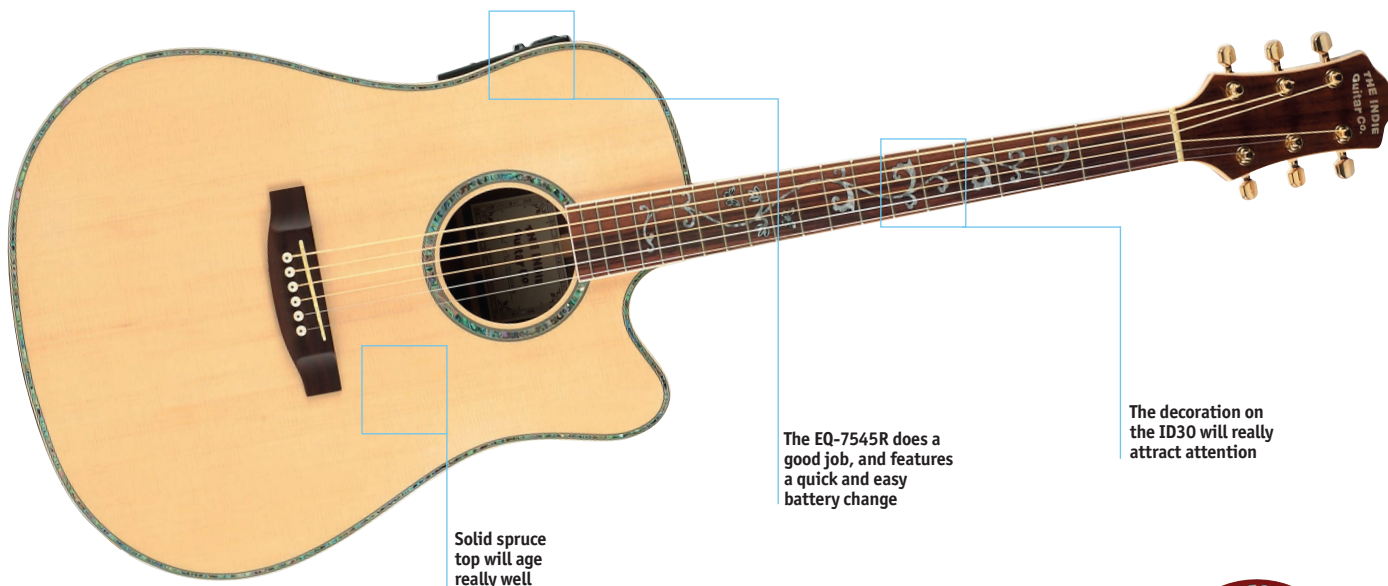


## GEAR INDIE ID30 CE



Solid spruce top will age really well

The EQ-7545R does a good job, and features a quick and easy battery change

The decoration on the ID30 will really attract attention

£329

# INDIE ID30 CE

LOOKS GOOD. PLAYS GOOD. IT EVEN SMELLS GOOD. IS IT ACOUSTIC HEAVEN? WORDS: PAUL BROWNING



## > The name Indie rings a bell...

Regular readers will remember how impressed we were with the brand's electric ILP523 Les Paul copy in issue 113. It had great looks, fantastic playability and was superb value to boot – who could ask for more? Well, the good news is Indie are better known for their acoustic range of guitars.

## What's the spec on the ID30 then?

It's very impressive. The Indie has a solid, grade A spruce top, rosewood back and sides, a nato neck and a rosewood fingerboard. It features 20 jumbo frets and gold hardware, as well as a four-band EQ made by Belcat. The whole package is finished off nicely with abalone and mother of pearl inlays on the fretboard in a tree of life design. You can buy it in either a gloss or satin finish, and left handers are catered for by special order.

## Belcat? Who are they?

Well, Belcat are a Korean company that manufacture piezo pickups and equalizers specifically for acoustic guitars and acoustic amplifiers. The Indie ID30 is fitted with an EQ-7545R system. It comes with the standard bass, middle, treble and volume controls, and finishing things off is a presence control and battery-checking button. All in all, it's a very straightforward affair, with a simple battery change operation to make life easy.

## It certainly looks pretty nice.

Oh yes, it's a looker. To be honest, you only really see eye-catching models such as this in the very high-end (read expensive) guitar section. The tree of life mother of pearl inlay is normally added to justify the huge price tag. But this model is reasonably priced. When you invest in this Indie, if nothing else you'll be sure to attract a lot of attention when you whip it out at a gig. Just listen for the loud 'coo' from the audience.

However, don't think for one minute that this guitar is made purely for posing with. Instead, Indie have successfully fused head-turning looks with a guitar that's made for playing. And once you start strumming this beauty, you won't want to stop.

## How's it put together?

The ID30 is superbly constructed. The attention to detail on the mother of pearl inlays, the sound hole decoration and the binding is absolutely top class. We inspected the whole guitar – actively looking for minor blemishes or faults, such as splinters or resin marks – but we couldn't find anything wrong with the build quality. If we're being really picky, the inlay quality of the brand name on the headstock was a little shaky, but this will in no way affect the Indie's playability.

The ID30 also sits very nicely on the knee – it seems the brand has got the balance of the guitar just right. Usually, we find many acoustics to be quite top heavy, and will topple over unless they're held tightly, but this really isn't the case with the Indie.

Access to the fret board is fantastic, with the cutaway really extending the range of possibilities. The jack port is at the bottom of the body, a feature we're seeing on more electro-acoustic guitars. We like this trend, because it prevents the lead poking out at an unnatural angle and is in line with the format electric guitars have used for decades now.

There is only one strap button at the rear, so you'll have to use a standard acoustic strap. Although, if you do play standing up, you will find the ID30 is very comfy indeed, you don't even have to reach over in a bear-hug style to strum or pick the strings.

## But is the acoustic tone up to scratch?

All of us at *TG* Towers were pleasantly surprised at the ID30's unplugged tone. You normally get a very twangy, trebly ring to this

## WHO'S IT FOR?

Just about any player who values good looks, but is also serious about their playing

## INFORMATION

**BODY:** Solid Grade A Spruce Top  
**NECK:** Nato  
**BACK & SIDES:** Rosewood  
**FINGERBOARD:** Rosewood  
**FRETS:** 20 jumbo  
**CONTROLS:** Volume, middle, bass, treble, presence  
**ELECTRICS:** Belcat pickup and EQ  
**HARDWARE:** Gold tuners, mother of pearl and abalone inlays  
**CASE:** No  
**LEFT-HANDERS:** Special order  
**CONTACT:** Indie Guitar Co 01235 838567  
**WEB:** www.indieguitars.com

## ALTERNATIVELY

Takamine  
 EGS330SC – £435  
 Crafter  
 GTE-18 – £359.99  
 Aria ALCW  
 21909 – £399

*The Indie's versatility and playability are just perfect, as are its range of tones and acoustic capabilities*

type of guitar, however, the ID30's was far more reserved and subtle. Instead of being quite trebly, it evokes a far warmer sound than you usually hear on an acoustic.

Also, when you strum the ID30 you soon realise it's very responsive, offering a good amount of projection and definition. You have to dig in pretty hard with your fingers to produce a sound that has some bite, or alternatively you can use a plectrum. Finger style performance is a real joy, with a good mix of brightness and travel to the tone.

## Great, how about when amped up?

When the Indie is plugged in, it's an altogether different story. The ID30 really comes into its own, with the Belcat preamp doing a sterling job. The sound is plenty bright enough for any gigging or live situation, and it's as bold as brass without any of the unwanted boom. The presence control really does give the overall sound a lift and would certainly help brighten up the tone if this was needed at a gig.

## So it's worth buying, then?

We would definitely recommend the ID30. Not only because the price is very appealing, but because it looks fantastic and plays wonderfully. Its versatility and playability is great, the range of tones is just right, and it's acoustic capabilities will certainly not disappoint. Go out and try one today.

**FOR:** Looks the biz; plays a treat; great tones  
**AGAINST:** Headstock inlay a bit off kilter

TG RATING:

