



Trayser Doublewing Standard

TESTED BY ART THOMPSON

FOUNDED IN 2003 BY CHRIS PIRKER AND GEORGE Lora, Trayser is a company in southern Austria that specializes in thin, semi-hollow guitars. The Doublewing Standard treks over familiar ground with its maple neck and trio of hand-wound single-coils, but its uniquely shaped body comprises a hollow top and bottom sections with a maple block, to which the pickups and bridge are mounted, running down the center. Swooping "f" holes radiate along the top to reach a common point near the tail, creating a heart shape in middle the body. The deep orange color, with its nitro-lacquer top coat, is matched on the gloss-finished two-tone

headstock, which looks really nice with its dividing strip and the name "Trayser" perfectly inlaid in pearl.

Arriving from Austria with a nice setup, the action has remained low and buzz free for the weeks we've used this guitar as a test instrument for reviewing amps and effects. The neck has a slick satin finish (the rear of the peghead is glossy, however) and the wide-ish 10"-radius fretboard sports 22 beautifully crowned frets and abalone position dots. Slightly bothersome is how the forward bolt on the treble side of the neck joint presses into your hand when you're playing high on the neck, but this is a minor thing that could be fixed by recessing the bolt head a little deeper into the wood. A beefy Wilkinson bridge provides the vibrato action, and between it and the self-lubricating nut, the strings come back to pitch reliably when you release the bar.

The Doublewing's pickups are Strat sized, and sport staggered polepieces. Coupled through a 5-way selector to Volume and Tone controls, they provide the familiar bright sounds with nice cluckiness in the dual-pickup positions. Compared to a new Fender Eric Johnson Signature Strat, the Doublewing Standard sounds a little browner overall. It offers warm neck-pickup sounds and gives up a fat, twangy Texas blues vibe from the middle position. Through a gained-up amp or pedal the bridge pickup kicks out clear, meaty overdrive sounds when given just a touch of reduction from the well-voiced Tone control. Well equipped to cover a lot of bases, the Doublewing Standard would be at home doing clean jazz or blues, or chunking out heavy riffs with a hard rock band. A cool alternative choice for those who seek to sling something different, the Doublewing Standard brings a Euro twist to the single-coil theme. ■

SPECS | Trayser Guitars, (011) 43 0650 953 0953; trayser-guitars.com

MODEL	DOUBLEWING STANDARD
PRICE	\$2,790 retail/Street price N/A
NECK	Maple
NUT WIDTH	1.7"
FRETBOARD	Rosewood, 25.5" scale/10" radius
FRETS	22
BODY	Ash, semi-hollow
BRIDGE	Wilkinson
TUNERS	Sperzel locking
FRETS	20
PICKUPS	Trayser handwound single-coils
CONTROLS	Volume, Tone, 5-way selector
WEIGHT	7.4 lbs
FACTORY STRINGS	N/A
KUDOS	Excellent build quality, Plays well.
CONCERNS	None.