

DooDad The Jilted Fretless: Published by “De Bassist” Magazine

® Original test by Lars Hurks

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Fretless for a friendly price

The first generation of DooDad bass guitars was reviewed in an earlier issue of “*De Bassist*”. The Jazz- and Precision models passed the test with flying colors. It was concluded both of them offer great value for money. Now, the next product generation is here, because DooDad enriched its product range with a fretless bass guitar. This is a good excuse for us to provide you with an extensive introduction.

Being approached by Fender’s legal department is a dubious experience. On one hand it can be scary; on the other hand it is one of the best compliments a guitar builder can get. It happened to Harald de Wind, founder of DooDad guitars. He was requested to either make worse guitars, or to apply drastic changes to the looks of his instruments. While this was a request to be put on the wall in a frame, it also meant that Harald had to go back to the drawing table to prevent legal problems. Long story short, body shapes cannot be patented, but the shape of a headstock can. Throughout the last few years, Fender has taken on various big and small builders and manufacturers to put a hold to the copying of its guitars. DooDad was not overlooked. The headstock now has a totally different look, which does not resemble the Fender headstock in the slightest. It takes a while to get used to the new shape, but it is very distinctive.

DooDad’s The Jilted comes in sunburst and fiesta red and can be characterized – apart from the headstock – as a Jazz Bass. This means we have two single coil pickups with alnico magnets, a dedicated volume control for both pickups and a master tone control. The knobs are mounted onto the well-known chrome-plated control panel that fits seamlessly into the white pickguard. The whole is placed on the so called ‘offset’ body, which gives a feeling of speed because of its tilted shape.

Test

Out of the bass guitars I own, only one is fretless and it is also an 'unfretted regular one'. In a band context the typical fretless sound is not always desirable. Consequently, a fretless is used rarely, although it undoubtedly offers 'something', sometimes. As a result, not every player is willing to break the bank for an expensive fretless bass and then, of course, a budget model is the perfect solution. This bass feels comfortable, plays well and sounds good. All the grunt and filthiness one might want to get out of a Jazz Bass is there. As well as a more carrying sound. The bass I compared this against has a longer sustain, but is also several kilos heavier. The body of this DooDad is made out of pinewood, which is considerably lighter. The only downside we found in our previous test was that the neck had a tendency to dive forward as the result of the light body weight. This was a problem mainly when playing seated, without a strap. However, the problem seems to have been solved for this product generation; the balance is perfect.

Price tag

A lottery winner or someone who wants a classic vintage bass from nineteen-sixty-something will not seek out DooDad. However, someone who is looking for an excellent bass for little money can take the brand as seriously as Fender did in aforementioned letter. The recommended retail price of this bass is € 329,-. In guitar land, DooDad managed to connect itself to names such as Dany Lademacher and John Hayes by offering more expensive signature models. No comparable endorsers have been found yet for the bass guitars. We are very curious as to what we will get in our hands when the budget is doubled and when someone with specific wishes ends up at that signature-level. Time will tell.