

Adamas

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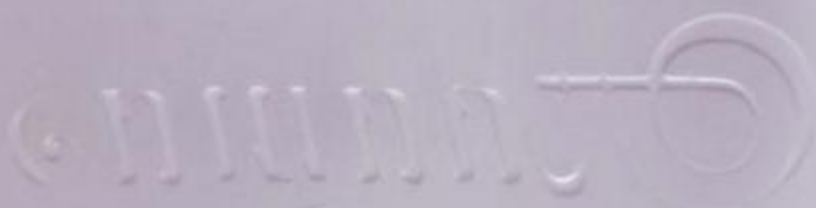
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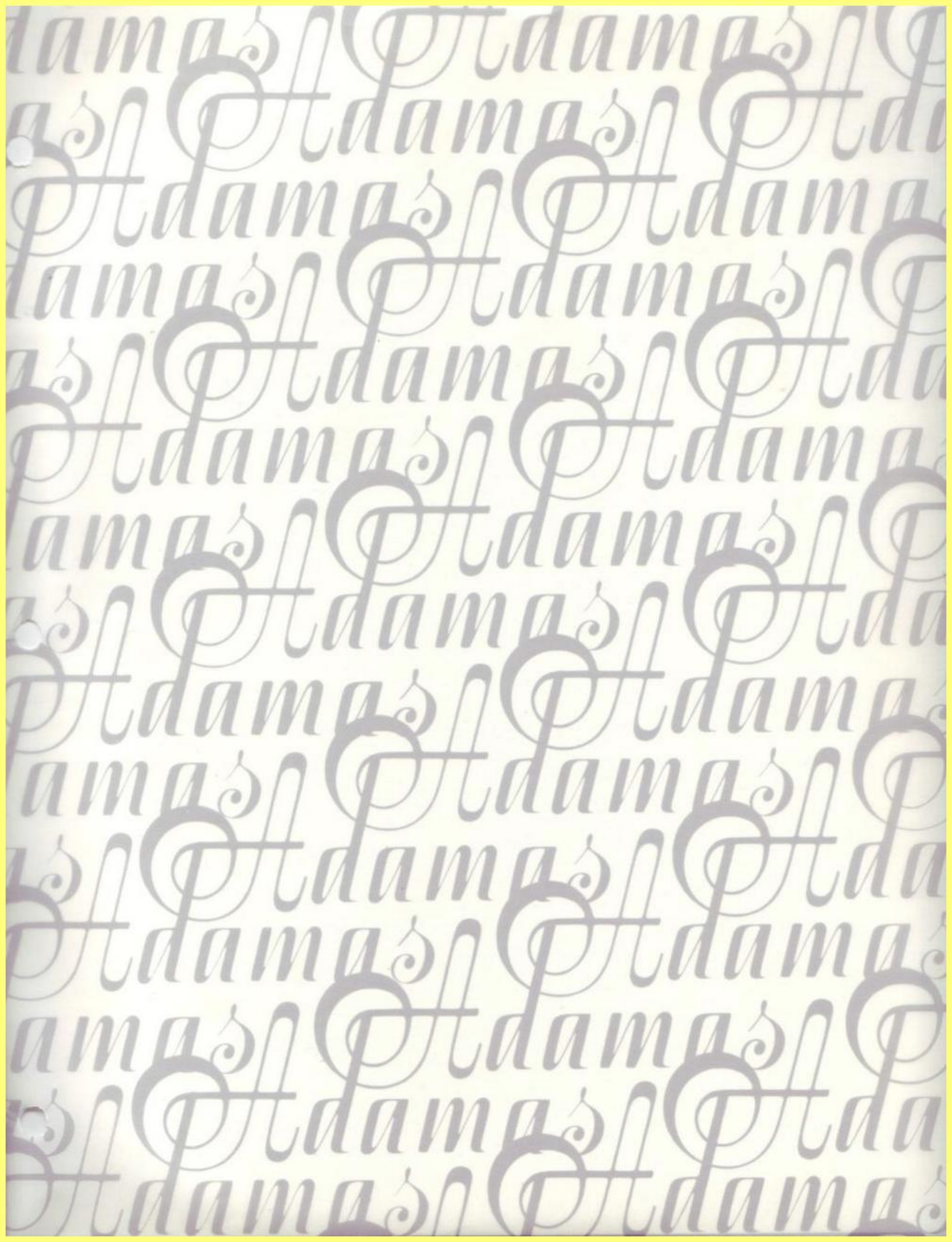
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Preface...

Adamas guitars are remarkable instruments; ones which do not suggest a rush to judgement, a hasty review, or an impulsive purchase decision. Rather, the nature of the instruments implies thoughtful reflection and a savoring of detail. We urge you to relax with this catalog and take time to discover the unique qualities of Adamas. It's simply a product you will enjoy thinking about, musing about, mulling over in your mind. In all respects, we believe we have created an instrument which forms a natural partnership with the musician.

Then there is but one item left that this catalog cannot answer: How does it sound? In guitar design, science and technology must always share the platform with the human ear. Only in playing this guitar can you fully comprehend and share our enthusiasm for it.







This is Adamas...

Any reasonable investment in a guitar will put an instrument of acceptable standards into your hands, just as any automobile will take you where you want to go and bring you back again. Few of us, of course, accept such a mundane attitude when it comes to choosing the products that will make a difference in the way we work or play. We want and look for something more. And, therein, lies the point of Adamas guitars.

As in the evolution of all Ovation products, there is an unique combination of creative refinements and the innovative use of new materials and engineering concepts. Standard technical approaches are rarely adequate, for these conventional solutions virtually guarantee conventional products.

The Adamas, on the other hand, is not simply an exotic and transitory technical wonder of the moment. Rather, it is the result of a step-by-step program of exhaustive research and development that first began almost twenty years ago when we reintroduced the roundback to the world. It is a striking example of the uniqueness that is Ovation, and it clearly illustrates Ovation's philosophy: to take technologies of the highest order and combine them, applying them toward a useful and more pleasing musical result.

The Adamas guitar is, in fact, a very subtle idea which has found its final form. It is an idea which states that music is foremost, much more important than the technology which serves it. For it is this idea which has been part of Ovation since our inception. And it is this idea that epitomizes the reasons why acceptance among professional players around the world is so closely linked with the name Ovation.

Our finest expression of this idea is Adamas.



The Challenge...

We started with a clean sheet of paper. Certain design criteria were established: Goals identifying areas where improvements could be made, then the implementation with new materials to realize them.

We imagined a thinner, more responsive top, free from the risk of cracking and buckling. A more harmonically rich and balanced output throughout the entire range of the guitar. A neck free of warp and bow, problems that come about from heat, cold, moisture, and humidity. A guitar offering a technical superiority not normally associated with hand crafted musical instruments.

We imagined an instrument that so exceeded the capabilities of a 'standard' guitar that it almost could be a category all its own. The result was a guitar we called Adamas: a Latin word meaning "diamond in the native form of carbon."

Follow along with us as we cover the features and abilities of Adamas, the guitars that seem to make the limitations of the stringed instrument genre virtually disappear as they take your music to new places with unparalleled ease and accuracy.

Component Details...

THE TOP

Aside from the now famous roundback shape, the single feature that sets Adamas guitars apart from other acoustic guitars is the top.

A guitar top should be strong, yet light and resonant. It's largely the flexibility of the top that determines the sound output and quality. Even the best spruce tops have their limitations. Too thick, and the tone is weak and harmonically limited; too thin, and the top can warp and crack. The Adamas top solves both of these problems.

Called a Fibronic Soundboard, the Adamas top is really a composite structure, built with two .005" carbon-graphite outer layers with a .035" birch veneer sandwiched in the center, all bonded together at 250°F. While the fibers of the carbon run in a longitudinal direction parallel with the neck of the guitar, the birch veneer grain is set at a 60° angle to the carbon. This yields an extremely rigid, yet uniquely thin membrane, one-third the thickness of a typical spruce top.



The finish itself is very light to minimize any impairment of sound. The effect of the opposing grain directions between the carbon and the birch virtually guarantees that, short of physical damage, the Fibronic Soundboard will not crack.

Fans and braces have been engineered specifically for the Fibronic Soundboard to achieve the design objective of ± 3 db change over the entire playing range of the guitar. The size and contour of each fan have been developed separately to achieve this goal, and their individual weights are controlled to within a few tenths of a gram.

Contributing to the thin, resonant top are the unique and highly recognizable soundholes of the Adamas. By replacing the one large center hole of a traditionally designed guitar with the symmetrical series of holes in the upper bout, the strength of the top has been greatly increased and the sound dramatically improved. This relocation is indispensable to the distribution of the tension



dense and strong than the native wood alone. It is also virtually impervious to heat, moisture, acid from sweat, and other such elements. Because of its unique properties, this particular fretboard will not show any significant wear as a function of time.

Where it extends over the body of the guitar, the reinforced fretboard is free of contact with the Fibronic top, floating without hampering the soundboard's freedom of movement.

THE ELECTRONICS...

Adamas guitars are available with the recognized, patented, built-in, mono/stereo, acoustic-electric pickup and preamplifier system.

All Adamas acoustic-electric guitars, both 6 and 12 string models, use six piezoelectric transducers located directly beneath Delrin saddles that are set to achieve proper intonation. String vibrations are not only amplified from the top of the saddle, but their mechanical action on the Fibronic Soundboard is also transmitted. This patented system produces a clear, natural, uncolored sound picture of exceptional depth and presence, and as loud as the music might demand.

The built-in FET preamplifier reduces hum and line noise, helping, along with the size and placement of the soundholes, to give the Adamas acoustic-electric virtual immunity to feedback. A special bias trim pot allows the FET in the preamp to be factory adjusted so that the maximum amount of signal will pass through with a minimum amount of distortion and the greatest signal-to-noise ratio. The FET is output protected, guarding it from any damage from a bad amp or grounding connection. The entire circuit draws only 100 microamps, contributing to a substantial battery life, yet delivers a matched 47K impedance output required by most amplifiers and high impedance microphone inputs. The complete state-of-the-art preamp assembly is of singularly rugged construction, able to take the hazards of the road and nightly use with an ease that labels the acoustic-electric system as definitively Adamas.

The stereo feature is wired so that, when used with the stereo Y-chord supplied, the output of strings 1, 3, and 5 goes to one channel, and 2, 4, and 6 to the other. Separation of left and right channels is achieved when used with a stereo amplifier/PA or two individual amps.

The Adamas preamp has separate volume and tone controls. For ease of adjustment and quick visual reference while playing, both controls are mounted at the waist of the instrument.

THE NECK...

At the heart of each Adamas guitar is a unique neck reinforcing system called the Kaman Bar. Bonded directly into the neck beneath the fretboard, the Kaman Bar is a U-shaped aluminum casting which incorporates a one-quarter inch steel tension rod adjusted from inside the bowl rather than at the peghead where the risk of breakage is greater. The Kaman Bar provides ample adjustment to compensate for neck changes that can occur over time due to heat, humidity, and string load. This feature allows the Adamas neck to join the body at the 14th fret, which achieves the maximum rigidity possible at the lowest weight. The perfect alignment of neck and bowl which is possible with the Kaman Bar makes all Adamas models particularly roadworthy and resistant to external forces which might, otherwise, induce neck twisting or loss of shape.

Bonded to the top of this rigid neck structure is a resin impregnated black walnut fretboard which is approximately 45% more

from string loads on such a thin soundboard. The pattern and size of the holes were developed to minimize feedback when playing electrically at an extremely high level.

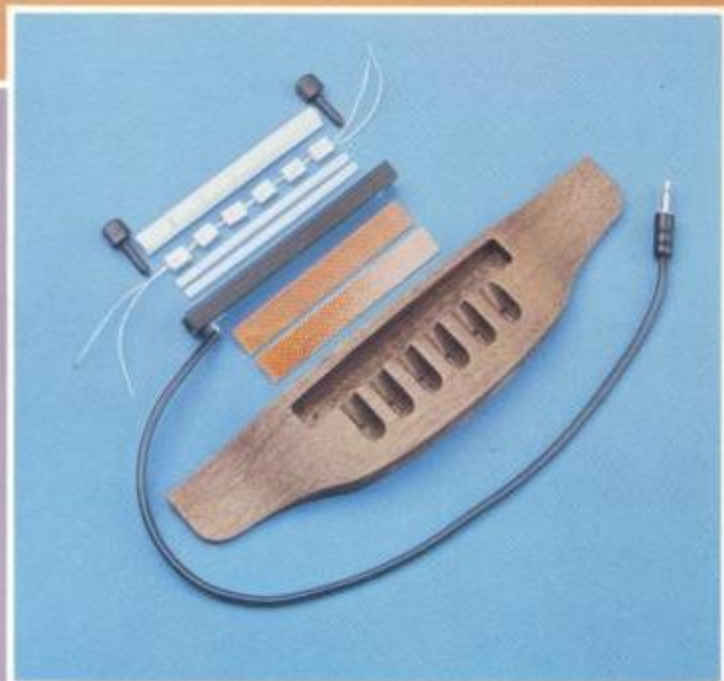
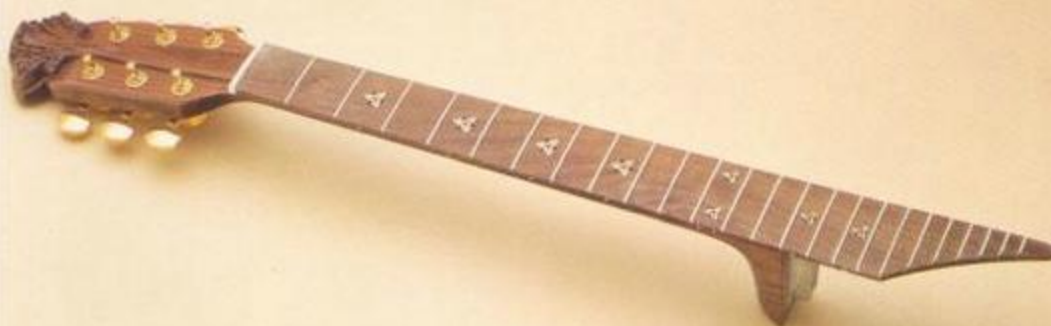
The design of Adamas cutaway models allows only one series of soundholes and one epaulet. Yet, due to the decreased internal volume of the bowl, the guitar yields no noticeable reduction in overall sound output.

THE BOWL...

The Adamas bowl follows the standards set by our Ovation Roundbacks, except that it is one-quarter inch deeper due to the way the outer ring secures the top to the bowl. The neck block is also an integral part of the bowl. It is reinforced by the use of struts to provide an absolutely rigid mounting base for the Kaman Bar™ neck, helping to insure against any possibility of neck creep, shrinkage, or misalignment.

Reprise...

As you reflect on the Adamas guitars, we believe you'll find the abilities of these instruments quite astounding. Their sound is significantly superior to even our own Ovation models, acclaimed as they are. We hope, in reading this brochure, that you can not only perceive and appreciate the distinctions of the Adamas, but also understand the thinking of the people behind it. That our products communicate their design concepts so directly and honestly is an important part of the Adamas' magic. There is no doubt that these instruments represent our finest work.



Adamas...

First introduced to the world in 1973, the Adamas guitar created a new set of standards by which the value of a guitar could be judged, offering a sound and playing ease previously unavailable.

The aesthetics and visual features of the Adamas are as unique and appealing as its audio presence. The scroll-like design of the peghead gives the Adamas a classical grace and dignity; it is a decorative complement to the carved walnut bridge. An attractive, non-slip finish with bronze highlights is selectively applied to the bowl for dramatic stage lighting effects.

The unique, inlaid soundhole epaulets, undoubtedly the single most recognizable feature of Adamas guitars, are constructed of a variety of exotic woods: teak from Burma, birds-eye maple from the United States, padauk from the Andaman Islands, and American black walnut. A smooth satin finish preserves the rich patina of the woods and allows the epaulets to become subtle parts of the ribbed carbon-graphite top.

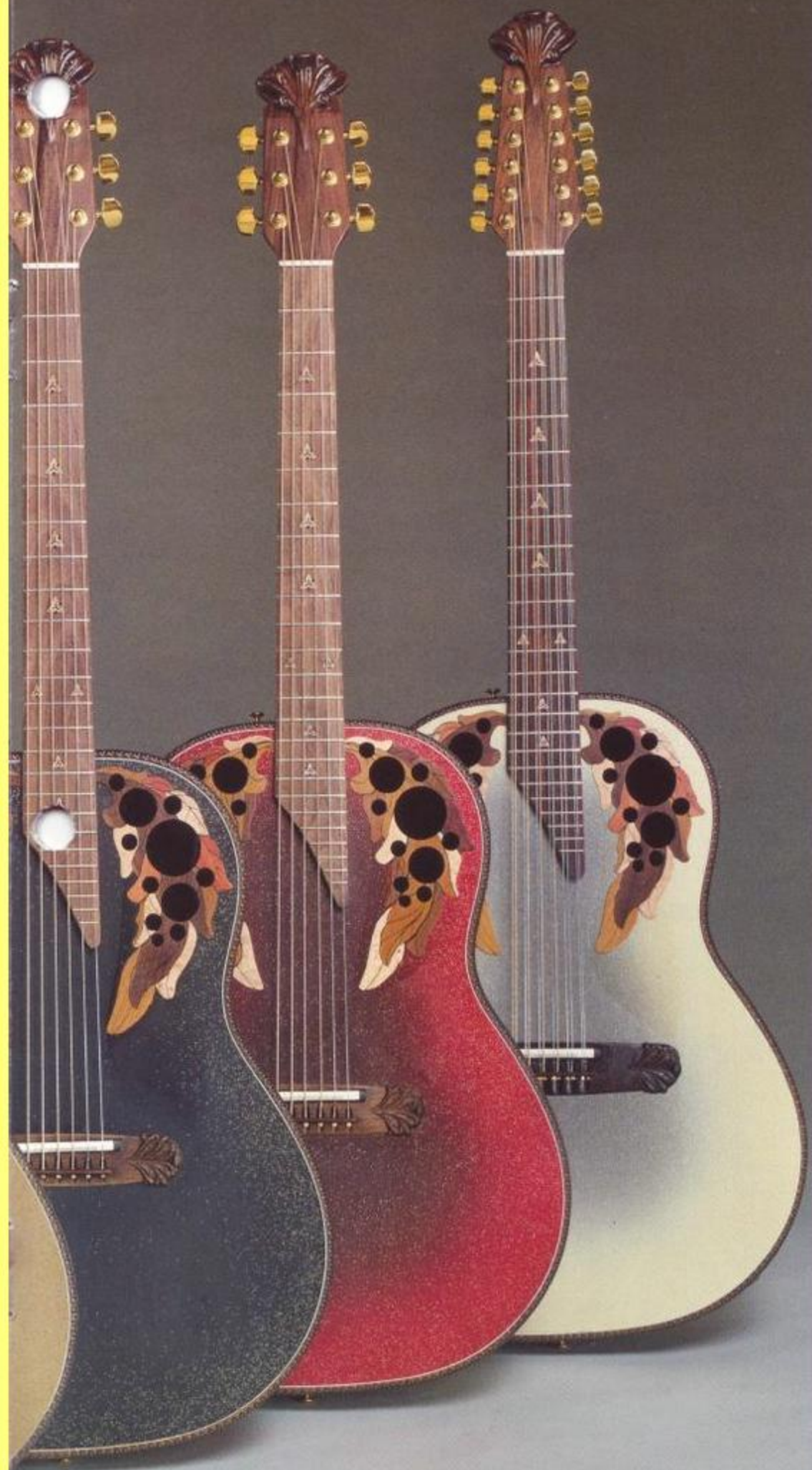
The solid walnut neck is hand rubbed to a deep satin finish that is elegant, yet fast and durable. The fretboard, made from select even-grain black walnut, has delicate maple inlays set in a black background for high contrast. It features an extended, two octave range up to E above the usual high C.

A specially designed outer rim adds a subtle decorative carved touch to the soundboard, and its round contour contributes substantially to playing comfort. A fine white binding-ring seals the rim to the top.

Every Adamas guitar is play-checked, tested to assure uniform quality, and signed personally by C. William Kaman II, V.P. of Technology for Ovation Instruments and son of the Roundback's original creator, Charles Kaman.

The Adamas guitar: A blend of uncompromising technological achievement and fresh imaginative design. These touches, both visual and technical, along with extreme care in production and testing, create a guitar to enhance the most inspired of performances.





Adamas Models...

Description	Model
Adamas 6 String Acoustic	1187
Adamas 12 String Acoustic	1188
Adamas 6 String Acoustic Wide Neck	1189
Adamas 6 String Acoustic Electric	1687
Adamas 12 String Acoustic Electric	1688
Adamas 6 String Acoustic Electric Wide Neck	1689

Adamas Finishes...

Number	Color
-2	Red
-5	Black
-7	Beige
-8	Blue
-9	Brown

Adamas II...

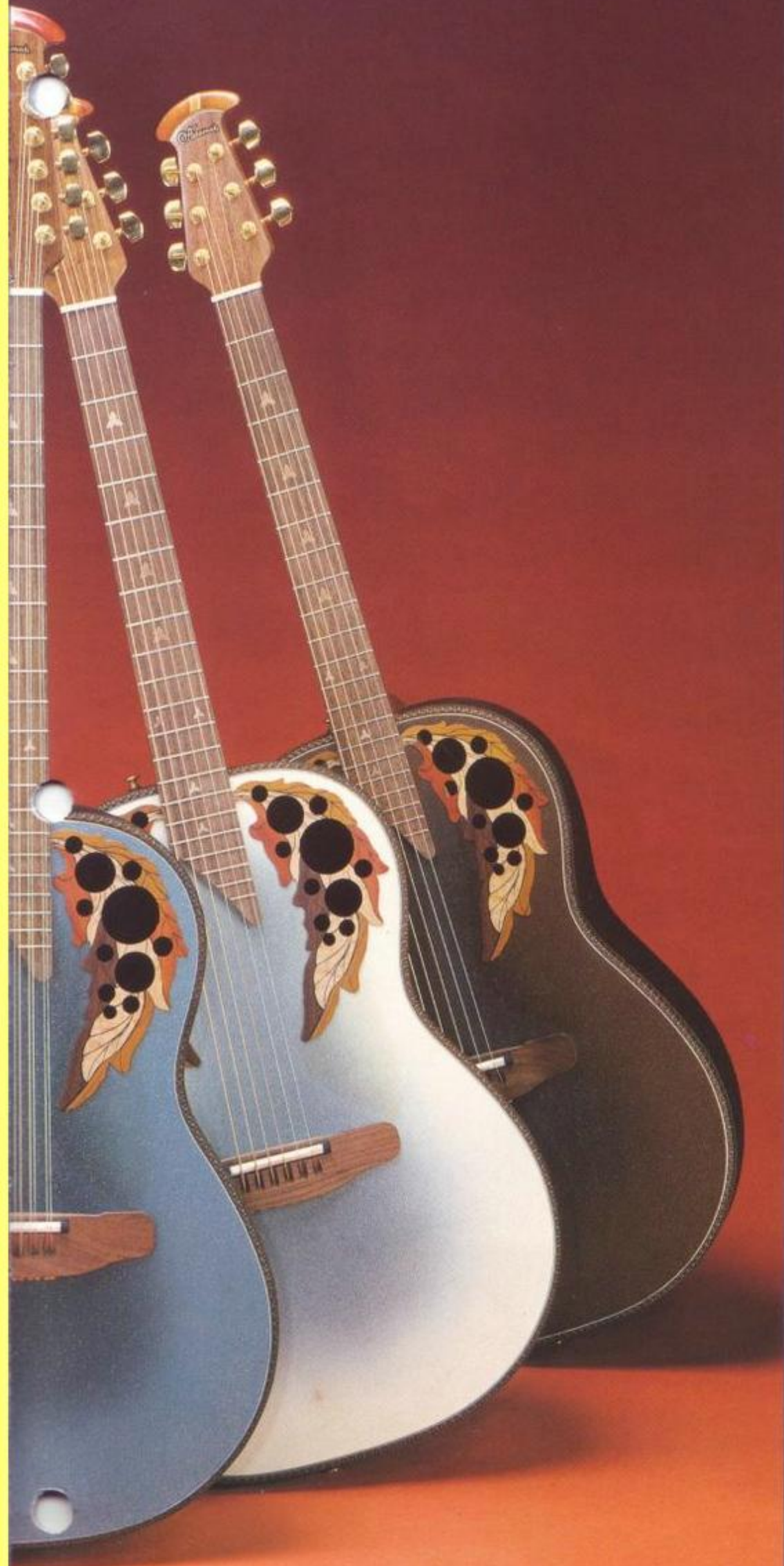
Adamas II guitars are our most recent carbon-graphite instruments. Developed with special care to insure that they maintain the quality levels associated with the more finely detailed Adamas models, Adamas II guitars open wide the world of Adamas.

Thin and fast, the Adamas II features the exclusive five-piece neck found on other Ovation guitars. Consisting of two outer pieces of matched mahogany and three inner pieces of rock maple, the neck incorporates the Kaman Bar™ found on all Adamas models. The Ovation-style peghead is marked with the Adamas name and matched by a solid walnut bridge.

A 22-fret, reinforced fingerboard extends the range of the Adamas II to D above high C. Constructed of the same finely grained walnut found on the Adamas guitars, the fretboard is decorated with its own unique inlay pattern.

It is particularly important to remember that virtually all of the other features of the Adamas guitars can be found on the Adamas II models. From the deluxe gold tuning machines and bone nut, down to the Fibronic carbon/wood composite soundboard with its exotic wood epaulets, the Adamas II adds a new level of performance to your music. A guitar designed to remain true to its purpose, the Adamas II provides the musician with features at the forefront of design technology.





Adamas II Models...

Description	Model
Adamas II 6 String Acoustic Electric.....	1681
Adamas II 12 String Acoustic Electric.....	1685

Adamas II Finishes...

Number	Color
-2.....	Red
-5.....	Black
-7.....	Beige
-8.....	Blue
-9.....	Brown

Adamas Cutaways...

Having the same features as the regular Adamas and Adamas II models, our Adamas Cutaways take your music to new and dynamic places. Allowing free access to the upper frets for expressive chords and lead lines, these unique roundback designs utilize the same materials and options as their non-cutaway counterparts. Features like the revolutionary carbon-graphite composite top; the Kaman Bar™ that keeps your neck free of warp and bow; a resin impregnated, reinforced walnut fretboard that will not deteriorate; and the patented, built-in, stereo acoustic-electric pickup and preamp system.

These features, and others, unite to produce cutaway guitars of exceptional sound and unique attributes: Instruments truly worthy of the name Adamas.

Adamas Cutaway Models...

Description	Model
Adamas 6 String Cutaway Acoustic Electric	1587
Adamas II 6 String Cutaway Acoustic Electric	1581

Adamas Cutaway Finishes...

Number	Color
-2.....	Red
-5.....	Black
-7.....	Beige
-8.....	Blue
-9.....	Brown



Specifications...

	ADAMAS	ADAMAS 12 STRING	ADAMAS II	ADAMAS II 12 STRING
Acoustic Model No.	1187	1188	NA	NA
Length	40 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	40 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	40 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	40 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
Width	15 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	15 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	15 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	15 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
Depth	6 $\frac{1}{16}$ "	6 $\frac{1}{16}$ "	6 $\frac{1}{16}$ "	6 $\frac{1}{16}$ "
Top	Carbon Graphite	Carbon Graphite	Carbon Graphite	Carbon Graphite
Top Bracing	Adamas Fan	Adamas Fan	Adamas Fan	Adamas Fan
Body	Deep Bowl	Deep Bowl	Deep Bowl	Deep Bowl
Body Binding	Carved Fiberglass Ring	Carved Fiberglass Ring	Carved Fiberglass Ring	Carved Fiberglass Ring
Scale Length	25 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	25 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	25 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	25 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
Neck Width @ Nut	1 $\frac{11}{16}$ "	1 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	1 $\frac{11}{16}$ "	1 $\frac{7}{8}$ "
No. Of Frets	24	24	22	22
Neck Joins Body @	14th Fret	14th Fret	14th Fret	14th Fret
Fingerboard	Walnut	Walnut	Walnut	Walnut
Radius Of F/B	10"	10"	10"	10"
Inlays	8 Maple	8 Maple	8 Maple	8 Maple
Bridge	Carved Walnut	Carved Walnut	Walnut	Walnut
Machine Heads	Deluxe 24K Gold Plated	Deluxe 24K Gold Plated	Deluxe 24K Gold Plated	Deluxe 24K Gold Plated
Weight:	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	5 lbs.	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	5 lbs.
Wide Neck Acoustic Model No.	1189	NA	NA	NA
Neck Width @ Nut	1 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	NA	NA	NA
Acoustic Electric Model No.	1687	1688	1681	1685
Acoustic Electric Cutaway Model No.	1587	NA	1581	NA
Wide Neck Acoustic Electric Model No.	1689	NA	NA	NA
Pickups	6 Piezoelectric Stereo Steel String	6 Piezoelectric Stereo Steel String	6 Piezoelectric Stereo Steel String	6 Piezoelectric Stereo Steel String
Electronics	Stereo FET Preamp With Tone Control	Stereo FET Preamp With Tone Control	Stereo FET Preamp With Tone Control	Stereo FET Preamp With Tone Control

Accessories...

Owning an Adamas doesn't stop with the guitar itself. Every fine instrument needs protection to insure a lifetime of pleasure and performance. Offering the best possible protection against damage from travel and the elements is the Ovation Adamas guitar case. Specially designed to accommodate roundbacks, the inside of the case is plush-lined and form-fitted to hold the guitar snugly and securely. An inside pocket provides storage for strings and small accessories.

An optional fitted case cover offers further protection by cushioning both the case and the guitar against accidental impact damage. This leather-look cover is a valuable asset for touring musicians whose instruments are subject to constant handling.

All Adamas guitars are shipped from the factory with Kaman Adamas strings: A light gauge set #1818 on the six string models, and a light gauge set #1616 on the twelve string models. Adamas strings are especially produced for acoustic-electric guitars and highlight the capabilities of the Adamas guitar.



Warranty / Service...

There is no quality without control. The manufacture of high tech instruments demands that close tolerances be consistently met. The precision engineering and craftsmanship involved in guitar manufacture ask much of both the required machines and the technicians who perform countless hand operations to produce a musically outstanding end-product. If the final step in the process is not one of rigid quality control, the design concepts and engineering skills will come to naught. With the introduction of the highly refined Adamas series, our need for sophisticated quality control is even more important.

It is a point of great pride to us at Ovation that our rigid quality standards allow all of the Adamas guitars to carry a Limited Lifetime Warranty against any material or workmanship defects for the original owner. Details of our complete warranty can be found on the Adamas Warranty Card accompanying each instrument.

If, for any reason, your Adamas guitar should require service, Ovation maintains an active Factory Service Department staffed with craftspeople who are familiar with the construction of our instruments.

We also have an established network of Authorized Ovation Dealers and Service Centers located throughout the world. All are trained and equipped to handle any problem that might arise with an Adamas guitar.

Our customers are very important to us at Ovation. That's why so many guitar players the world over turn to Ovation for quality backed by service.



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OVIATION INSTRUMENTS, INC.

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