



# Chandler LECTRASLIDE

Chandler musical instruments are not to be confused with the famous Kew and Hampton Wick guitar shops. Run by Paul Chandler, who grew up in the hey-day of classic guitar innovation. Chandler are a Northern California based company making a range of guitars, pickups and electronics. I don't think you are going to walk into your average UK guitar shop and find one of these guitars, I'm told they probably only make about 5 or so of this model each year!

## First impressions

I just finished putting this guitar down for the first time and I gotta say I only meant to pick it up for a few minutes. It's almost 2 hours later! It made me keep playing. I don't know much about it technically yet, but I thought I'd start writing fresh off first play.

**This guitar can really SING.** I usually try out an electric acoustically first to see what it feels like without the distraction of amp sounds, and this one just had great intonation and sustain for days from the off. It is incredibly light, which in my book is a real plus point. (All my favourite guitars seem to be, and after 40 years playing I'm trying to take care of my left shoulder!) It is also really simple - two control knobs and a pickup selector. That simplicity is also a great feature for me. I just bunged it through Guitar Rig inside logic at first, and tried it out with a few different sounds. I have to admit I got kind of lost in each one. The p/up selector gives a great range of sounds and I could make any kind of music work on this beast. I also happen to love

the way it looks but I guess that's always personal.

I am only aware of having heard the great Joe Bonamassa play this guitar before and he seems to use it mainly for slide, so I suppose I was expecting it to be, well, just a slide guitar really. Uh uh. Slide does sound great on it, but so does jazz, country, funk and works a treat for my twisted up hotch-potch approach.

Anyone that knows me knows I call it the way I see it and as I'm writing this it probably sounds like I'm trying to be nice to the guys at Chandler. Not true. I'm almost embarrassed at how high I rate this guitar on first go. Every single note all the way up to the highest fret really does sing and the response is gorgeous. Tickle it and you can feel the power but dig in and it's a beast. It is pretty rare for me to be so effusive and I don't play that many guitars that deserve it.

## Spec

With a bit more investigation it seems that this guitar is being marketed to slide players. It has lap steel humbuckers and there is a slot in the guitar body to house an included Dunlop slide. The frets are Jumbo size and the scale is 24.75. It comes in crimson, black or sunburst, shipped with a hard case. It has a round, resonator-like pickguard that has a kind of 50's feel. This

one in black looks just great to my eye. It also doesn't look like any other guitar, which is another personal vote winner.

I guess you need to order one of these direct

unless you can find one on ebay and this particular guitar developed a crack during shipping. Chandlers sorted the problem and paid for all the extra shipping involved, so you have to say that the attitude and after sales care of this company is right on the money.

## The amp test

I like using all the new technology, but really guitars are about plugging in and having a go. Strapping up, the guitar hangs well, to the point you don't think about it. You have a volume control and an overall tone, which works for each pickup setting. There are 6 of these.



There are a lot of possibilities for wiring so I don't know exactly how this one has been done. The front pickup is fat and the next 2 settings are subtle variations on in-between sounds. Some cool funk tones to be had here. The next setting is more extreme - has a nasally quality that could be handy. Turning it up gave me a nod toward the Peter Green tone of old. One more in-between setting, then full on bridge pickup.

Playing clean, my taste is probably erring toward the front pickup sounds but turning it up really brings the back pickup to life. The guitar sounds like it's really doing what it most wants to do when you give it some drive and volume. Really, it's a class act with the rockier sounds. I'm trying this through a boogie, but could well imagine the guitar would be extremely happy to go through a 4 by 12 in a band setting!

## Conclusion

All round this guitar is a definite winner in my book. I can play most anything on it and it works, even though it seems to be pitched to the slide market. I'm not convinced about having a hole routed out to house a slide though. It actually wouldn't fit any of the slides I use, so I suppose I would need to use the one that comes with it. That's a pretty small point for anyone who does really warm to the instrument though. It has made me very curious to check out the other guitars in the range, though I could see this one going on my shopping list.

You can hear Joe Bonamassa playing some top slide here:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jom6eH\\_5R0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jom6eH_5R0) or by clicking on the link on the front page of the Chandler website: [www.chandlerguitars.com](http://www.chandlerguitars.com)

By the time this magazine hits the street I am going to put a clip or two on the blog accessible from my site:

[www.timstonemusic.com](http://www.timstonemusic.com) (but won't be playing slide, I'll leave that to Joe!!)

*Reviewed by Tim Stone*



Joe Bonamassa guitars - two Lectraslides centre

