

Ashton AB800 Bass Guitar

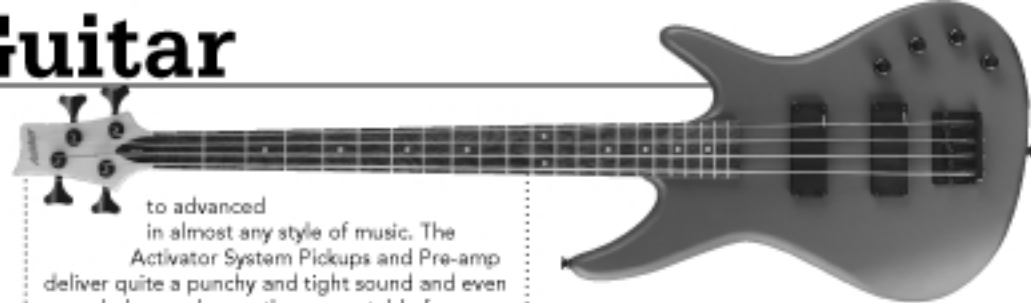
By Keith Munro

We have all come to recognize Ashton product over the past few years as being a brand you could rely on when it came to getting that entry level instrument or amplifier... perhaps little Johnny was wanting to start learning bass or guitar... the Ashton range provides exceptional value for money, and strangely enough the majority of the products a quite exceptionally built given the price range. The craftsmanship on the bass range has reached an impressively high standard for an instrument in this price range and it is not often you can purchase a great playing and sounding bass that doesn't break the bank.

The Ashton AB800 bass guitar is no exception. I wasn't expecting this instrument to feel and sound as good as it did... I am a realist and definitely wasn't expecting quality the equivalent to a bass that retails for \$2000 upwards, but I was pleasantly surprised to

find that the AB800 had some very amazing qualities to it... and really... if this was to be your first bass guitar then you really can't go past it.

The body of the AB800 is constructed from lightweight Swamp Ash, and was quite a comfortable instrument to hold and play, and would definitely suit a younger player due to its light weight. Although it is constructed from lightweight ash, the tone is still quite warm and round. The lighter the wood usually means a compromise in tone, but the AB800 seems to stack up pretty well in this department. The fret board features 22 frets and once again is quite light and easy to play. I think the problem in the past with entry level instruments is that while they are cheap, they are quite uncomfortable and hard to play, which can be difficult for beginners, but the AB800 maintains a nice action suitable for any performer... beginner



to advanced in almost any style of music. The Activator System Pickups and Pre-amp deliver quite a punchy and tight sound and even recorded, sound more than acceptable for even professional recordings and with volume bass and treble dials you can scope a wide range of tonal variations.

The AB800 comes in two colours... Natural and Matt Grey with either chrome or black dials and tuning pegs. On the natural model there is a maple fret board where as the grey form has a rosewood fret board... both variation have similar quality build and tone.

For the price the AB800 retails for you really to get a whole lot more than what you pay for... an instrument that feels great to play and has a tone that would be at home on any stage

or in any studio. I played and heard way more expensive instruments that don't feel or play as well as the AB800.

Visually the AB800 is a superb looking bass and all in all it stacks up against some of its more revered and expensive competitors models. Perfect for students and young beginners as well as seasoned professionals.

RRP \$399

**Distributed By Ashton Music for More
Details Call 02 9698 4444 or email
sales@ashtonmusic.com.au**