

Well-Connected Carlos Juan



Why did you decide to build the CP-1A active endpin jack pickups, having previously designed amplifiers for players like Larry Coryell, George Benson and Eric Clapton?

Having spent time modifying all possible so-called acoustic pickups without any really satisfying results, I started building CP-1A pickups in 2002, since there was nothing available that would sound as an acoustic guitar should. In 2004 Eric started using this, but then, shortly after, the more expensive two-piece CP-1 High-End pickup. 'Carlos' is engraved in his Martin Black Beauty, and 'Eric' is engraved in his standard 000-28EC. The 1976

Gerundino flamenco guitar that EC sold at the Crossroads auction was equipped with a CP-1 High-End. Eric also uses two of my CTP tube preamps.

Which guitars suit the fitting of the CP-1A pickup?

The CP-1A will fit any steel-string, flamenco, django-style, mandolin, upright bass and banjo, and expresses the instrument's exact character and tone.

How did you choose the voicing of the pickup system?

For me, only two parameters need adjustment: middle and gain. The middle range is where the guitar's

'colour' or 'thickness' is created. In the case of the CP-1A the mini middle pot can make your guitar sound see-through or full-bodied, and the gain pot is there to adjust the attack, which can be very high if you hit your acoustic as EC does. Most market pickups would fall apart (compress) or crank under such an extreme playing style. There's also a gain pot to balance with other pickups or players in a band.

How is the Eric pickup, featured in his black 000-28, different from the CP-1A?

An easy explanation would be like using a Ferrari car to explain the CP-1A's VIP performance: it's quick and immediate, in response to the player's touch, and it will cut through any crowd of drums,

band, orchestra etc. It's extremely loud and hard to feedback. The High-End CP-1, with its wooden-housing preamp, is like a comfortable Mercedes 500 luxury car. All the options include four adjustable pots: volume, bass, middle and high. It is soft sounding (similar to a tube amp compared to solid-state) and much more sensitive to the finest details of a player's touch. It takes eight hours for me to solder one under a microscope using SMD parts. It's made like a superb watch; I love (Panerai) watches, and that's why most of my special tools come from watch workshops. Prices: Carlos CP-1a £249 Eric £830 To find out more about these boutique pickups visit:

www.carlosjuan.eu
or email: carlos@internet-xs.com



WIN one of Carlos' CP-1A

To win one of Carlos prestigious pickups, just answer the following question.

Question

What artist opened for Bon Jovi and Nickelback at NY Giants Stadium July 18th 2006 using Carlos CP-1A VIP in his acoustic guitar in front of 80,000 visitors?

The answer can be found on my webpage under pickups/ professional/ VIP models.

Visit: www.carlosjuan.eu

The competition closes on March 2nd when the winner will be chosen. To register your correct answer, do so via www.acousticmagazine.com and visit the competition online.

