

An Exquisitely Built Guitar Comes To Us

## From An Unlikely Location



You already know how much we love simply made, well-built mahogany and Korina guitars... Well, we recently received a handmade electric guitar from a most unlikely source – luthier Benjamin Wasservogel, a Frenchman now living in Israel with his Israeli wife. We found Benjamin while searching for unknown (to us anyway) luthiers, and Benjamin popped up on an internet search for ‘custom builders’. Sometimes, just poking around with a phrase or two gets results that we would never have achieved without the web. We viewed Benjamin’s guitars online and promptly sent him an email asking if it would be possible for us to receive a guitar for review. He quickly responded with an enthusiastic YES! And in a few days his guitar arrived ready to rock & roll. And rock & roll it does.

“The Wheel” is made from a generous slab of Korina with a nicely rounded maple neck, premium ebony fingerboard, beautifully dressed medium-jumbo frets and Gibson-style vintage Kluson tuners. The neck on this guitar is one of its strongest selling points, largely due to the exceptionally comfortable neck carve and the outstanding fret dressing and polish. We have never received a guitar for review with better fret work. The guitar weighs 7.75 pounds, light enough to play comfortably all night but with the intense sustain and rich harmonic overtones you would expect from a Korina body. In terms of resonance and response to pick attack The Wheel gets our highest rating. It also holds pitch exceptionally well with the Bigsby, even with plenty of vibrato and dips with the Bigsby, string bending, and aggressive chord work. We also love the generous and artful belly carve on the back of the guitar which is executed perfectly.

The pickups are exceptional in every way – lush, strong, clear and loaded with essential harmonic overtones. The Wheel is beautifully detailed played clean, and dimed through a great amp (in this case our Ampeg GU12) the overdriven, distorted



tones are equally clear with monumental sustain and a very “clean” distortion quality that allows the individual strings to sing like a very gutsy choir. It is rare to find a guitar with the clarity and character of The Wheel, and it fully rivals our vaunted Historic Les Paul Junior in terms of tone, volume, sustain, clarity, and thick, rich tonality. The only difference is that you have two pickups and two distinct sounds to work with. The bass tones are heavy and imposing, mids are all present and accounted for and the treble tones are sweet and strong, never too sharp or biting. The neck pickup maintains enough treble presence to be eminently useful, and the bridge is sweeter than it is sharp. You could literally play a jazz gig with this guitar, or any other type of music, including your best tribute to Leslie West. The Wheel a true chameleon, to say the least.

We have no doubt that this is the first guitar you will have ever considered or admired that was made in Israel – the new home to custom made and very thoughtfully built electric guitars. Additional models can be found on the La Grange website. If you have an appetite for a stellar Korina guitar with exceptional playability, touch and tone, The Wheel could be right in your wheel house. Shipping from Israel is not that onerous and Benjamin stands ready to craft a true keeper guitar for you. Quest forth... **TQ**

*lagrange.guitars*

How the ...

## Louis Electric Tornado Really Rocks

Lou Rosano has been custom building truly great amplifiers for a couple of decades, and after working with greats such as Hubert Sumlin, Lou has truly found his niche in the world of custom built amplifiers. Enjoy...

We have been friends with Lou Rosano, founder of Louis Electric amps for years, and we have enjoyed our relationship