

Differences between the Crafter SA and Crafter SAT models

I am considering a Crafter SA or SAT model guitar and would like to know more about the features and, in particular, the differences between the two.

Both instruments strive to combine the sounds of an electro acoustic guitar with that of an electric guitar. The obvious visual difference is the SA is fitted with a 'Lipstick' single coil pickup whereas the SAT has a P90 look humbucker. The SAT also has conventional look volume and tone controls on the lower bout of the body. The SA has a small EQ panel in the top side similar to EQs fitted to electro acoustic guitars.



SAT body front on



SA body angled to show EQ

Internally the differences are greater.

First the SA. The outputs of the 'acoustic' LR Baggs Element under-saddle piezo pickup as well as the 'electric' Lipsick single coil are both fed into the LR-F Preamp/equaliser. The overall volume is set with the rotary Volume control and two pickups can be 'mixed' using the Blend control. The three way equaliser affects the combined sound which is outputted via the mono jack socket.

The SAT keeps the signals of the acoustic and electric pickups independent of each other all the way to the output jack so that each pickup can be fed to its own amplifier. Each pickup has its own volume and tone control so the sound of each can be 'shaped' independent of the other. To keep these signal feeds separate the guitar is supplied with a Y cable. Plugging a conventional mono jack guitar cable into the SAT output socket will combined the two signals. The two volume controls can now be used to mix the pickups as well as control the overall volume. The SAT volume and tone controls look conventional and quite simple when compared to the SA's equaliser. But 'under the hood' there are some sophisticated electronics to provide the tonal 'voice' of the instrument and allow the pickup outputs to either be kept separate or to be mixed to a single output.

Key differences;

SAT;

Ability to keep the 'electric' and 'acoustic' outputs separate if required.

Simple single active tone control.

Humbucker electric tone

SA;

Sophisticated overall EQ and independent blend and volume control.

Single coil electric tone.