

## Roger Sadowsky Jimmy Bruno Signature Model

The Jimmy Bruno Signature Model represents the second in a series of Roger Sadowsky arch top instruments that are designed in collaboration with the artist and are built in Sadowsky's Tokyo workshop. Final fretwork, tweaking and set up are done here in Roger's Brooklyn crib.

Similar in construction to the Jim Hall Signature Model that we reviewed three years ago (already?), the body features a five-ply maple laminate construction with a built-in humbucking pickup. Here again, Sadowsky's concept is that a laminate top instrument sounds superior to a solid top when played through an amp. In addition, the Jimmy Bruno Signature Model, in Roger's words, "Achieves the goal of a smaller comfortable guitar that is feedback resistant but does not compromise on tone."

As expected the instrument's build quality is top notch. The warm nitrocellulose sunburst finish is immaculately applied and is as smooth as a mountain lake in the early morning. Gold hardware gives the Bruno Model a regal look and offers a fine accent to the ebony tailpiece, control knobs, bridge and pickguard. I especially dig the ebony buttons on the gold Gotoh tuners.

With its 14 3/4-inch body and 2 3/4-inch depth, the Jimmy Bruno Signature Model is like a well engineered race car. Combine that with the softly rounded feel and slim profile (1 11/16-inch at the nut) of the mahogany neck and you've got a guitar that responds and negotiates every harmonic twist and turn in an instant.

Right out of the box, this Sadowsky instrument was wanting for nothing. Its superb fretwork and comfortably low action along the ebony fretboard provided a buzz free and almost effortless playing experience.

Although the smaller body doesn't lend itself to the same frequency response of a bigger box, the overall tone acoustically is very balanced thanks to its parallel bracing. The mahogany neck helps keep the maple body's inherent upper end in check while the ebony tailpiece also contributes to the warm and woody vibe.

Single notes speak with good sustain and are very consistent along the entire length of the fretboard. Chords are in the same ballpark with the addition of excellent string-to-string definition and articulation. The round wound strings give the top a bit more cause to vibrate which adds to the liveliness of the instrument.

Plugged into a small variety of amps, the Jimmy Bruno Signature Model takes on a larger presence. While the guitar's personality traits remain intact, the tone became warmer and fuller, underscoring Sadowsky's observation about a laminate top instrument as noted earlier. The custom-wound DiMarzio humbucker enhances the tone rather than obscuring it.

Feedback resistance is up there, enabling one to achieve higher levels of volume on stage, a definite Godsend when playing with over enthused drummers or obnoxious keyboard players!

Roger also includes a nice assortment of case candy including guitar polish and very hip cloth covers to slide over the rubber covered neck supports on your guitar stand. Sadowsky states certain rubber compounds react with the nitro and can stain or actually melt the finish. Wouldn't that suck?

The Sadowsky Jimmy Bruno Signature Model offers the jazz player a wonderfully crafted instrument at an affordable price. With rich and full electric tones as its forte, it's easy to see (and hear) why good things often come in small packages.

Roger Sadowsky Jimmy Bruno Signature Model w/case - List \$3995.

For more information contact: Sadowsky Guitars 718.422.1123  
web: [www.sadowsky.com](http://www.sadowsky.com)  
email: [Roger@Sadowsky.com](mailto:Roger@Sadowsky.com)

