

# EASTWOOD

## Sidejack Deluxe Baritone



**This cool baritone guitar from retro specialists Eastwood Guitars offers heaps of fun and inspirational sounds for a very reasonable price...**

Words: Tim Slater

### EASTWOOD

Sidejack Deluxe Baritone

SRP £369.00

All prices incl VAT

**CONTACT:**

Eastwood Guitars

W: [www.eastwoodguitars.com](http://www.eastwoodguitars.com)

#### WHAT IS IT?

A well made and easy-playing baritone guitar that straddles the border between a regular six-string and a bass.

#### WHY SHOULD I WANT ONE?

The Sidejack is coolness personified and it's not just reserved for lead guitarists. Songwriters that play guitar or bass will definitely find that the Sidejack is a potential goldmine brimming with new riffs and fresh inspiration.

The dark twangy tones of the baritone guitar have been used to add extra texture and depth to mountains of records and movie soundtracks, many of which are probably in your album collection. The instrument itself is rarely seen in the public eye but its impressive range and ease at coping with lowered tunings has been cottoned onto by a clutch of modern rock guitarists with a penchant for detuning to sub-sonic doom levels, finding that the baritone is ideally suited to the job.

The baritone guitar is tuned lower than a regular six string guitar and yet describing it as a bass isn't exactly right, either. The instrument sits between the octave range of a conventional six string guitar and a four string bass and its unique tone has been used to great effect by artists spanning virtually every genre of rock music, including The Cure, Aerosmith, and a slew of notable contemporary baritone players including Mike Mushok (Staind) and Daron Malakian (System of a Down).

The Baritone's country music origins are well documented and probably the baritone's most famous practitioner came in the twang-tastic form of American guitarist Duane Eddy, who enjoyed a run of million selling instrumental albums during the early 1960s that predominantly

featured his trademark deep-tuned baritone sound through a heavily tremolo-laden amp.

If you fancy owning a baritone guitar you may as well go the whole hog and invest in an instrument that looks as well as sounds the part and the Eastwood Sidejack Deluxe' distinctive lop-sided body styling is a deliberate tribute to the quirky Mosrite guitars as used by the likes of The Ventures and The Ramones. The Sidejack's slightly quirky left-of-centre vibe is entirely appropriate for such an unusual instrument and seeing as Eastwood specialize in retro-styled guitars it's probably only right that they include a baritone model in their lineup. The Sidejack Deluxe' 28" scale length is fractionally longer than a conventional guitar in order to give the thicker de-tuned strings a more comfortable string tension and the overall feel remains closer to a standard guitar than a four string bass. The playability feels really good; the set maple neck has a slim profile and the low action and string spacing feels virtually identical to a conventional electric guitar. Close your eyes and you wouldn't even know that you are playing a baritone guitar until you start getting into the lower register and those sonorous bottom notes kick in. The Sidejack's P-90 single coil pickups are a good choice for this instrument because besides having plenty of power, they also have a wider dynamic range than typical Strat-style single coils and retain enough bite to deliver the classic baritone twang. If you've

never played a baritone guitar before, the sound and tonal range is incredible and ultimately very inspiring. The lower tuning adds a whole new feel to your usual riffs and chords (our test instrument was tuned to one of the most popular baritone tunings, B-E-A-D-F-B) and the wide frequency range means that you can still stay reasonably within the realms of a standard guitar for conventional chords and solos, dropping down to the low-end when time comes for thunderous riffs.

Taken on face value it seems that there is more mileage in the baritone if your main instrument is the guitar but the Baritone can also be configured to function as a six string bass, especially if you prefer the shorter scale length. Bear in mind, though, that to do this properly means that you'd need to go to a heavier string gauge and while some notable bass players including Jack Bruce experimented with this setup its notable that most players that gravitate to the baritone tend to be guitarists. Still, whatever your personal preference, one of the Sidejack's biggest selling points is that there are no rules. Whatever way you choose to play it, the Sidejack Deluxe is a whole big bag of fun. It is tailor-made for the adventurous musician and has the potential to take you to the cutting edge but if your experimental side only extends to exploring the possibilities of lowered tunings there is still enough here to keep you entertained for months. **PU**