

THE GAS STATION



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# LTD TE-1000 EVERTUNE

£1349

The solidbody heavyweight you never need to tune

**W**hen you think about it, we spend a lot of our guitar-playing lives tuning the damn thing. You pick up your instrument, it's (one of) the first things you do. You stomp on your tuner pedal regularly mid-gig to fiddle with the machineheads. And when you're recording, you may well be tweaking not only for every take, but also for different positions on the fretboard, depending on how well your guitar intonates.

The EverTune bridge system was introduced in 2010 to save tuning frustrations. Each string has its own spring and lever, and the individual saddles move back and forth to compensate for changes

the metal-vibed, EMG 81/60-fitted LTD EC-1000 EverTune blowing our collective minds when it arrived in the office back in 2013. Since then, it's taken a while for the bridge to permeate the rest of ESP's range, but finally it's hit LTD's modified Tele-inspired TE line – with spectacular results.

On the face of it, the TE-1000 itself is a no-nonsense, top-of-the-line rock guitar. Its Black Natural Burst-finished flame maple top lends it a moody desert vibe, and combined with the mahogany body, it's a weighty beast, clocking in at around 9lbs/4kg. There are concessions to contemporary playability over the traditional T-type, however, with a front arm contour, rear belly cut

“THE CLARITY ON EXTENDED CHORDS IS JUST INCREDIBLE”

in tension on the strings – as opposed to tremolo systems, which have a shared spring and lever system for the entire bridge. That essentially means that once your guitar is in tune, it stays that way: no change in humidity, picking dynamics or neck position can knock it out. And since many intonation problems are down to variations in pressure, EverTune can keep your guitar in tune across the neck, too. The likes of Korn's Brian 'Head' Welch, Devin Townsend, Periphery, Matt Heafy, Rise Against and Enter Shikari all swear by them. One of the 21st century's greatest mysteries is why the EverTune is yet to appear across more companies' line-ups.

Thankfully, ESP was an early adopter of the technology, with

and contoured heel on the set-through three-piece maple neck, as well as the welcome appearance of LTD-branded locking tuners on the matching headstock.

Aside from the bridge, the other big name to appear here is ol' ESP favourite EMG, but rather than the usual 81/60 combo, it's the 57/66, a setup that offers more traditional, lower-output tones than you might typically expect from the active humbucker specialist. There are also separate coil-splits for each pickup, activated by pulling the volume and tone for neck and bridge respectively. That's a handy arrangement if, say, you want to switch from the snap of a neck single-coil to the grunt of a bridge humbucker; there's no need to mess with push/pulls mid-song.

**1 COIL-SPLITS**  
You get splittability on each pickup individually via push/pulls on the volume and tone knobs

**2 TUNERS**  
We never say no to a set of locking tuners: no more pesky string winds!

**3 EVERTUNE**  
The headline-grabbing hardware is the almighty EverTune bridge, which will prevent your guitar going out of tune... at all



## AT A GLANCE

**BODY:** Mahogany w/ flamed maple top

**NECK:** Maple

**SCALE:** 648mm (25.5")

**FINGERBOARD:** Ebony

**FRETS:** 24

**PICKUPS:** 1x EMG 66TW (neck), 1x EMG 57TW (bridge)

**CONTROLS:** 1x volume (w/ push/pull neck coil-split), 1x tone (w/ push/pull bridge coil-split), 3-way pickup selector switch

**HARDWARE:** EverTune bridge, LTD locking tuners

**LEFT-HANDED:** Yes

**FINISH:** Black Natural Burst only

**CASE:** Not included

**CONTACT:** Sound Service  
esp guitars.com



## Everlong

How the EverTune works to keep your strings in perfect balance

Setting up an EverTune requires you to adjust each string's spring using an included 2.5mm hex key to get your desired tuning into what EverTune calls Zone 2 – its active, functioning sweet spot. When you bend a string, it actually goes outside of Zone 2, but otherwise, the saddle is constantly moving with the string to keep it in check. The traditional machineheads adjust the tension of the string, so you can tweak how easy it is to alter the pitch when bending, and even set it so bending a string doesn't change the pitch at all, as the saddle moves with it! It's a bizarre sensation, but for recording aggressive guitars – where your pick attack might send a string out – it's a godsend, and makes for ultra-tight rhythm tracks.

This is a chunky, professional-feeling guitar – it's beautifully put together, and the light gloss finish on the back of the universal C-shaped neck is sure to be a crowd-pleaser. Its weight, while verging on Les Paul heft, adds a real thickness to the pickups, which need some gain to really get cooking. But when they do, those EMGs are mighty impressive: the clarity on extended chords is just incredible – which in itself is a perfect complement to the unshakable tuning across the guitar's entire neck. The clean tones are as clean as clean can be:



Its Black Natural Burst-finished flame maple top lends the TE-1000 a moody desert vibe



there's a sheen to them that won't please purists, but the coil-split sounds are sparkly and handy in a pinch. Plus, the neck humbucker is brighter than most, so your sound won't turn into a muddy mess when you switch from the bridge.

What we love most about EverTune is the fact it makes you a more fearless player. No more avoiding those chords that might not be quite in tune or holding back on those massive bends: it's always got your back. As for the TE-1000, you're paying extra for the technology here – although buying the bridge separately and getting it

fitted to your own guitar will set you back around £500. We'd still love to see the system on some less 'metal' guitars – being able to play perfectly in tune isn't genre-specific – but for players of heavier persuasions, this is one of the most reliable, low-maintenance guitars you can buy.

**Michael Astley-Brown**

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

## ALSO TRY...

**LTD EC-1000ET QM** **£1149**

There aren't many factory guitars with an EverTune, but this Sunburst beauty offers the bridge and a Seymour Duncan JB/Jazz combo.



**SOLAR S1.6PB** **£1199**

The EverTune also appears on this pointier offering from the Ola England brand, boasting a burl top and Duncan Solar humbuckers.



**IBANEZ FRIX6FDQM** **£739**

If you like the T-type rock vibe, but don't need the EverTune, this Ibanez is a fine pick, packing DiMarzio Fusion Edge pickups and a hardtail bridge.

