

Concepts

Weddington
Designed in America

- *Sculpted neck joint offers Heeless Feel and Easy Access.*
- *American made pickups by DIMarzio®.*
- *New passive control system offers expanded tonal variations.*
- *Hand selected maple tops from the U.S.A. (Custom/Classic)*



YAMAHA

Many times I've picked up a classic electric guitar, looked at the design features and construction techniques, and asked myself: "Why did they do it like this?". The answer is fairly simple - the world was different then. Almost nobody played beyond the 7th fret and the guitars came strung with an .012 for a high "E" string. Amps were mostly glamorized radio circuits... I think you get the picture.

What I can't understand is why nearly forty years after their introduction, classic designs haven't evolved to keep up with what players need now from an electric guitar. Almost everything, from cars to television sets, has changed for the better as people got smarter about how to tune the world around them to reflect the quickening pace of life. Guitar playing has certainly evolved to incredible levels, why haven't the guitars?



Weddington Series Custom, Classic and Special

The basic design of set-in neck solidbody guitars is tied directly to the construction of traditional Jazz guitars. Remember, when originally conceived, classic set-in neck solidbodies were Jazz guitars - Rock was still somewhere over the horizon. Along with the quality craftsmanship that make these vintage instruments so valuable today came some narrow perceptions of what guitarists need in an instrument.

Take the place where the neck and body meet. On Jazz guitars, this is a massive area where the neck attaches to a large block of wood inside a hollow body. This idea carried over into the first set-in neck solidbodies - it remains today. Play up past the fifteenth fret - the neck gets bulkier until it finally terminates in a big, thick heel at the body - many frets short of reaching the highest notes on the fingerboard. We've had to live with this for decades even though it is possible to design guitars that are "user friendly" in the upper register.

I developed a new type of set-in joint for the Weddington series that is shared by the Custom, Classic and Special. Basically, the entire heel area behind the fingerboard is scooped out so the neck feels consistent all the way to the last fret. You never feel the body when you are playing, and since your hand position doesn't change to get around a bulky heel, your technique can be as clean at the 22nd fret as it is at the 1st. There is actually more wood to wood contact in this joint than in the traditional joint, adding more strength with less mass.

The quilted maple carved tops for the Custom and figured maple tops for the Classic were selected by sorting through mountains of raw boards. I picked only the most beautiful wood, then personally marked every two-piece set, assuring each

guitar its own individual character. I used resonant Honduras mahogany for the neck and back to balance the sharp attack of the maple top. The result is a fat, deep tone with plenty of edge. Weddington Special guitars are solid selected Honduras mahogany for a smooth sound rich in overtones and midrange punch.

Then I listened traditional two humbucking set-in neck instruments - three basic sounds. Modern guitar playing demands sonic flexibility. Three sounds wouldn't cut it, that was clear. I used a new 4-pole 5-way lever switch along with two custom-designed American made humbucking pickups to produce six distinct tones - twice the sounds of vintage two humbucking guitars. The sixth tone is achieved by using the treble pickup tone control to invert the phase of one of the bridge coils giving the player real-time control over the harmonic content of the sound. This system, featured on all Weddington models, is passive and contains no batteries or preamps.

The pickups on all Weddington guitars are custom-wound to our specs by a leading U.S. maker. The Custom and Classic share full size humbuckers optimized for bridge and neck position. The Weddington Special features unique smaller humbuckings developed to recreate classic single coil crunch without the noise and hum. All the vintage tones are there along with several distinctive modern sounds.

Yamaha Electric Guitar Design Staff.

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