

DEJAWU NEOLITHIC-SERIES

GUITAR FROM PREHISTORIC TIMES

It can just happen: you are going about your daily work and suddenly something very special comes your way. The trick is to recognize it. And that's exactly what Dejawu Guitars managed to do when they found a stump of wood in a riverbed.

by Steven Faber

At the end of prehistoric times, in the middle of the Neolithic period when hunter-gatherers transitioned to farmers, and thus long before the pyramids in Egypt were built or Stonehenge was erected, it must have fallen over: a maple tree somewhere in the vicinity of where the Chinese city of Wuhan now lies. Fast-forward 7500 years and we see Wu Dongming finding a trunk of the same tree in the bed of a

river during construction work. The wood is colored almost black, and Wu, as a guitar maker, recognizes its potential. Sinker mahogany is an example of wood preserved in a river from which brands like Martin make beautiful guitars. Judging by the color of the wood, Wu thinks he is dealing with a stump that is perhaps five hundred years old. So he gives it all the time it needs to dry quietly, first outside for quite a while, then inside.

Wu Dongming and Derk Jan Lievers are the driving forces behind Dejawu Guitars. Wu builds the guitars by hand in China and ships them to the Netherlands where Derk Jan finishes them by installing the hardware and electronics.

Derk Jan doubts that the wood is as old as suspected and sends a piece of the log to the University of Kiel, Germany, which has a department for determining age using the carbon method. The letter he gets back is as clear as it is surprising: "with 95.4% certainty, the wood can be dated between 5474 and 5316 BC." That is of a very different order than sinker mahogany that is 100 years old, and finds of the same order are not known.





The wood as it came out of the ground

The uniqueness of the find is that the wood is not fossilized and still has a very good structure. It is just as workable as younger wood. In addition, the stump is large enough to make several guitars. Because the wood has spent all this time in a very humid environment without coming into contact with oxygen, all the juices and resin have disappeared from the wood, making it less susceptible to

or Les Paul. In this, there is only a block of wood between the curved top and back at the level of the bridge.

The Neolithic series will include a total of nine guitars, the first of which, the T-Ultimate, is already finished. In total, there will be two of these Tele-like models, three E-Specials (based on the ES-335 model), two L-Premium single cuts, plus two

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cracks and fungus. This is also very noticeable when Wu works the wood. Unlike regular woods, this prehistoric wood is completely odorless when worked.

The Neolithic series

Instead of occasionally incorporating the wood into guitars, Dejawu has chosen to create a series of guitars made entirely of wood from this prehistoric trunk, that is, the body and neck. For the fingerboard, as with all other Dejawu models, ebony is used.

One of the unique features of a Dejawu is its semi-hollow construction, whether the model is derived from a Telecaster

acoustic guitars, a steelstring and a nylon-string model.

T-Ultimate Neolithic

We were able to admire the T-Ultimate Neolithic even before the series is officially presented. What immediately stands out is of course the deep brown color of the wood under the transparent high-gloss finish. The binding around the body, fingerboard and f-holes is made of flamed maple, which, together with the gold-colored hardware, gives the guitar a chic appearance. Installed as pickups are two twin Double Tele Pickups made by the custom shop of German pickup maker Harry Haussel.

These coils can work as humbuckers and single-coils and can be paired in different combinations, thanks to the six-position switch and push-push tone control. With the scale of a Fender and the fingerboard radius of a Gibson, the T-Ultimate plays wonderfully. The sound is very pleasant and has a bright, open and balanced character. For example, the single coil at the bridge has enough low end and the humbucker mode of the neck element is not too woolly, but more reminiscent of a vintage PAF that is warm, bright and dynamic, as opposed to the full fat tone of modern humbuckers. The T-Ultimate is lightweight, which makes it pleasant to handle. And then the idea of holding a guitar made of prehistoric wood....

Presentation

The Neolithic series will be presented at the Swiss Montreux International Guitar Show from May 5-7 and in the Netherlands at the Bridge Eindhoven Guitar Festival fair on May 13. This will show the models available at that time, as a number of guitars in the Neolithic series are still being built and will be presented later. [G](#) For more information, see: dejawuguitars.com



Wu Dongming with a piece of the timber