

# 20th CENTURY

# GUITAR

AND THE COLLECTIBLE GUITAR BUYER

## VINCE GILL

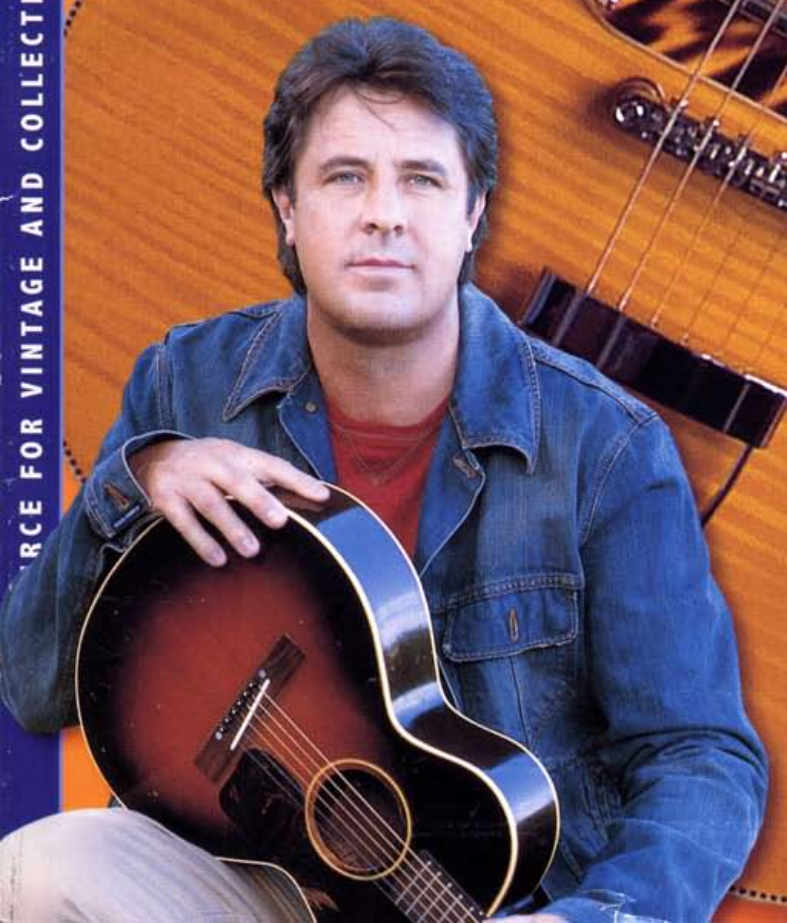
The Return of the Kelvinator Headstock  
1957 Mary Kaye Stratocaster  
Johnny Farina  
1958 Split Headstock Explorer



**TESTED:**

**Ampeg J-20 Jet  
Blueridge BR-361  
N Tune Chromatic Tuner**

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JULY 2008



\$3.95 US \$5.75 CAN

# GEAR

RAY MATUZA

AMPEG J-20 JET  
N TUNE CHROMATIC TUNER  
BLUERIDGE BR361

## BLUERIDGE-BR-361 ROSEWOOD PARLOR GUITAR

The old adage, "Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue (or should we say Bluebridge?)" could adequately sum up in a nut shell Saga Music's Bluebridge BR-361 Rosewood Parlor Guitar.

Utilizing a turn-of-the-century Martin 0-28 as its inspiration, the BR-361 has taken its historical vintage vibe from the former while re-interpreting its gut string voice into one of steel. And what a lovely voice it is.

The BR-361 is borne of a solid Sitka Spruce top with solid Indian Rosewood back and sides. The Bluebridge boys' attention to detail has left no stone unturned given the instrument's slotted peghead, engraved tuners with "grained" ivoroid plastic buttons and ebony pyramid style bridge I especially dig the herringbone rosette, completing the BR-361's elegantly simple and traditional styling.

Superbly constructed, the BR-361's build quality is as clean on the inside as it is on the out. The smooth as glass clear high gloss finish is given a slight hue by a bit of toner, adding a warm cozy feeling to the instrument's countenance.

With a span of 1 7/8 inches across the bone nut, the BR-361's mahogany neck with traditional diamond volute dips into the past for its meaty feel and pronounced "V" shape. Although this shape might be unfamiliar to some (including me), it's actually quite comfortable after even just a few minutes of hang time. To round it all out, perfectly crowned and polished small vintage style frets make their home on the ebony fingerboard with oh-so-classic snowflake inlays.

Set up out of the box was optimal for this style of instrument with the action being on the higher side of low giving the strings a little more room to vibrate along the 24.6 inch scale length. That little extra bit of freedom allows you to dig in for more volume minus any string buzzing. In keeping with tradition, the neck is joined at the 12th fret making the upper echelons a little tough to negotiate. But what the heck, our grandparents could handle it - and they liked it! Despite the BR-361's diminutive parlor size (13.75 inches) its tonal bouquet belies those measurements. The instrument's voice is well balanced and surprisingly rich-very warm with excellent frequency response with a satisfyingly full and musical bottom end. That warmth extends into the lower mids with an upper end that is also articulate, pleasant and rich.

The BR-361 excels in its responsiveness and focus anywhere on the board with its wonderfully intimate voice. Fingerstyle anyone?

The BR-361's excellent attributes far surpass its modest price tag.

This is an instrument that's easy to fall in love with 'cause everything just sounds so darn good.

Saga Music's David Gartland informs me that the BR-361 Rosewood has also found its way into many hands on the Grand Ole Opry stage. Talk about tradition? 'Nuff said!

Bluebridge BR-361 Rosewood Parlor Guitar -  
Suggested Retail \$1295.00

For more information contact:  
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