



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

ZON SONUS STANDARD 5

PRICE: £1,199

- Made in:** Korea
- Scale length:** 863 mm (34 inches)
- Frets:** 24
- Neck:** 3-piece maple
- Fingerboard:** Rosewood
- Body:** Maple with burl maple top
- Pickups:** 2 x Seymour Duncan
- Electronics:** 3-band active/passive system
- Tuners:** Enclosed gear
- Controls:** Volume, blend, bass, treble & mid-range controls, active/passive switch
- Bridge:** Hipshot
- Finish:** Natural, satin
- Weight:** 4.25 kg (10 lb oz)

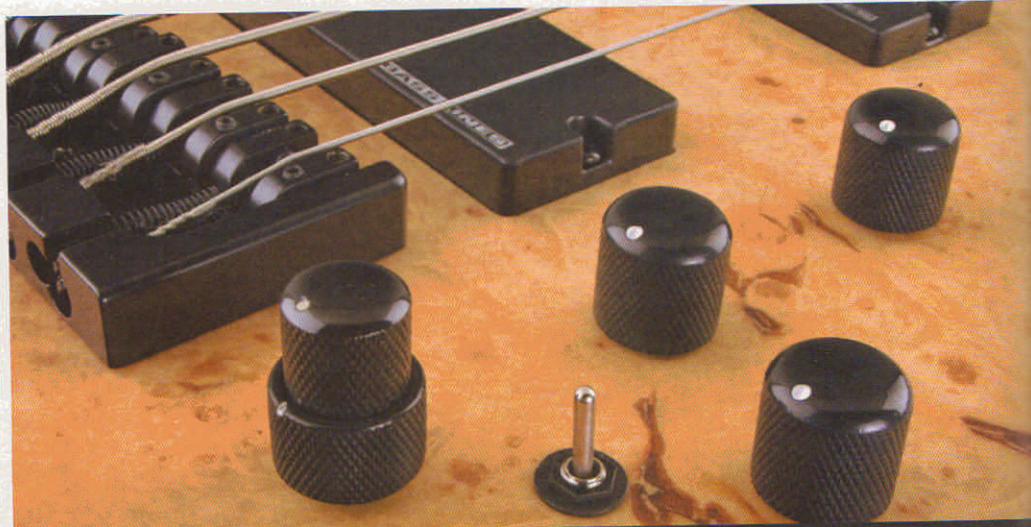
CONTACT DETAILS

www.zonguitars.com
www.bassgear.co.uk

WHAT WE THINK

Plus: Intelligent design together with some great bass sounds. Fantastic strings and set-up.
Minus: None.
Overall: A pair of high-performance instruments for not a lot of cash.

BGM RATING OUT OF FIVE
BGM RATING ★★★★★



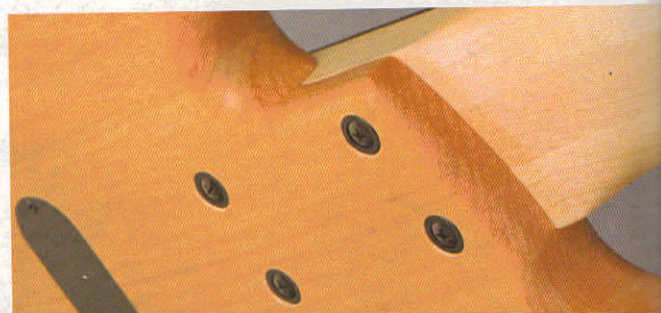
The Seymour Duncan pickups are wired to a three-band, active/passive electronics system

both directions. The bridge is Hipshot-licensed machined brass, and the pickups are US-made Seymour Duncan dual-coils wired to a three-band, active/passive electronics system.

Sounds

Both of these basses certainly tick a lot of boxes in terms of looks and feel, but whenever outsourcing production the real challenge is to produce a bass that can impress from the very first note. And we certainly weren't disappointed. Both the Sonus and Legacy have an immediately rich tone that's both clear and precise, with a good balance of overtones in the higher register. The three-band active EQ, along with the passive mode, provide plenty of scope when looking to fine-tune your tone, and the excellent set-up lends each string added sustain. While these are common factors shared by both models, the different body woods ensure each has its own sonic character. The Sonus, with its maple body, has a more muscular low end with a punchier, more aggressive mid range and bright high end. The burl top wood doesn't seem to have a significant effect on the tone here, but its looks alone warrant its inclusion. The Legacy's mahogany body has a solid, warmer low end that moves smoothly through a well-defined mid range and round highs. The overall sound is a bit thicker than the Sonus with the mids compressed a little. You may want to try switching to active mode here and using the EQ to thin out the bottom end a little.

As with Joe's US-made basses,



Both necks use a bolt-on joint, secured by four individual bolts

all the hardware components, pickups and body woods come together here superbly, culminating in a great-sounding and very playable bass. 'Pickups and electronics are the conduit between the acoustic resonance of the bass and the amplifier,' says Joe. 'If the conduit is weak, the tone of the bass isn't faithfully reproduced. That's why I selected Duncan pickups made here in the States. Their rich tone and fidelity reproduce every nuance of the bass's voice, while a three-band, active/passive electronics system gives players the best of both worlds with a wide variety of tone shaping.'

Conclusion

If these examples are anything to go by, Joe Zon has succeeded

in finding a builder in Korea who shares the company's own passion for quality. The level of workmanship, fit and finish is impeccable and, coupled with the US-made components and hardware, make for a bass that's tremendous value for money. Add to that a thorough inspection back at Zon HQ including fretwork and set-up and these basses really are the complete 'plug in and play' package. You even get a real nice gig bag thrown in. 'I feel we've accomplished our goal,' says Joe. 'As time goes on, we continue to work towards introducing more affordable priced models that will offer great value for the money and serve the needs of players from all styles of music and playing

