

THE GAS
STATION



JACKSON PRO SERIES MISHA MANSOOR JUGGERNAUT HT7FM

£699

A behemoth seven-string
from the Periphery riff-master

Misha Mansoor's signature guitar is built with heavy in mind. A veritable monster, the Juggernaut boasts a custom-contoured body, painstakingly hewn from basswood and topped with flame maple, a quarter-sawn maple neck, a typically lethal-looking spearhead headstock and two custom-wound Jackson humbuckers. Pick it up off the rack and you won't know whether to fret a powerchord or go hunting wild boar in the foothills of the Alps. Choose the former and you'll find that there's a ferocity to its tone that makes this a natural fit

between songs. Dim the lights and another of Mansoor's spec wishes comes true as the dot inlays on the side of the fretboard glow in the dark. They call it Luminlay and it'll go down well with anyone who has stepped onstage only to feel their way to where their fretting hand should be. As for the picking hand, Jackson's string-through hardtail bridge is a tidy, low-profile unit, which is the perfect place to anchor the palm for muting those bruising percussive rhythm parts that Mansoor specialises in. But when we get to the Mansoor's signature Jackson MM1 humbuckers and the inventive switching options, we discover a

“IT OFFERS MENACE AND A SMOOTH, CLASSIC-ROCK TONE”

for any metal guitarist who's looking to let off some fireworks in their bassist's register. After all, that is Mansoor's stock-in-trade.

As a guitarist in Periphery, Mansoor's day job demands huge, thick, aggressive tone and his signature appointments on the Juggernaut duly reflect his needs. The quarter-sawn neck is more expensive to mill than those flat- or plain-sawn, but that makes it stronger and with a graphite reinforcement and scarf joint, the Juggernaut has an indestructible feel. A less-than-sexy but nonetheless practical feature that makes the Juggernaut roadworthy is its truss rod, adjustable via a wheel at the heel. Mansoor swears by this, even admitting to adjusting it onstage

whole new side to the Juggernaut. Let's call it a sensitive side.

The Juggernaut might be a heavyweight but it cleans up nicely. The MM1 humbuckers are not your average super-charged pickups, designed to throw out gain and more gain – they have a dynamic, old-school quality. Sure, they're hot and powerful enough to weaponise your playing in high-gain scenarios, but there's a sophistication to them that makes perfect sense when you factor in Periphery's progressive sound. Via a five-position blade switch, you can select the neck pickup, the bridge pickup, or the bridge and neck pickups together – as standard. But in the second and fourth positions it splits the humbucker's signal and

1 TONE The Juggernaut automatically bypasses the tone control – running it at full tilt – but via a push/pull feature it works just as any other tone knob.

2 TUNERS A set of Jackson die-cast locking tuners lets you drive the Juggernaut hard without throwing it out of tune.

3 HEEL The Juggernaut's S-style profile is heavily contoured throughout, and this neatly sculpted heel makes lead playing a cinch. Mansoor calls it a “handshake feel”.

AT A GLANCE

BODY: Basswood w/ maple top

NECK: Maple, quarter-sawn bolted-on

SCALE: 673.1mm (26.5")

FINGERBOARD: Ebony w/ dot inlay

FRETS: 22, jumbo

PICKUPS: 2 x Jackson MM1 humbuckers

CONTROLS: 1 x volume, 1 x tone w/ push-pull bypass, five-way blade pickup selector

HARDWARE: Black

LEFT-HANDED: No

FINISH: Ocean Burst (as reviewed), Charcoal Burst

CONTACT: Fender GBI 01342 331700

www.jacksonguitars.com

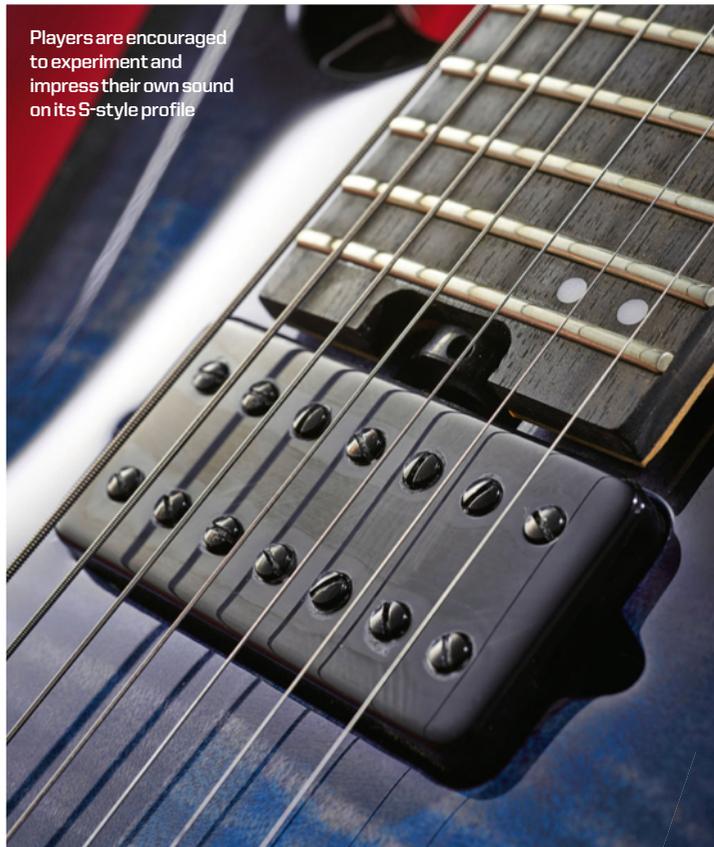




How The Other Half Shred

How Mansoor's Artist Signature Juggernaut compares to the Pro Series

The USA-Built HT7 with a Laguna Burst finish will set you back a whopping £2,639. Good job Jackson will meet you half way with the spec. It has a custom-cut alder body, based on Jackson's Dinky™ profile, with a thick (.785") AAA maple top. There's a set of signature Bare Knuckle pickups, Hipshot locking tuners and bridge, a Graph Tech nut, and a hand-rubbed urethane gel finish on the neck. The big takeaway here is that the Indonesian Pro Series Juggernaut retains a similar vibe and tone to its US counterpart. It impressed us hugely with its tone but, as Mansoor says, it was routed so you can upgrade it to the Bare Knuckle pickups. At £280 a set, that's a tempting upgrade... until we find a couple of grand down the back of a sofa.



Players are encouraged to experiment and impress their own sound on its S-style profile



Die-cast locking tuners means you can drive hard

combines the inner coils and the outer coils, opening up a whole new tonal frontier.

In these split-coil positions the Juggernaut's clean tones come into their own, offering a little elastic snap and life to arpeggiated chords, with plenty of clarity for the more exotic fringes of Mansoor's playing. As you bring the gain up, the Juggernaut offers menace on a low seventh-string and a smooth classic-rock tone in its upper registers. Once you've maxed out the gain, the Juggernaut bears its teeth and with a saw-tooth

distortion its low-end is a force of nature, with plenty of harmonic response. Shredders will enjoy that neck profile and the Juggernaut's charismatic, live-wire lead tones. As pickups go, the MM1 humbuckers complement hard, percussive playing styles.

And that's the beauty of the Juggernaut. Its DNA is an S-style metal guitar engineered to a logical conclusion, but you can impress your own sound upon it. It encourages experimentation and for any six-stringers new to seven, that feeling of being outside of your

comfort zone is only fleeting – the 16-inch fretboard radius allied to the compensated saddles on the bridge will let you set the action low for a super-playable shred with a tone that'll make you feel like a giant. And that's why it's called the Juggernaut.

Jonathan Horsley

SUMMARY	FEATURES	SOUND QUALITY	VALUE FOR MONEY	BUILD QUALITY	PLAYABILITY	OVERALL RATING
	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆

ALSO TRY...

IBANEZ RGDIX7MPB-SBB

£399

With an impressive poplar top, Gotoh locking tuners and DiMarzio pickups, this Ibanez is a stunning guitar – and you can also find it



ESP LTD SC-207 STEPHEN CARPENTER

£620

Great value for a signature seven string, this Deftones rhythm machine enjoys a 25.5" scale for a relaxed feel and



SCHecter OMEN EXTREME-7

Again, incredible value from Schecter. No locking tuners, but this seven string plays

£517

