



# HEART AND SOUL

## Tregan Firewick Signature II electric guitar

BY ERIC KIRKLAND

**K**OREAN AND CHINESE guitar production has recently undergone a renaissance courtesy of improved quality controls and high-tech manufacturing processes. Major American guitar producers are taking advantage of this opportunity in a big way, but the low production costs are also opening the door for passionate entrepreneurs like Tregan Guitars' Tony Guarriello.

### FEATURES

**GUARRIELLO'S SOUTH** Korean-built designs revolve around an unlikely combination of vintage tonal attributes and wild, if not unusual, forms. His Firewick Signature II uses multiple alder pieces to create the look of an aggressive flame's whipping arms. This is the kind of shape that invokes immediate opinions—it's either going to inspire or repulse you. Matching quilted maple veneer on the body and headstock punctuate the visual theme.

That said, once I started playing the Firewick, its shape became irrelevant, as it plays so effortlessly and produces so many satisfying tones. The smallish bird's-eye maple neck is the heart of the Firewick. A well-rounded hill, narrow width and moderate taper are reminiscent of the sought-after neck attributes found on classic guitars from the mid Sixties and early Eighties. Amber-toned oil seals the Firewick's neck but also add to the worn-in vintage tactility.

Respectable and reliable hardware includes a two-point Wilkinson tremolo and Grover machines. The three Korean-

wound pickups feature solid construction, bold Alnico V magnets and powerful voices. Dual push/pull tone knobs dial in the humbuckers' tones and also split them down to single-coil mode.

### PERFORMANCE

**THE FIRST SOUNDS I** experienced from the unplugged Firewick were round and thick with balmy midrange overtones—good qualities for any guitar that's expected to have tonal versatility. Notes responded quickly and simultaneously exhibited what vintage enthusiasts call "sag," a kind of emotional "wobble" in the frequency curve. The guitar also rumbled with enough resonance to suggest that those irregular horns may act as tuning forks for the body.

These attributes were unexpected and got only better when the guitar was amplified. Clean and overdriven applications were equally pleasing and easy to command. Even insanely distorted tones stoked the Firewick's midrange embers into a soothing and controlled glow.

### THE BOTTOM LINE

**WHETHER YOU NEED TO** warm up a rhythm section with a few clean chords or burn up the stage with a scorching solo, the Firewick Signature II is ready to fan your flames. Tregan's reasonably priced hotrod is one of those special guitars that exudes youthful whimsy and plays with a seasoned feel and classic tone. ✨

PRO	CON
SUPER-COMFORTABLE NECK; VERSATILE, DELIGHTFUL TONES	NO LOCKING TREMOLO OR LOCKING TUNERS OPTION

#### TREGAN FIREWICK SIGNATURE II

**LIST PRICE:** \$962.00  
**MANUFACTURER:** T.G. Inc., [treganguitars.com](http://treganguitars.com)  
**BODY:** Alder, quilted maple top  
**NECK:** Oiled bird's-eye maple, bolt-on neck  
**FINGERBOARD:** Maple  
**SCALE LENGTH:** 25 1/2 inches  
**FRETS:** 22  
**HARDWARE:** Wilkinson two-point tremolo, Grover tuners  
**CONTROLS:** Separate push/pull coil-tapping tone knobs for each humbucker, master volume, five-way selector switch  
**PICKUPS:** Two Alnico V-based humbuckers and a single-coil



The flame-styled body shape is nicely contoured and provides complete fret access.