



**1965 Fender Super Reverb**  
Simon Law



**Blackstar Artisan 30**  
Mick Taylor



**Fret-King Blue Label Esprit 3**  
Chris Vinnicombe

# Fret King Blue Label Esprit 3

Chris Vinnicombe

**NEW PRODUCT** A new P-90-equipped Trev Wilkinson creation arrives



I've always been a sucker for 'shape' guitars and P-90s, so the Esprit 3 seemed like an obvious choice when reading Dave Burrluck's review in issue 301. While the cherry red review model looked very classic, the lure of vintage white proved too tempting to resist, so I took the plunge.

On removing the Esprit 3 from its cardboard packaging, I was pleased to see that the finish has a nicely nicotine-stained, slightly mint hue that's much more pleasing than the retina-burning blast that many manufacturers opt for.

A Trev Wilkinson original

design it may be, but nevertheless, the inspiration is clear for all to see in the Jaguar-esque horns, angular Explorer-style lower bout and Firebird-like raised centre section. The Esprit might look like it's a royal pain to fit inside a gig bag, but with a little persuasion a standard padded Ritter affair accommodates it.

Feel-wise, it's an immediate winner. The neck is a decent palm-full and the well-finished medium jumbo frets are a breeze for string bends with the factory-fitted 0.010-gauge D'Addarios. A weighty beast it may be, but at six-foot-plus I can cope. I feel duty bound to say it looks very cool strapped on and slung low.

Thrown straight in at the deep-end, the Esprit accompanied me to a recent studio session. P-90 hum did rear its head, but in all fairness, I was playing a guitar that is more Stones than Slayer through a 100-watt Marshall's dirty channel, an Electro-Harmonix Graphic Fuzz, a half-open wah pedal and lots of outboard reverb. At the same time. Happily, the hum-cancelling mix of the middle and

neck pickups not only calmed things down but sounded great too. Next time, we'll take a better look at how it fares in a dingy rehearsal room...



Chris finds a cool new shape to love

## Spec Check

Fret King Blue Label Esprit 3



**First reviewed:** 301

**Price:** £569

**Type:** Solidbody electric

**Body:** Three-piece mahogany

**Neck:** One-piece mahogany, glued-in

**Pickups:** Three Fret-King P-90-style single-coils

**Bridge:** Gotoh tune-o-matic and stud tailpiece

**Next report:** 305

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