

New Job Classification: Guitar Welder

Mark Starlin - September 19, 2008

While many luthiers get their start in wood shop, the next generation may be coming from the shipyards. Thanks to Normandy Guitars, a blow torch and rivet gun are now required tools for guitar building — at least in Oregon. What am I talking about? Normandy Guitars has recently released the first production aluminum body archtop guitar.



I know. It sounds crazy. An archtop guitar made of aluminum? Well, we're not talking jazz boxes here. Think more of a Gretsch that can double as a self-defense weapon for keeping crazed fans at bay. I know I have been poking fun at them, but Normandy Guitars is totally serious and has spent the last 5 years developing 15 different prototypes until they felt they had it just right. Here is a description from their website:

"The guitar features a body with classic archtop curves, a vintage Bigsby-vibrato tailpiece and distinctive rivets on the front and back. The Normandy guitar is available in nine colors and three different finishes: chrome, powder coat and Candy Apple Metal Flake finish. The chrome finish is triple electroplated. In that process, the body is initially buffed, electrically charged in a hot bath with Zincate, then dipped in copper, covered with nickel and completed with a flashy chrome finish."

"Through the development of our welding processes and riveting, and because of our



Amplifier Questions & Answers

Can I use my guitar on a STAGE 120B bass amp that I want to purchase? I am looking for a new sound and I think it will require a much bass influenced sound. I know you can't use a bass on a guitar amp, but could you do it vice versa. All I want to know is that, will my bass amplifier break using a guitar on it. If your answer is yes, it will break, could you please explain why. [More...](#)



Fender Introduces The Jim Adkins JA-90

Telecaster Based on Fender's distinctive double-cutaway TC-90 Thinline guitar, the JA-90 puts Adkins' own personal spin on the classic model, resulting in a single-cutaway, semi-hollow ash-body instrument all its own. Features include a mahogany set neck with a 12" -radius rosewood fingerboard and 22 medium jumbo frets, Seymour Duncan Custom SP90-3 and Vintage SP90-1 "soapbar" pickups with volume and tone controls for each and three-way switching, a three-ply black/white/black pickguard and an Adjusto-Matic bridge with stop tailpiece. [More...](#)



Maxon Releases Four New Effects Pedals

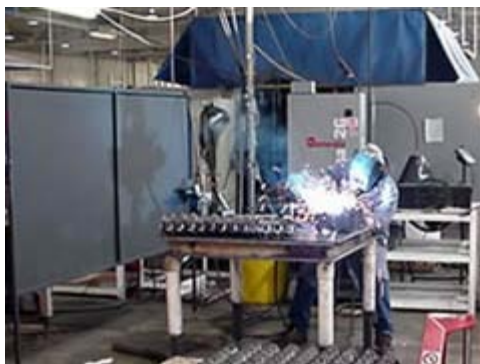
Maxon has release four new effects. Two tube overdrive pedals, a chorus pedal, and an analog delay: PAC-9 Pure Analog Chorus: In an effort to please the masses, Maxon has decided to resurrect the CS505 Chorus, albeit with some improved features that make it even more desirable than before. Housed in Maxon's industry-standard 9-Series chassis, the PAC-9 Pure Analog Chorus takes the core design of the CS505 and brings it into the 21st century. [More...](#)



Better Guitar Review Of The V-Picks Foundation Series Picks

Pick choice is one of those things players

large manufacturing plant, we are able to make the body in a fraction of the time it takes other folks to create theirs. So, our price point is considerably less than what you'd pay for other guitars, somewhere between \$2,000 and \$3,000."



The guitars look perfect for rockabilly, garage band, or roots style music, but both videos on their website show players doing the shred/metal thing on these sparkly gems — weird.

As a rule, guitar players are notoriously picky about guitar materials, so it may be an uphill battle. Especially at two to three grand. Still, I like to root for the underdog, and Ovation is still around, so maybe... One thing is for sure. Normandy Guitars are "riveting." Sorry, I couldn't resist. Check them out.

[Normandy Guitars](#)

Guitar Rig 3 Guitar Hero Rigs

Mark Starlin - September 11, 2008

If you own Native Instruments Guitar Rig 3, Gibson has done a cool thing worth checking out. They have created several Guitar Rig 3 setups for famous guitar players.

Since many players change their gear on a regular basis, the setups focus on a certain period of the players career or a particular song. The image to the right is Brian May's late 70's live setup.

Some of the player setups are just screenshots images of the Guitar Rig 3 software, and others also have links to downloadable Guitar Rig 3 banks, which save you the trouble of copying the image settings. If you don't own Guitar Rig 3 you can download a demo of it [here](#), and then score a Stevie Ray Vaughan downloadable bank to try it out with.

Here is the current list of players and links to their setup pages:

[Joe Perry](#)

[Nuno Bettencourt](#)



typically settle on early in their playing career and then stick with throughout. However picks can have a big affect on your tone and playing technique. There are a multitude of picks out there from mass produced to hand made. It is a good idea to try several brands and styles. You never know what you might be missing. [More...](#)



Reader comments on my review of the Martin Backpacker

If Martin is going to make such a poorly designed, thin sounding, almost unplayable guitar — even if it is meant to be a traveling guitar — they should sell it without the martin decal. It's hard to hold standing, it doesn't sit on your lap, the neck scale is very weird, the frets are not filed/trimmed well, the neck is too thick and poorly shaped, the finish is dull and feels rough like they don't even bother to sand and seal these thing before they are sprayed. The body is very small and therefore there is no tone. [More...](#)



eMedia Announces Guitar Master CD-ROM

This new instructional release includes songs featured in Guitar Hero and Rock Band. eMedia Guitar Master teaches how to play for real, with over 100 step-by-step audio and video enhanced guitar lessons. Instructor Charles McCrone, a graduate of the Guitar Institute of Technology guides you through a variety of essential rockin' techniques including power chords, barre chords, hammer-ons, pull-offs, palm muting, distorted riffs, the blues scale, movable major and minor scales and more. [More...](#)



New StompIO Tour Accessories Shipping

IK Multimedia has announced the release of a new range of accessories for StompIO, IK's custom pedalboard and amp rig. The new GPU Stage case is a rugged metal enclosure designed to fit a Mac Mini or Mini PC, allowing users to gig live with a mini computer onstage directly next to StompIO. StompIO is designed to replace a computer's mouse, monitor and keyboard by employing a mini computer that boots up directly to AmpliTube X-GEAR. This allows guitarists and bassists to gig with a simple, tough, and portable rig — with all the capabilities and tones of a custom pedalboard and amp rig, but none of the hassles. [More...](#)