

CANADIAN VALUES

Richmond Belmont Bigsby

* BY CHRIS GILL

A FEW YEARS ago Canada's Godin Guitars announced its new Richmond brand of guitars, which are inspired by classic models from the Fifties, Sixties and Seventies. Richmond's Belmont Bigsby lives up to that inspiration, combining several familiar features to create something entirely new and totally cool. The Belmont Bigsby most closely resembles the love child of a Gibson SG and Fender Strat, with a little Gretsch DNA thrown in for good measure.

FEATURES

THE BELMONT'S BEVELED, pointy cutaway horns, oversized pickguard, solid mahogany body, and 22-fret mahogany neck with a 12-inch radius and 24.75-inch scale are reminiscent of a late-Sixties SG. However, the asymmetrical body shape, five-position blade pickup selector switch, bolt-on neck design, and angled controls are undeniably Strat-like. The Gretsch personality comes from the Belmont's Bigsby vibrato tailpiece and chrome roller bridge. A pair of Seymour Duncan single-coil Lipstick pickups in the neck and middle position and a Seymour Duncan '59 humbucker in the bridge position further emphasize the Strat-meets-SG vibe.

One unique touch is the guitar's simplified master tone and master volume control configuration. The master volume control is placed so

that players can easily make volume adjustments and perform volume swells. The Belmont Bigsby is available with a Laurentian White finish and black pickguard. Non-Bigsby models are available with Burgundy and Black Wash high-gloss finishes.

PERFORMANCE

THANKS TO ITS Duncan pickups, which exude personality and character, the Richmond Belmont Bigsby is exciting and fierce. The Lipstick pickups deliver fat vintage Strat tones that would impress Stevie Ray, while the '59 humbucker has the snarl and growl that would make Angus drop his schoolboy trousers.

The Belmont feels like the pick of the litter from a batch of fine Sixties SGs, with a slim, fast neck and outstanding upper fret access. The Bigsby is the *coup de grâce* that makes this guitar irresistible, producing fat whammy textures and preserving the sustain and character of a stop-tailpiece guitar.

THE BOTTOM LINE

IF YOU CAN'T make up your mind between an SG, Strat, and a Duo Jet, the Richmond Belmont Bigsby gives you all of that for a price that's a whole lot less. **SC**

+PRO	-CON
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGGRESSIVE TONES • BIGSBY TAILPIECE • EXCEPTIONAL VALUE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NONE



OVERALL VALUE

SPECS

LIST PRICE \$1,090.00
MANUFACTURER Richmond Guitars, richmondguitarscanada.com
CONSTRUCTION Bolt-on
BODY Mahogany
NECK Mahogany
SCALE 24 3/4 inch
FINGERBOARD Rosewood
FRETS 22
INLAYS Dot
PICKUPS Seymour Duncan '59 humbucker (bridge), Seymour Duncan Lipstick single-coil (middle and neck)
ELECTRONICS Five-way switch, master volume, master tone
BRIDGE Bigsby vibrato with roller bridge
TUNERS High-ratio chrome
HARDWARE Chrome



BUZZ BIN NEW, HIP AND UNDER THE RADAR

ON DISC

R&M POWERWIRE CABLE

IF YOU'RE THE kind of guitarist who plays all night with your overdrive pedal always on, you've probably wondered why there wasn't an easier, less cluttered way to get through a gig. The R&M PowerWire cable with a built-in TS-09-style distortion circuit is the perfect solution for plug-and-play guitarists who love the extra boost of overdrive but want nothing more than a cable between their guitar and amp.

The R&M PowerWire cable stashes a miniature low-noise amplifier, which is powered by two hearing aid-style batteries,

in the sleeve where the cable connects to the plug. The amplifier boosts the signal and provides faster, more responsive attack. You can select cable lengths from 20 to 40 feet and gain options from 0 to 6dB that provide clean, flat boost from 20Hz to 20kHz. If you prefer overdrive, R&M offers the PowerWire cable with an optional TS-09-style distortion circuit that produces fat, beefy overdrive that is always on—no more messing with extra cables or overenthusiastic fans accidentally turning off your overdrive as they bum-rush the stage. —Chris Gill

SPECS

LIST PRICE With TS-09 distortion option, \$39.00
MANUFACTURER R&M Tone Technology, rmtonetech.com

