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Viva la Cabronita!

Fender's most appealing and toneful new guitar model in 50 years comes in many forms

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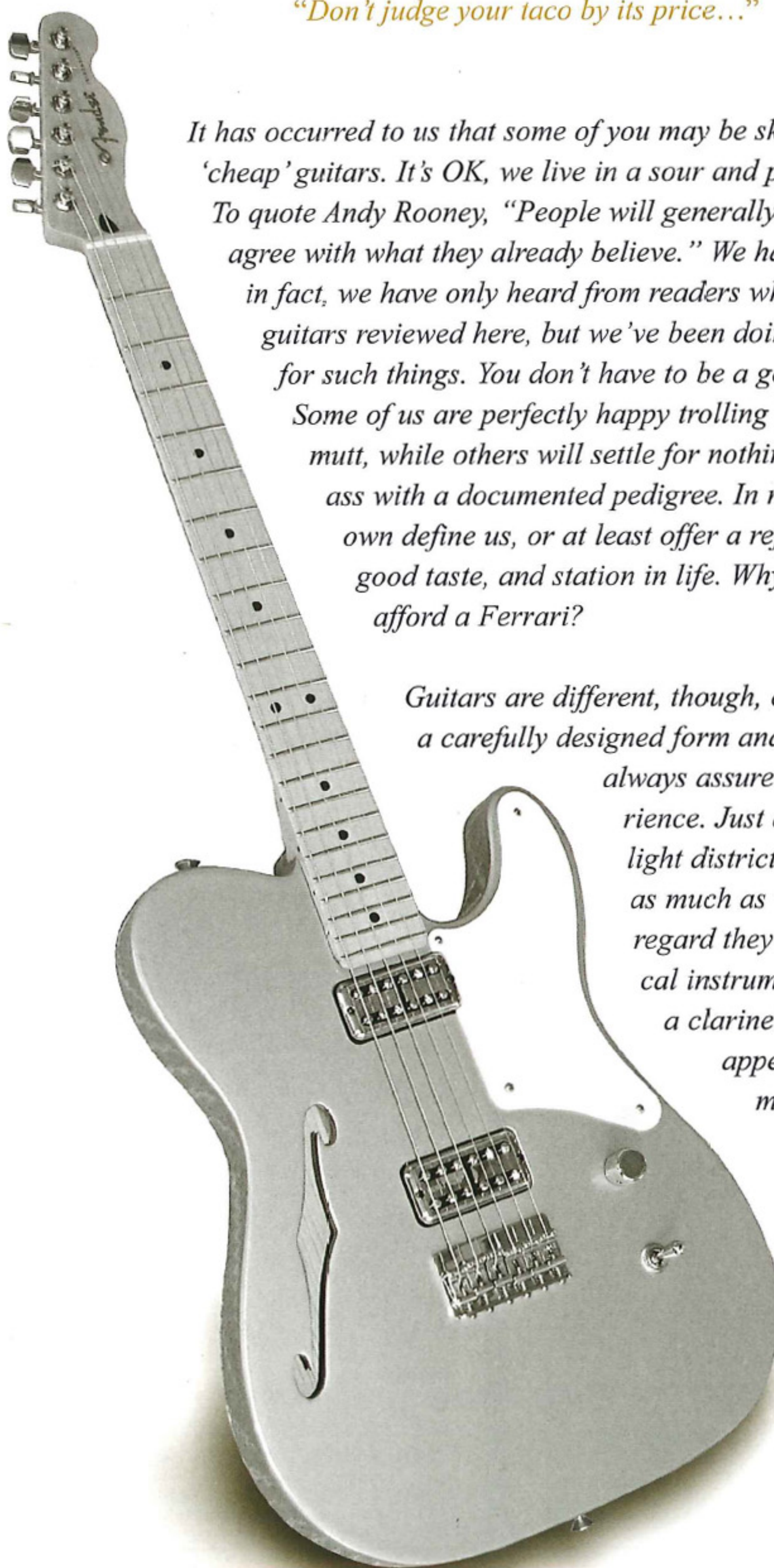
The Player's Guide to Ultimate Tone

Report™

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Que pasa?

"Don't judge your taco by its price..." —Hunter S. Thompson



It has occurred to us that some of you may be skeptical of our recent luv fest with 'cheap' guitars. It's OK, we live in a sour and puckered culture of jaded skeptics... To quote Andy Rooney, "People will generally accept facts as truth only if the facts agree with what they already believe." We haven't heard as much from anyone — in fact, we have only heard from readers who are thrilled with their new 'cheap' guitars reviewed here, but we've been doing this long enough to have a feel for such things. You don't have to be a genius to understand human nature. Some of us are perfectly happy trolling the doggie shelter for a grateful mutt, while others will settle for nothing less than an overbred pain in the ass with a documented pedigree. In no small way the things we choose to own define us, or at least offer a reflection of our self image, supposed good taste, and station in life. Why drive a Ford Focus when you can afford a Ferrari?

Guitars are different, though, equal parts art and instrument with a carefully designed form and function, yet costly beauty doesn't always assure the promise of an exceptional experience. Just ask the regular patrons of the red light district in Amsterdam. We admire guitars as much as we enjoy playing them, and in this regard they are unique among most other musical instruments. It isn't quite as easy to admire a clarinet or a tuba as art, and they lack the appeal of the guitar as an accompaniment to the human voice, or something you might enjoy playing in solitude for hours at home. Guitars are truly exceptional in their flowing form and their ability to calm and inspire restless souls.

They are also objects to be made and sold at a profit, and within the past few decades certain aspects of the guitar market have begun to mimic the ridiculously over-hyped, high end designer

