



This guitar snarls! The Coronado offers a good range of clean tones, but it loves fuzz best

The white-faced headstock is pure vintage class and we love that raised metal Supro logo

The Coronado has a vintage Bigsby-style vibrato. This guitar is also available with a fixed trapeze tailpiece

£429

SUPRO CORONADO BY EASTWOOD

SUPRO, SMASHING, GREAT! EASTWOOD TWEAKS THE NOSE OF BORING ELECTRICS WORDS: ED MITCHELL

Are you calling my guitar boring?

Hey, don't get your knickers in a bunch! We don't doubt for a second that your pride and joy is the very pinnacle of six-string technology, with awesome playability and a tasteful paint job to match. Hell, it may even sound good. But is it fun? Does the cheeky minx beg you to throw it around the bedroom while you check out your moves in a full-length mirror? Do you think of it fondly, allowing yourself a wry little smile when you're stuck on a train on your way to work? Admit it, have you ever caught yourself doodling its slinky curves when you're talking to some dull twat on the phone? If the answer is no, then you need to bag yourself a thrilling new squeeze – stat!

And the Supro is the answer, is it?

Think of the Coronado as your bit on the side, injecting some much needed danger and excitement into your everyday guitar playing experience. Where your regular guitar oozes warmth and dependability, the Coronado spits and snarls. This guitar may look all sweetness and light, but it loves nothing more than to misbehave. Speaking of looks, we'd be kidding ourselves if we didn't admit that the high eye candy factor is this guitar's main appeal. It's off the scale, baby! Imagine wielding this puppy onstage – you'll be the focus of the audience's attention. Bet your singer's not gonna like that...

Hell, yeah, tell me more!

The man behind this guitar is Mike Robinson. We told you about him last month in our review of his Eastwood GP-Ultra guitar. We also exhausted our supply of Clint Eastwood puns, so there will be none of that in this review. Mike sold an original Supro Coronado to Mark Knopfler of Dire Straits, then sort of regretted it. Instead of crying into his

WHO'S IT FOR?

Rockabilly and blues players should try it. Garage punk fans should own one – now!

INFORMATION

ORIGIN: Korea
BODY: Mahogany with tone chambers
NECK: Maple, bolt-on
FINGERBOARD: Rosewood, with block markers
FRETS: 21 including 'zero' fret
PICKUPS: 2 x Eastwood Alnico HOT-10 humbuckers
CONTROLS: 2 x volume, 2 x tone and 3-way pickup selector switch
HARDWARE: Adjustable roller bridge (vibrato model only), Bigsby-style vibrato
ADDITIONAL FEATURES: Neck and headstock binding; guitar also available with trapeze tailpiece, raised metal Supro logo
LEFT-HANDERS: No
COLOURS: Black, white and red
CASE: Available at extra cost
CONTACT: Mike Robinson 001 416 294 6165
EMAIL: michael@myrareguitars.com
WEB: www.myrareguitars.com

ALTERNATIVELY

Danelectro 56 Pro – £299
 Eastwood Hi-Flyer – £229

beer, the ever-industrious Mike decided to add the Coronado to his increasing roster of cool 1960s reissues. If you haven't seen his website yet (www.myrareguitars.com), then you're in for a pleasant surprise.

That mahogany body must weigh a ton?

Mahogany can be heavy – Les Paul owners will testify to that – but Eastwood has scooped out some of the wood resulting in sound chambers. This helps to reduce the weight, of course, but the real reason for all that routing is the amazing effect it has on the resonance and tone of the guitar. The Supro is like a semi-acoustic without the obvious soundholes on the body that you would find on a Gibson ES-335.

Old guitars have huge necks, don't they?

Some do, such as early 1950s Fender Telecasters and some Gibson Les Paul Juniors, for example, but this guitar is a bit more user friendly. It's no lollipop stick, but we would describe the Coronado's bolt-on neck as slim. We took to it instantly.

The rosewood fingerboard is reasonably well finished for a guitar of this price, and eagle-eyed readers will have spotted that this has a 'zero' fret. They may not be to everyone's liking, but the zero fret provides a great low action, at least over the first five frets. The top nut on this guitar is essentially a spacer for the strings and doesn't really affect the setup thanks to that zero fret.

Our guitar was setup with a medium action that we found immediately comfortable. The only fly in the ointment was a slight rattle when we played the guitar acoustically, but we managed to get rid of it with a bit of fiddling (it didn't come through the amp anyway). It is worth remembering that guitars such as this offer a different playing experience from your modern axe.

If you go ape for that trashy rockabilly screech of The Cramps, then this guitar will have you howling at the moon

Not everyone will dig the difference, but we love it. Think of it as jumping from a Ford Focus straight into Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. You don't get all the mod cons of the modern version, but that vintage factor will put a great big smile on your chops!

Plug it in, why don't you?

Ah, and now for the best bit! Played clean, it's jangle city. Think Johnny Marr of The Smiths and, thanks to that Bigsby-style vibrato, *Wicked Game*-era Chris Isaaks. Just add some reverb and a splodge of righteous fuzz and you're in garage punk heaven. If you go ape for that trashy rockabilly screech of The Cramps but can't afford to buy a Gretsch, then this guitar will have you howling at the moon.

Hmmm, I think I'll give it a try

Yeah? Only if you can prise it from our cold, dead hands. You should know by now that the good folk of TG are garage band daft. We just can't get enough of The Stooges, MC5 and all of the original 1960s punk bands like The Shadows Of Knight and Count Five. If you want that raw ballsy sound then you need the right axe. The Coronado sure tickles all our fuzz boxes. You're not getting this one back, Mr. Robinson...

FOR: It looks brilliant; authentic 1960s garage band tone; resonant body
AGAINST: Not everyone will dig that zero fret; our guitar rattled a bit

TG RATING:

