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## Fender Standard Tele £429

Beginner models have never been more electric



Relish the modern ashtray and quality tone pots

**D**escribed by Fender as a modern-day take on the original Telecaster, the Standard is an affordable guitar that's no doubt a thorn in the side of the budget opposition.

The Standard Range of the 80s and 90s was once your basic American model, but a few years ago Fender rationalised its operations and now the Standard finds itself made in Mexico, a few rungs down the ladder but offering spot-on value and strong performance.

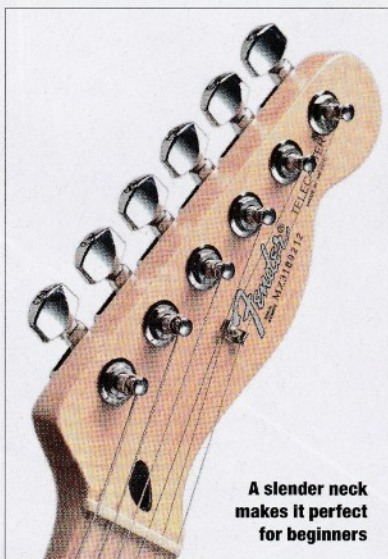
As this model is the first experience of a real Fender for many players, the Standard is unlikely to disappoint. There's no vintage tinted lacquer here, aged parts or finely-tuned pickups, simply a slim but well-shaped, modern neck on that classically simple alder body. Tuners are quality sealed units and the bridge is an up-to-date take on the basic 'ashtray', with six adjustable saddles instead of just three.

Although this allows for more accurate intonation adjustment, many Tele lovers assert that the simpler, three-saddle unit is a more tuneful affair and find other ways to tackle their tuning problems – we'll be looking at the various solutions in a future issue.

Perfect for young hands, the Standard's neck is slender, with a low action that will seem like heaven after that cheapo beginner acoustic some well-meaning relative bought you for Christmas one year. Beautifully fretted and smooth to the touch, any player

gambling with a full deck would find it a veritable joy.

Although the Standard Telecaster can never boast the velvet-smooth tones of Fender's top-of-the-range Custom Shop beauties, this model is, of course, a fraction of their cost and no neophyte Tele fan is likely to spot the difference – until it's time to trade up to an American Series, that is. **WG**



A slender neck makes it perfect for beginners

### FENDER STANDARD TELE

■ **FOR** Terrific value, super build, great modern neck

■ **AGAINST** Sounds brash compared to US models

PERFORMANCE **7**

VALUE **9**

**WhatGuitar? SAYS...** "The perfect entry into the world's most exclusive guitar club."

"The Standard is an affordable guitar that's no doubt a thorn in the side of budget opposition"

### WhatGuitar?

#### AT A GLANCE

##### Fender Standard Tele

- **Price:** £429
- **Origin:** Mexico
- **Type:** Single-cutaway solidbody electric
- **Body:** Alder
- **Neck:** Maple
- **Fingerboard:** Maple
- **Bridge:** Open-sided T-style with six-way saddles
- **Contact:** Fender GB 01342 331711
- **Web:** www.fender.co.uk

