

Acoustics Guitars: Over £500



# WINNER



# PATRICK JAMES EGGLE 12-FRET KANUGA

Reviewed  
February  
20/3  
£3000

**V**intage-style slope-shouldered dreadnoughts are enjoying a renaissance, and Patrick Eggle's adaptation of his standard Kanuga shows off his world-class luthiering skills to the full. Featuring a honey-hued sunburst top (included in the price), everything about this spruce/rosewood beauty is precision personified - whether it's the body's ebony pyramid bridge and herringbone-purpled myrtle binding, the fingerboard's bound-look coachlining, or the perfectly crafted slotted headstock with its diamond volute and set of pukka Waverly machines.

Unlike the 14-fret Kanuga with its semi-wide neck, the 12-fretter is an out-and-out picker, with a 47mm nut span and an airy bridge string spacing to match. Thanks to its shallow, evenly rounded profile, however, the neck doesn't feel dauntingly broad, and it's a fast, obliging player, due also to immaculate fretting and a low action.

With the soundhole and bridge shifted backwards towards the body's sweet spot as part of the 12-fret makeover, the sound - save for a hint of typical new-guitar stiffness - is reassuringly forthcoming. The low end is rich and firm, the highs are smooth and lustrous, and everything is integrated with excellent clarity, focus and sustain. Find the wherewithal and you'll be buying a truly superb example of the slope genre.

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