



PRS 2017 SE 'FLOYD' CUSTOM 24

£999

A pretty guitar that's actually a beast!

There was a time when Paul Reed Smith guitars were seen by some as elitist playthings – too expensive for the working guitarist, and too pretty to risk pranging at a gig. These were the guitars you bought when you'd bought all the golf clubs and swanky German sports cars you could need – 'Guitars for lawyers and doctors' went the rather unkind mantra.

In 2001, PRS began to change those preconceptions with the launch of the Korean-made SE models. Keenly priced for the average guitarist and styled to look like their American-built siblings, the SE range has evolved a lot over

locking whammy bar loved by everyone from Eddie Van Halen to Dimebag Darrell. Even with the Custom 24's tasteful vintage-esque vibe, the Floyd looks right at home here. It's like someone bolted a supercharger to an E-Type Jaguar. It shouldn't work, but it actually looks great...

So what makes the 2017 SEs better than the previous editions? Well, you get the same 'signature' PRS headstock logo as the USA models instead of the block logo truss-rod cover – with a much subtler 'SE' logo, too. But the big news is a pair of upgraded pickups. The 85/15 set is based on Paul Reed Smith's 1985 Standard Treble and Bass pickups, much-respected for

THE 2017 MODELS ARE THE HIGHEST SPEC SE GUITARS YET

the past 15 years. The 2017 models are easily the best-looking and highest-spec SE guitars yet – let's see what they've got cooking.

Slipping it from its padded gigbag, no-one could deny our 2017 SE 'Floyd' Custom 24 is a looker. In typical PRS style, this guitar's pretty flame maple top is like a tractor beam to the eyeballs. Underneath the eye candy, you'll find a mahogany body cut in PRS's classic double-cutaway shape. The supremely comfortable Wide Thin profile neck is honed in maple, and comes paired with a rosewood 'board with a flock of the now-iconic bird inlays and plays host to 24 fat frets.

Of course, 'Floyd' isn't just a clever name. Our Custom 24 comes loaded with a chunky Floyd Rose vibrato, with a recess for pull-ups, the seldom-challenged but never-bettered double-

the ability to offer great humbucking *and* single-coil tones. These new humbuckers are wired through a master volume, master tone (with a built-in push/pull coil split) and a three-way pickup selector blade switch offering both pickups solo and combined. Textbook stuff.

Time to plug in. Running through our amp's clean channel, the bridge 'bucker unloads a whole sackful of sparkle. While this setting works great for choppy rhythm stuff, we prefer adding the neck pickup into the mix. This combination retains the bright clarity of the bridge pickup but adds some warmth. Switch to single-coil mode and you're almost in Hendrix *Little Wing* territory, with little wobbles on the whammy bar adding to the effect. You don't always have to divebomb on a Floyd, y'know!

1 NECK
The PRS SE 'Floyd' Custom 24 comes spec'd with a Wide Thin neck profile. Add 24 fat frets and you've got a guitar with serious playability

2 FLOYD
This SE pimps the classic Custom 24 format with a chunky Floyd Rose double-looking vibrato with a recess for pull-ups and the ability to dump the strings on the pickups

3 PICKUPS
The new pickups are based on PRS's 1985 Standard Treble and Bass humbuckers, which also offer convincing classic single-coil tones. This is one versatile guitar

AT A GLANCE

BODY: Mahogany w/ bevelled maple top and flame maple veneer
NECK: Maple, glued-in
SCALE: 635mm (25")
FINGERBOARD: Rosewood
FRETS: 24, jumbo
PICKUPS: 2x PRS 85/15 humbuckers
CONTROLS: 1x volume, 1x tone (w/ push/pull coil split) and 3-way pickup selector blade switch
HARDWARE: Chrome Floyd Rose double-locking vibrato and top nut, sealed die-cast machineheads
LEFT-HANDED: N/A
FINISH: Vintage Sunburst (as reviewed), Gray Black
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