

THE GAS STATION



LTD EC-1000T £1027

With tonal options a-plenty, this Fishman-loaded singlecut looks to eclipse its rivals

The LTD EC-1000 has long been a top contender as an alternative to a Les Paul, and the EC-1000T pushes this away from stealthy metal, and more towards fans of classic singlecut designs.

First up is the construction – a thick mahogany body, topped with maple. The 24.75" scale length also provides us with the familiar singlecut feel. However this is more than just a retro pastiche, as there are plenty of modern appointments too: XJ frets, locking LTD tuners, TonePros tune-o-matic-style bridge and tailpiece, and the secret weapon – a pair of Fishman Fluence Open Core Classic humbuckers (more later).

Playing-wise, the guitar is everything we've come to expect from an LTD at this pricepoint. The neck is wide and fairly slim

second voice boosts the bridge pickup and applies a bass roll-off to the neck pickup, while the third voice turns each of the humbuckers into high-output single coils.

While it might be confusing at first, the simplest way to think of it is two voices and a pair of coil splits for each pickup. It's a shame that the two voice modes are global for both pickups, but it's also evident that there are some serious tones on offer at the flick of a switch. Position two (found on the tone pot) on the neck pickup removes some of the woolliness sometimes associated with neck humbuckers, particularly under generous overdrive; meanwhile the bridge pickup in position one and two bites its way through. With some experimentation it really gets you working to control your sound from the guitar – using

THE COIL-SPLIT ADDS ANOTHER DIMENSION TO THE GUITAR

with a thin U-shaped profile. The modern, speedy theme continues with the chunky 'XJ' (extra-jumbo) frets, and our review model is set to a comfortably low action without buzz. Singlecuts are known for their tendency for heft, and despite the EC-1000T's weight-relieving chambered build, this guitar is still no lightweight.

Plugging in is where the real fun begins though – hidden under the deceptively simple vol/vol/tone control layout is a combination of sounds from those Fishman Fluence pickups. Each of the pots is also a push/pull switch, enabling you to put the pickups into one of three 'voices'. With all the controls set to their 'default' position, the guitar offers up traditional 'PAF' pickup sounds from each. The

the push/pull as a boost or cut for different sections, and the Fluence design means that you don't lose treble as you turn the guitar's volume down. The coil-split adds another dimension to the guitar, and while approximating a Strat or Tele is about more than the pickup type, the Fluences do a great job of getting you in the snappy ballpark.

The EC-1000T is no small outlay, but if versatility from a singlecut shape with classic looks is what you're after, it's a definite must-try.

Stuart Williams

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| SUMMARY | FEATURES | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ |
| | SOUND QUALITY | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ |
| | VALUE FOR MONEY | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ |
| | BUILD QUALITY | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ |
| | PLAYABILITY | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ |
| | OVERALL RATING | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ |

1 PICKUPS: The Fishman Fluence pickups offer three voices each – including single-coil tones – which are accessed by the push/pull controls

2 FINISH LTD doesn't deal exclusively in metal machines, as this classic rock-style finish proves

3 FEATURES As well as the pickups, there's a TonePros bridge, locking tuners and extra-jumbo frets

AT A GLANCE

- BODY:** Mahogany
- NECK:** Mahogany
- SCALE:** 24.75"
- FINGERBOARD:** Ebony
- FRETS:** 22 XJ
- PICKUPS:** 2x Fishman Fluence Open Core
- CONTROLS:** Volume one, volume two, tone (all push/pull), three-way pickup selector
- HARDWARE:** Chrome
- LEFT-HANDED:** Yes
- CASE:** Available separately
- FINISH:** Honey Burst Satin
- CONTACT:** Sound Service sound-service.eu

