

# Fender Alternate Reality Electric XII

Written by P.G Fitzgerald

Originally in the June 2020 Songsmith

I'd done my taxes for the 2018 to 2019 year while being in isolation due to CoVid-19. I wasn't back to teaching in front of classes as yet as the schools were still in lockdown. I was teaching online, but that was difficult as explaining something in class may take two minutes, but to do it online can take twenty minutes!

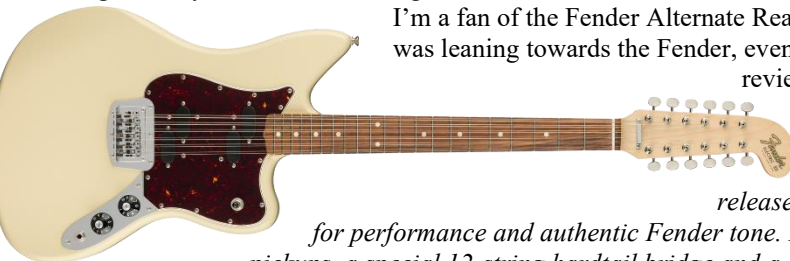
So, I was tired, and a relationship had just seemed to go South, so I was a bit down. I needed to cheer myself up and I'd just been reading about the Fender Alternate Reality Electric XII and the Danelectro 59X12 in guitar magazine's reviews. I'd been thinking that I ought to buy an electric 12 string sometime as I have an acoustic one. Then the large tax check arrived.

I'm a fan of the Fender Alternate Reality series, already owning a Meteora HH and Six Sixty, so I was leaning towards the Fender, even though the Danelectro was a lot cheaper and had rave

reviews. Then I saw that DWmusic in Canberra had a great price

on a white one and would deliver. Decision made so I placed the order.

DWmusic wrote on their website: "*Originally released in 1965, the Electric XII was designed from the ground up*



*for performance and authentic Fender tone. Featuring dual split-coil pickups, a special 12-string hardtail bridge and a 3-position pickup selector, this jangly offset will definitely get attention onstage.*

*The split-coil Electric XII pickups were designed specifically for this guitar, and they have the sound that made Fender famous—crisp, clear and balanced. The 3-position switch lets you activate either pickup on its own or in tandem. The fully adjustable hardtail bridge sports 12 individual saddles, ensuring spot-on intonation, which is the key to successfully wrangling twice the usual number of strings. The maple neck's "Modern C"-shaped profile works well for almost any playing style and sports a comfortable 9.5"-radius fingerboard with 21 medium-jumbo frets and a distinctive '65 12-string headstock.*

Made in Mexico and in Olympic White the guitar arrived about five days later. I excitedly pulled the guitar from the box, and I was gob smacked it was sooo good! It played so much better than my acoustic twelve string and had a very tasty vibe and tone. Within minutes I'd written two songs!! It's such an easy playable guitar and some guitars make you so glad that you've brought it as it helps you musically and artistically.

Guitar.com reviewed the guitar as: "*Despite the low action, it's great for slide and it loves drive – the octave strings adding new textural interest to otherwise familiar lines. We spend a lot of time exploring the fullness of the neck pickup, but the softer middle setting is ideal for strumming, while the strident bridge unit has plenty of bite and aggression. 50 years on and at such an accessible price point, the Fender Electric XII might just be more relevant than ever.*"



So, if you are looking for something to give you some extra inspiration for your songwriting and have never tried a 12 string, I can recommend the Fender Alternate Reality Electric XII. I have yet to play the Danelectro 59X12, but it would be interesting to compare the two.

