





# JACKSON X SERIES DINKY ARCH TOP DKAF7 MS

£599

The sleek seven-string that could usher you into the multi-scale universe

**B**efore you make a frenzied call to your optometrist, we should point out that this latest seven-string from Jackson's value-for-money X Series is a multi-scale (or fan-fret) guitar, which is something that, until now, you'd have struggled to find in this price range. A multi-scale design has a longer scale length for lower strings and a shorter one for higher strings, making for improved tuning and intonation. This gives the low B the potential to further vibrate and promises to be more comfortable to play too.

On to the matter at hand, the DKAF7 MS takes the extended-

bolt-on heel, although contoured, is a little larger than shredders might expect, and not dissimilar to the usual Strat assembly. Given the market this guitar is aimed at, it seems an oversight on an otherwise eminently playable, forward-thinking instrument.

Pickups are usually where a more affordable guitar reveals itself, and that's true of the Jackson, to an extent. While they look the business, the own-brand blade 'buckers are a mixed bag. The neck is a little dark for most tastes – it works for flutey leads, but not so much for chunky overdriven chord playing. Thankfully, the middle position

## 1 FRETBOARD

Aside from the neck joint, it's hard to argue with the execution here; the fan frets and compound radius make for a rapid-fire playing experience

## 2 HARDWARE

A staggered bridge is paired with Jackson's own-brand tuners – the guitar's tuning stability is up there with other seven-strings in this price range

## 3 FINISH

That stained mahogany finish looks and feels mighty fine up close; the DKAF7 MS punches above its weight visually

## AT A GLANCE

**BODY:** Mahogany

**NECK:** Maple w/

graphite

reinforcement

**SCALE:** 647mm-

685mm (25.5-27")

multi-scale

**FINGERBOARD:**

Rosewood

**FRETS:** 24

**PICKUPS:** 2x Jackson

seven-string

humbuckers

**CONTROLS:** 1x volume,

1x tone, 3-way toggle

pickup selector

**HARDWARE:** Jackson

staggered bridge,

Jackson tuners - black

**LEFT-HANDED:** No

**FINISH:** Stained

mahogany only

**CONTACT:** Fender GBI

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## IT ISN'T GOING TO TURN YOU INTO PLINI OVERNIGHT...

range Jackson Dinky format and pushes it to its tech-metal limits (an eight-string incarnation is also available). Besides the 647mm-685mm (25.5-27") scale length, the rosewood fingerboard also boasts a 305mm-406mm (12-16") compound radius, so it's rounder at lower frets for chords and flatter for easy bends up top.

Close your eyes, and you're unlikely to notice you're even playing a fan-fret model, aside from a more fluid feel. If you think about the way your fretting hand moves while playing, it's not hard to see how fan-fretting can make movements more natural – handy for sweeping and legato. Sure, it isn't going to turn you into Plini overnight, but it does help to make your moves that bit slicker.

With a sleek satin finish, the neck is a joy to play, at least until you get up to the dusty end – the

brightens things up enough for clean sounds. Faring better is the bridge humbucker, which offers a punchy, full-throated output that cuts through distortion with aplomb although, again, the clean sound leaves a little to be desired. It's a more classic voice than the hi-fi sounds many extended-range players prefer, so if cleans are important to you, bear the cost of a pickup upgrade in mind.

At this price point, Jackson has pulled off an impressive feat. If you can deal with the heel access and the pickups, this is a worthy entry to fan-fret-dom.

*Michael Astley-Brown*

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

