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# the ToneQuest Report™

*The Player's Guide to Ultimate Tone*  
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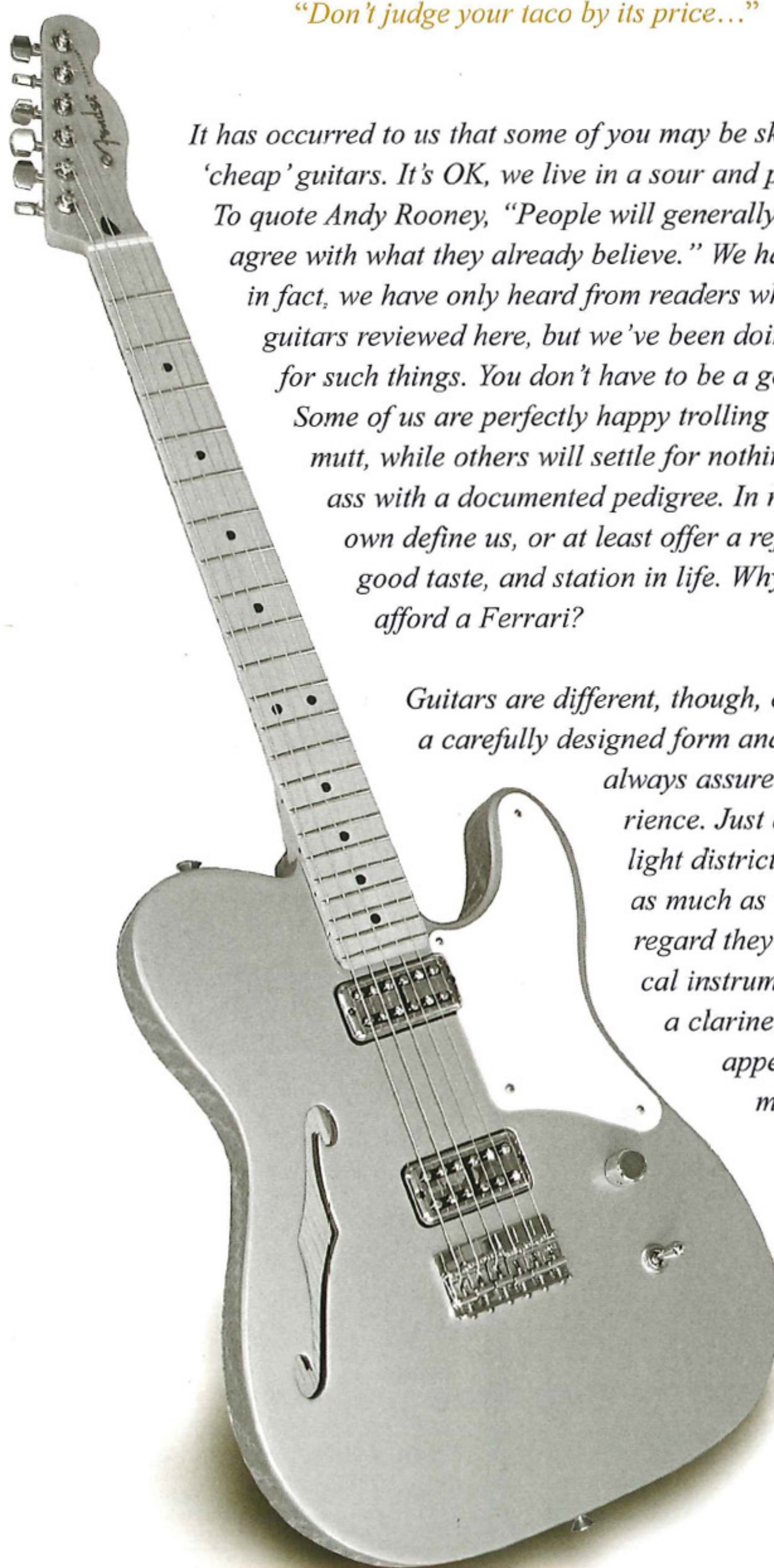
## Que pasa?

*"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

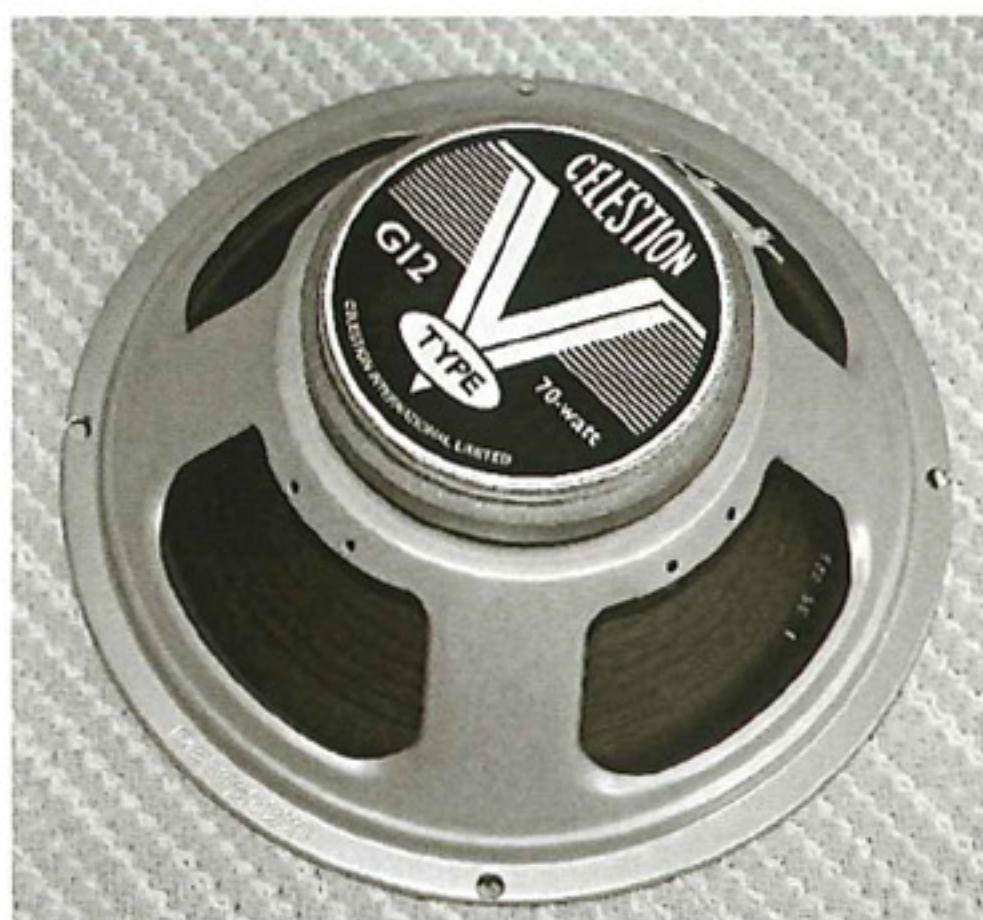


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Speakers – Still the Easiest Mod You'll Ever Do

## Celestion G12 V Type



Sometimes we make unanticipated discoveries simply by taking a spontaneous detour in the Quest for tone. We spent a lot of time this month tweaking guitars and playing new and unfamiliar ones, testing new effects, switching back and

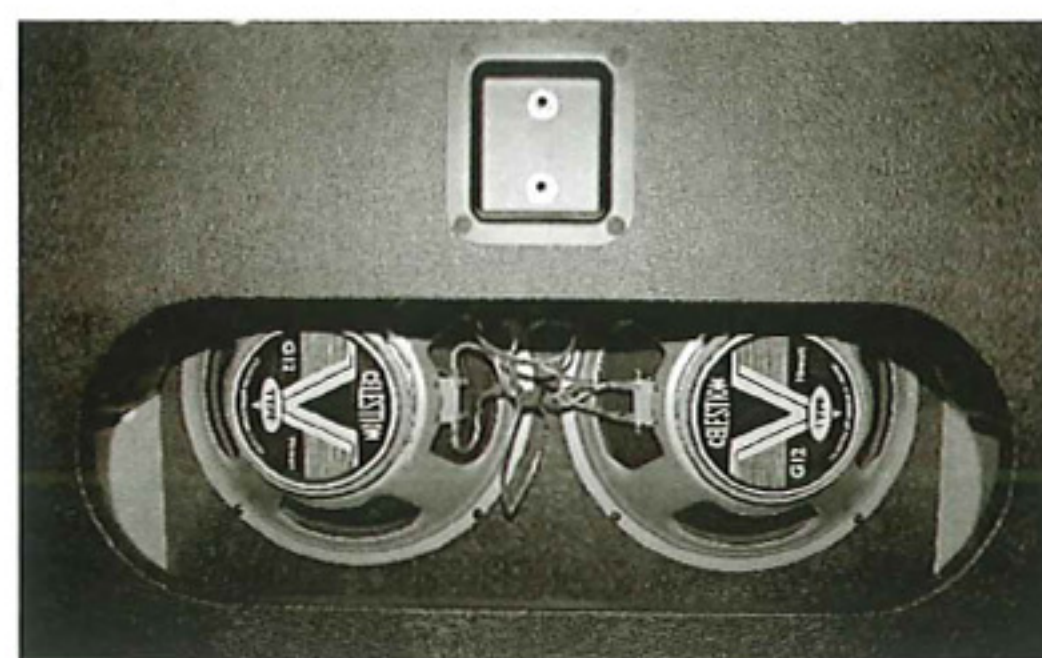
forth among familiar amps, constantly listening with no real expectations, just an open mind. You might think that after 14 years we have sucked that well dry... Not hardly. Thanks to John Paice at Celestion we received a pair of Celestion V Type 70 watt speakers for review, Celestion's newest speaker design among a long list of classics. Here's the official description:

*Combining decades of experience with advanced measurement and analysis, the V-Type has been built using a carefully balanced 'recipe' of old and new design techniques. It produces a heady, exciting modern vintage sound that just makes you want to keep on playing: a speaker that delivers authentic Celestion tone whatever your style. The V-type is a sweet sounding speaker with a superbly balanced tonal signature that imparts a vintage musicality to your tone. Clean sounds are true across the lows, mids and highs, with just enough upper-mid chime and HF sparkle to add clarity and definition. Crank it up for a sizzling overdrive and raw rock tones, with plenty of mid-band warmth to give body and substance to lead note playing.*



We evaluated the G12 V Type speakers in both 2x12 and 1x12 applications using a birch-ply 2x12 cab with our Germino 55LV, and a 1x12 heirloom Bob Burt cabinet built with 100 year-old pine and

a vintage Fender 1960 5E3 tweed Deluxe. It didn't take long for us to appreciate and digest the unique sound of the V Type, and most significantly, the remarkable 'feel' of this speaker in response to pick attack. We don't know how they do it, but the V Type displays a percussive character and bloom to the notes that seems to define the signature sound of this speaker. We noted this effect on the first chord, and it left us feeling uniquely connected to the notes in a way that is uncommon to say the



least. Tonally, the V Type is very well balanced with no obvious notches or scooped frequencies, almost in the style of an

'American' speaker, except for Celestion's trademark chime, vivid harmonic overtones and the percussive response that is impossible to overlook. At 70 watts these speakers can gracefully handle a 50 watt amp like our Germino, yet we also found the V Type very well-suited to our little 5E3 loaded with 6V6s or 6L6s. To hear what you are creating with the strings, frets and fingers or a pick in such detail is inspiring. Break out a slide and the immediacy of the slide on strings seems amplified as well. Whatever the engineers at Celestion have done to develop a recipe of 'old and new' design techniques, it works, and we can confidently state that we have never heard a speaker with quite the same tactile 'feel' and response as the V Type – an exceptional and unique new speaker from a company with a very long history of excellence and classic guitar tones.**To**

<http://celestion.com/>