

# A SAGE CHOICE

## Ibanez SGT110 Sage Series grand concert acoustic guitar

BY CHRIS GILL

**IBANEZ SGT110  
SAGE SERIES ACOUSTIC**

**LIST PRICE:** \$214.27

**CONTACT:** Ibanez,  
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**BODY:** Laminated mahogany back and sides, laminated spruce top

**NECK:** Mahogany

**NUT:** 1 11/16-inch Ivorex II

**FINGERBOARD:** Rosewood with dot inlays

**SCALE LENGTH:** 25.4 inches

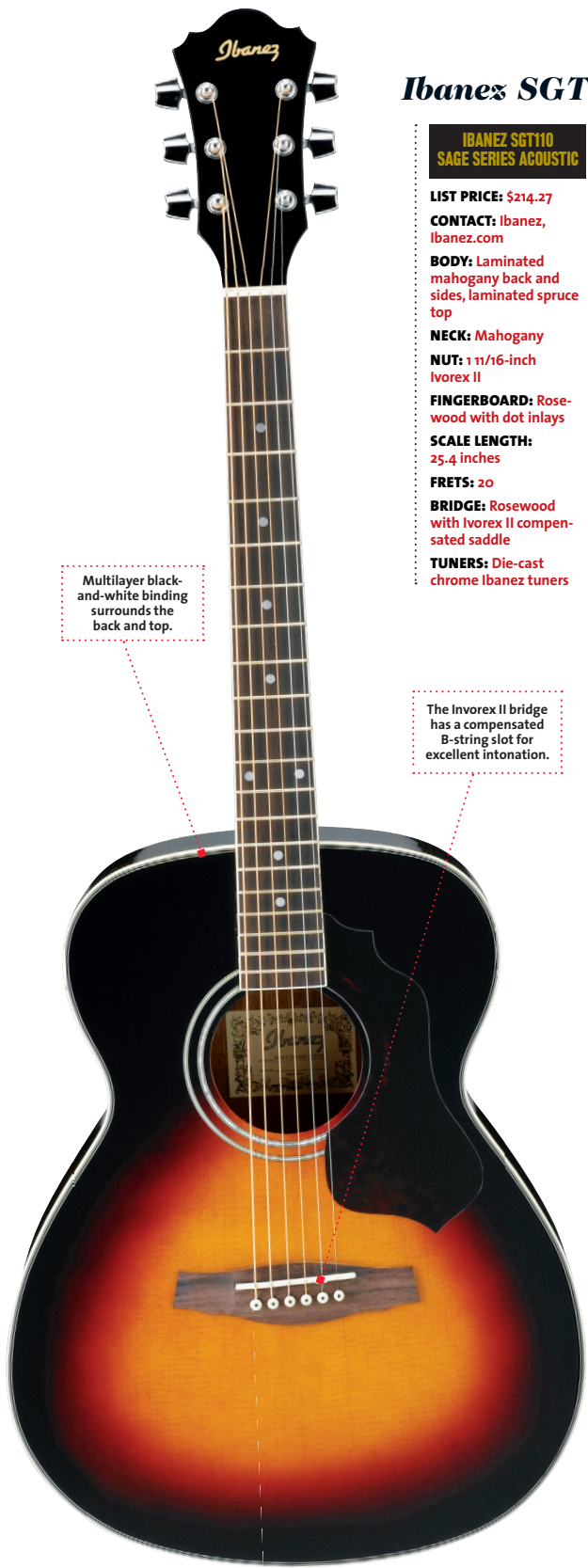
**FRETS:** 20

**BRIDGE:** Rosewood with Ivorex II compensated saddle

**TUNERS:** Die-cast chrome Ibanez tuners

Multilayer black-and-white binding surrounds the back and top.

The Ivorex II bridge has a compensated B-string slot for excellent intonation.



IF YOU'VE EVER shopped for a low-cost, full-size acoustic guitar—say, one that sells for less than \$500—you probably came across a ton of dreadnought models and a handful of jumbos. Almost nonexistent in this price range are grand concert or orchestra models, especially from a company whose name you know and trust for building quality acoustics.

Ibanez is changing the playing field with its new Sage Series of traditional-inspired acoustics. The Ibanez SGT110 is part of the series, and it's a great alternative for players who find dreadnoughts dull and jumbos too enormous. The SGT110 has a compact, curvy grand concert body shape and an irresistible vintage vibe, all for a price that even your octogenarian great granddad would consider outrageously cheap.

This model reminds me a lot of Gibson's Depression-era acoustics, like the L-00, a favorite of blues virtuoso Robert Johnson, although it's not as quirky. Like those guitars, the SGT110 has the feel and tone of a much more expensive instrument and exudes a ton of style. You can even buy one with your unemployment check and still have enough money left to buy food, smokes and booze.

### FEATURES

TAKE ONE LOOK at the SGT110 and you'll be surprised—perhaps even shocked—to learn that its list price is just slightly above \$200. The warm, rich colors of the vintage sunburst and the dark chocolate hue of the mahogany back and sides are enhanced by a mirror-like gloss finish that thinly coats the body, allowing the wood to breathe. Tasteful multilayer black-and-white binding surrounds the guitar's back and spruce top, while single-layer white binding contrasts with the deep brown hue of the rosewood fretboard. Even the dual-ring rosette is adorned with pearloid inlays.

Subtle details reveal the careful consideration that went into designing and building this guitar. The nut, which is made of synthetic Ivorex II material, features an L-shaped design that's just 1/8 inch thick where the strings contact it, and the saddle, which is also made of Ivorex II, features a compensated B-string slot to provide excellent intonation. The "Advantage" bridge

pins are also made of durable synthetic material, and Ibanez generously includes an extra bridge pin and saddle to save you the trouble of buying these parts, should you need to replace them. A dual-action truss rod makes adjusting the action easy.

The SGT110 is a true grand concert-style guitar, with a maximum body width of about 15 1/2 inches, a depth of 3 13/16 inches and a length of approximately 19 inches. Despite its small body size, the SGT110 boasts a full-size 25.4-inch scale that contributes to its authoritative volume output and commanding tone. Usually, the only small-body guitars you'll find in this price range are "baby" travel models, but the SGT110 sounds and plays like a full-grown guitar, because it is one.

### PERFORMANCE

GRAND CONCERT GUITARS are the preferred choice of many fingerstyle players because they deliver bright, clean, balanced tones without the overly boomy bass that larger guitars often possess. The SGT110 has all the charm and personality that players desire from a grand concert model, and it sounds surprisingly refined for such a low-cost guitar. The treble is crisp without being tinny, the mid-range sweet and sonorous, and the bass focused and potent. Even when the strings are plucked with bare fingers, the guitar sounds loud and assertive.

Playability is much better than you'd expect for a guitar in this price range. Strung with D'Addario regular-gauge EXP strings, the guitar had the slinky feel of an electric with none of the finger fatigue that can make playing an acoustic guitar a struggle for beginners. The action, as well as the relatively generous 1 11/16-inch nut width and excellent fretwork, make it easy to fret notes cleanly without any buzzing.

### THE BOTTOM LINE

WHETHER YOU'RE AN experienced player looking for something different or a beginner seeking a bargain, the Ibanez SGT110 is a great choice that offers jaw-dropping bang for the buck. With a guitar at this price, and from this company, you just can't go wrong. 🌟

| PRO   | CON                    |
|---|------------------------|
| EXTREMELY LOW PRICE, IMPRESSIVE TONE, CLASSIC LOOKS | TUNERS COULD BE BETTER |