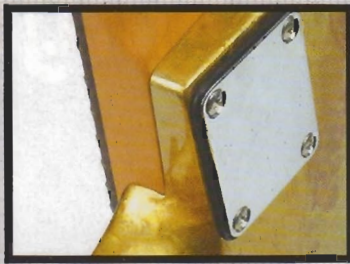


DETAILS

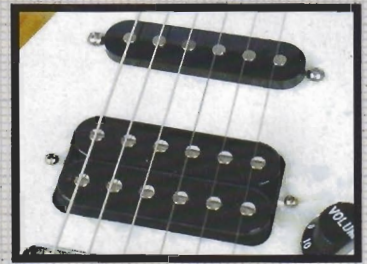
TOP-NOTCH BUILD AND TOP-QUALITY MATERIALS AND HARDWARE – THE CLASSIC IMPRESSES



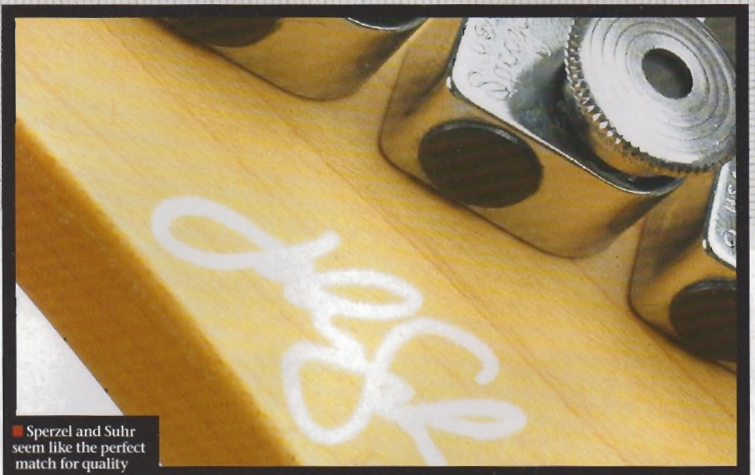
■ A Fender-type neck joint, albeit with a dressed away heel for comfort



■ A laminated white pearl pickguard looks funky against the 'Gold drip easter' finish



■ Suhr's own pickups bring the tone, with a 'bucker at the bridge for more poke



■ Sperzel and Suhr seem like the perfect match for quality

GBOPINION

SUHR CLASSIC CHAMBERED

GOLD STARS

- ★ Innovation within a classic context
- ★ Superb build
- ★ Superb tone
- ★ Good price

BLACK MARKS

- Only the aesthetics of the finish – always a personal matter

IDEAL FOR...

Serious-minded players who will appreciate the playability and tonal refinements, not to mention the pose factor over a USA Fender

despite a feather-light action.

Played acoustically the Classic makes all the right noises, its rock-solid neck joint and traditional whammy yielding a lively voice with plenty of sustain.

Plugged in, the V60 single coils display the glassy shimmer that the body shape would lead one to expect, but with a voice that remains full-bodied and throaty. Replacing the Strat's bridge pickup with a humbucker – a move most famously exploited by Eddie Van Halen – adds a pinch of rock magic to the mix. With a vintage-style output, the DSV Classic humbucker sounds smooth and

creamy with plenty of harmonics. The balance between the three pickups is remarkably good, with little of the drop in volume that one usually experiences when switching from a humbucker to single coils.

Perhaps most noticeable, however, is the tone, width and overall character afforded by the chambered body. There seems to be extra harmonics and breadth to the tone, if perhaps less aggression in the middle, which, like the Tom Anderson Hollow T Classic reviewed in *GB* back in issue 39, makes the Suhr an incredibly toneful, resonant instrument.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

WHAT WILL YOU TOLERATE?

■ The introduction of **CNC technology** by companies like **PRS** and **Taylor** back in the **1990s** ushered in a new age of guitar construction.

Instruments could now be mass produced to previously unheard of tolerances, making the products of competing manufacturers appear crude by comparison. In the long-term, however, the use of computers has levelled the playing field. An appropriately programmed CNC router will deliver an identical result whether situated in the

US or China. For example, I recently played a humble Squier Strat with a set up, finish and neck fit that a short time ago would only have been found on an expensive instrument. The guitar cost under £200, with a practice amp thrown in!

While it would be foolish to suggest that the Squier approaches the quality of a guitar like the Suhr Classic (which I regard to be worth every penny of its £1899 asking price), the fact remains that the gap is narrowing.

GBCONCLUSION

SURPRISING VALUE FOR A CUSTOM HAND BUILT GUITAR OF THIS QUALITY

■ **Supers***? Not in the sense that the term was used back in the 1980s, perhaps, but the description fits nevertheless in a more literal sense.**

The Suhr Classic offers an intelligent update on an old favourite that, while not attempting to fix what ain't broken, acknowledges that time and technology have moved on since 1954. An £1899 asking price? Not overly expensive for a US-built guitar that offers state of the art construction, is built from premium-quality materials and outfitted with top-quality hardware. In fact, with the dollar low, now is the time to buy. **GB**

GBRATINGS

SUHR CLASSIC CHAMBERED

BODY & NECK	★★★★
HARDWARE	★★★★
PLAYABILITY	★★★★
SOUNDS	★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★
GBVERDICT	★★★★