

JOHN DUARTE

for Solo Guitar

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Guitar reports

Hokada 3125

Recommended price: £62.90 inc VAT

Top: Cedar
Back and sides: rosewood
Fingerboard: ebony
Overall length: 39½ ins
Body length: 19 ins
Body width: 14 5/8 ins
Body depth 3 7/8 ins
Scale length: 25.7/8 ins
Fingerboard at nut: 2 1/16th ins

The first thing we noticed on playing the guitar was a pronounced buzz on the 6th string, 5th fret, which we traced to the action being a trifle too low coupled with the sixth fret being a bit proud — little niggles that a good dealer would put right before parting with the instrument. The cedar top of good thickness makes for substantial volume and well thought-out strutting system under the top should ensure quite a long bulge-free life. The inside was beautifully clean and finished.

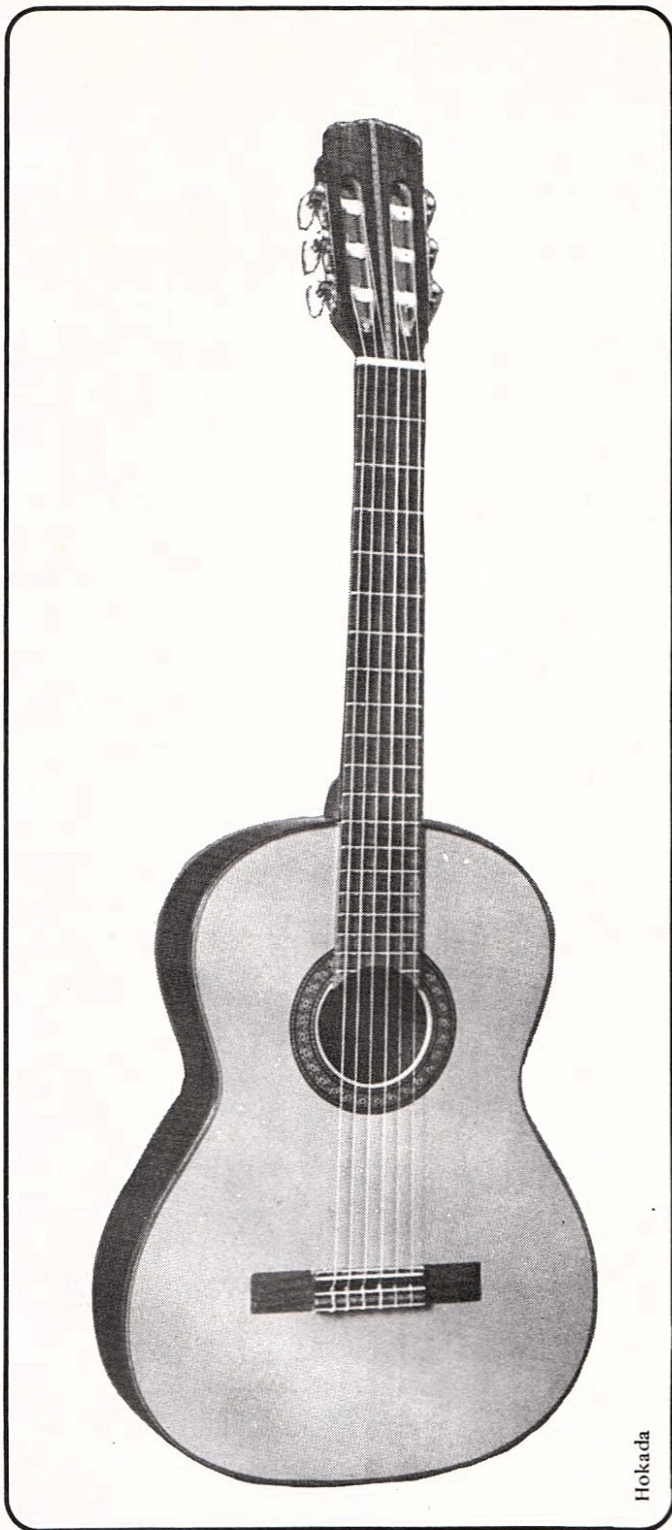
Sustain on the first string sang well and though it's easy enough to get a loud bass, it's also easy to get a bad sound. However, in this case the bass gave a nice richness and not too wirey. The neck has been fashioned with thought and the guitar was easy to play. As the illustration shows, sound hole, and bridge decoration are matched and though not especially unique, are neat. So is the head stock — it seems that the Ramirez head is now definitely *de rigueur*. Good value.

Hokada 3125	Maximum	Points obtained
Intonation	10	9
Tone quality	10	7
Volume	10	7
Sustain	10	7
Balance	10	7
Ease of playing	10	8
Construction	5	3
Nut and saddle	5	3
Neck, bridge, frets, etc	5	3
String tension	5	3
Responsiveness	5	3
Design	5	3
Attention to detail	5	3
Finish	5	3
Total	100	69

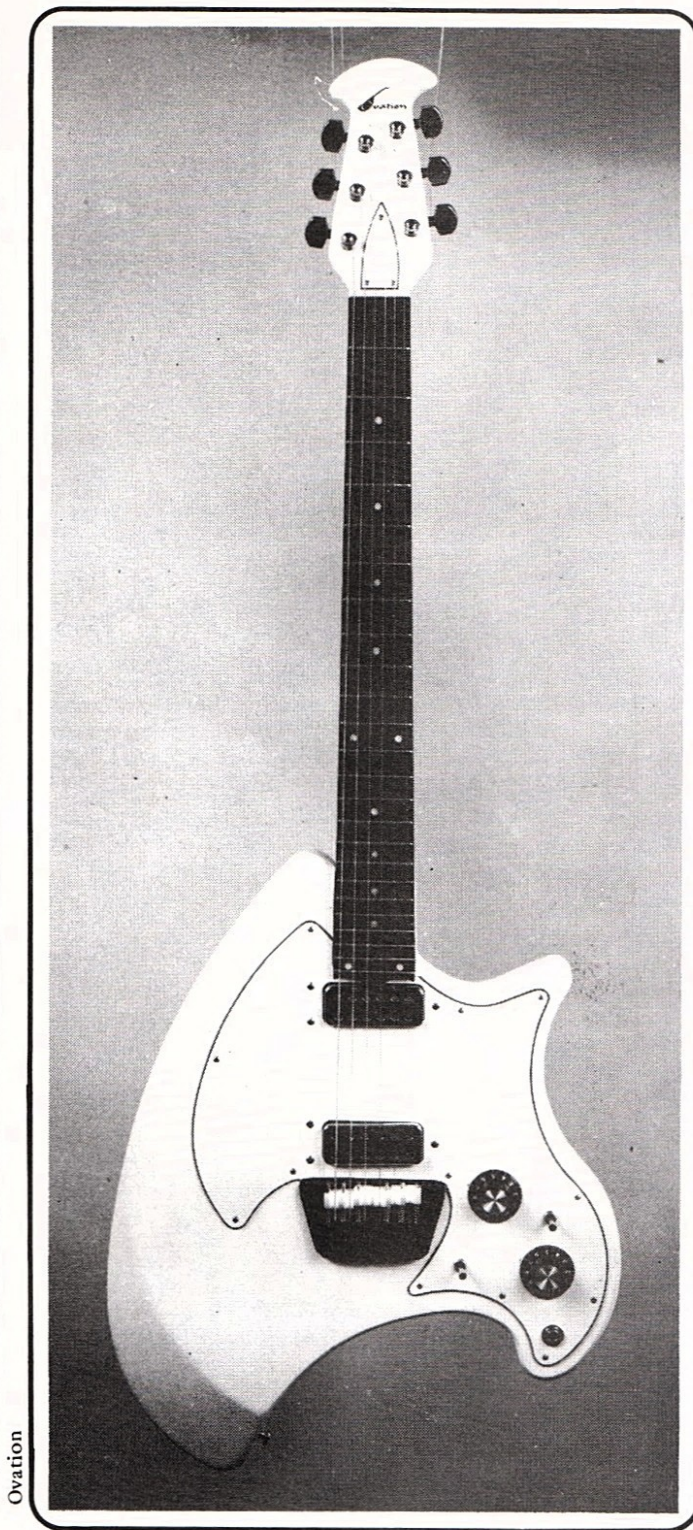
Ovation Breadwinner

Model Number 3409
Recommended price £281 inc VAT (with soft case)
Overall length: 39½ in.
Body width: 14½ in.
Body depth: 1 5/8 in.
Scale length: 24¼ in.
Nut width: 1 11/16 in.

It is very surprising that this guitar, which has been on the market in this country for some time now, is not more widely known. As this is a superior instrument the only reason that we can think of is a resistance to the shape which we also had until playing the guitar. We have not seen any mention in reviews of this instrument of the fact that the clever design



Hokada



Ovation

makes it a more comfortable solid guitar to play in the sitting position. In these days of very long recording sessions we regard this as a positive boon. The shape also makes it possible to hold the guitar in the nearest position akin to classical playing imaginable for a solid. This combined with the fact that the fingerboard is quite wide, although slightly curved, makes it the ideal instrument for the growing amount of players who wish to play electric as well as classical or Flamenco guitars.

Printed matter on the guitar boasts Schaller machine heads although the model we had on test has machine heads bearing the Ovation trade mark. Schaller or not, they are of high quality, being totally enclosed and low geared for fine tuning. The bridge height is very easily adjustable, as is the string length by individual nylon bridge pieces. The controls are simply laid out and one is surprised by the amount of tone colours that can be achieved by varying the use of the built in pre-amp; one tone similar to reversing the phasing on the pick-ups.

Batteries for the pre-amp are changed by means of a rear access panel. The natural sustain is good. Other features include a two octave detachable neck (Two piece maple).

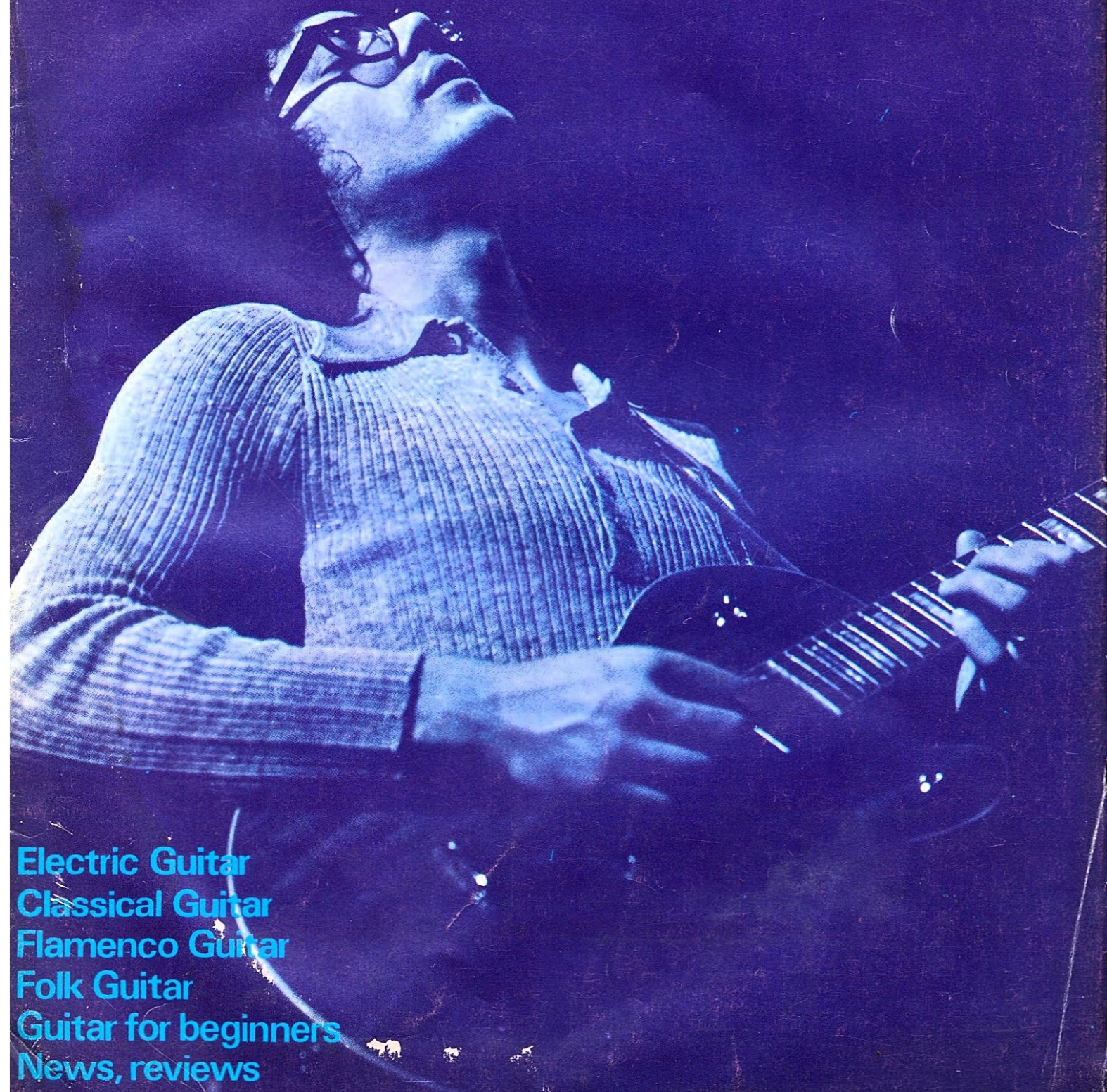
A thinking man's guitar with a very good range of tonal colours. If you've tried one out and didn't buy one—try it again, and take your time.

Ovation Breadwinner	(Max 10)
Construction	9
Ease of playing	8
Intonation	8
Nut and Bridge (Nut 4, Bridge 5)	9
Neck and fretting	8
Responsiveness	8
Electrics	9
Design	9
Finish	7
Attention to detail	9
TOTAL (100)	85

Guitar

the magazine for all guitarists

April 1975
30p



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