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## Henman-Bevilacqua S2 Guitar

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**W**hat do you get if you combine an ex-Brit, Hollywood-based commercial director, his designer wife and an experienced guitarmaker? Henman-Bevilacqua Guitars, that's what. Graham Henman is the chap in film, his wife Pam "I ain't play the guitar, but knows how she wants it to look," and Scotty Bevilacqua is the guitar maker who's worked for, among others, Fender. The result is a mini-range of wonderfully unique, detailed and sleek all-styles guitars and basses.

The Slightly equipped S2 mutates a Jazzmaster and is made from mahogany with a subtly figured maple cap just visible under the dark grey/black open-pore "Zire" finish that covers both body and neck. The "stress free" neck is even more unusual. The headstock is a separate piece with a protruding brass rod that slots into a metal channel in the main neck and thereby, according to H-B, removing stress from the fingerboard and enhancing sustain and

resonance. Indeed, resonance is a keyword of H-B – even the pickup rings, that hold a WCR Filmore at bridge and a Crossroads at neck (with a coil split on the tone control), are custom-machined from aluminium with a satin-anodised finish. Likewise the barrel knobs for the locking Super-Tuners, controls knobs, strap buttons, back plates, even the toggle switch cap, washer and headstock logo! It's beautiful, and very impressive.

Our sample is quite weighty at 8.5lbs and the 24 fret neck sticks out, so it's creating quite a bulky beard. Yet it somehow suits the impressive sound: vintage-y and rich with a modern clarity and, yes, no shortage of resonance or sustain. The guitar even comes in a special UK-made aluminium shrouded case. Currently only available from the States, from \$5,900 (excluding shipping etc!) for a custom build. This is about the same as the USA list price on a PRS Hollowbody I with Artist Pack, and the price reflects the detailed custom build and highly exclusive vibe.