

Fender Sixty-Six

Written by P.G Fitzgerald
Originally in the July 2020 Songsmith

Back in July 2019 I popped down to Adelaide to visit two friends of mine, Ruth & Darryl, who I'd met in my trip through Central America. I knew they'd be working on the Friday, but I wanted to revisit Derringers Guitar Store to see if they had a guitar I was looking for (A Fender Meteora HH) which was unavailable in Sydney.

I went straight from Adelaide Airport by cab to Derringers Guitar Store (The monstrous Forestville store features over 900 guitars!) I was in for an afternoon of guitar heaven! I'd visited Derringers the previous year for a little while, but I was with Ruth & Darryl so couldn't spend much time in this guitar wonderland. This year was going to be different.

So, I left my bag at the front counter and wandered through playing all manner of guitars. There was so much variety I think I clocked up a good five hours playing!! I played 6 string banjos, interesting Gibsons, etc, etc. They even had a variety of Fender Alternate Reality guitars, including a surf green Meteora HH which really grabbed me. I thought, yep, I'll buy this guitar.



That was until I played the Fender Sixty-Six, which I initially found to be a touch ugly, especially as they only had it in Daphne Blue, which looks a little like a baby blue. It was the maple neck and the pickup configuration that grabbed me. I've always been a sucker for straight maple necks as I can see then under stage spotlights as I've found the darker necks less stage light friendly for quick chord changes.

I was plugged into a Fender amp (Can't remember which, so sorry to the amp heads out there) and I was stunned to say the least. The twin Telecaster neck pickups (Player Series Alnico 5 Tele Single-Coils) and humbucker (Player Series Alnico 2 Humbucking) have turned this guitar into the ultimate funk machine. Yeah Baby! It cooks in groove soooo well! Then the five-position switch gives such a range of tones. Ahhhh, man, which should I buy, the Fender Meteora HH, or the Fender Sixty-Six???? Alas, the Fender Sixty-Six won the toss, (Yes, I did indeed toss a coin to decide.), as I have nothing in my guitar arsenal like it. Something that makes me want to play that funky music!!!!

I had a problem getting it home as flying could damage it, but I found out that Derringers deliver free, so I took that option as I was holidays so could have a courier delivery. The Fender Sixty-Six duly arrived about four days later and I plugged into my tube Vox amp and the second impressions didn't disappoint!! Wow, what a great guitar that even my mate, Pit, has his eyes on as it's the funkiest thing I've ever played for that genre.

One reviewer wrote: *"Mighty Versatile: Inside the Alternate Reality Sixty-Six - Classic Fender sound meets unique visual style in the Sixty-Six, which makes a bold statement with its down-sized Jazz Bass body."*

The Fender Jazz Bass came out in 1960, quite a charmed moment for those who fell in love with the offset waist of the Jazzmaster (released two years prior) and wanted to hold down the low end.

But what if you could turn the asymmetrical body of the Jazz Bass - which was slightly different than the Jazzmaster - into a six-stringed guitar all its own? With the debut of the Alternate Reality Series Sixty-Six, Fender has done just that.

The Sixty-Six, so named for the birth year of the Jazz Bass and its six strings, fits perfectly in the Alternate Reality Series, which aims to dive into Fender's tradition of interesting body styles and tonal configurations and create uniquely compelling instruments.

"We wanted to think outside the box as far as Fender design," said Allen Abbassi, Senior Product Development Manager for Electric Guitars/Basses. "We want to try new shapes, different woods and different pickup configurations to offer something that you might not have seen from Fender before."

Like the supercharged Alternate Reality Powercaster, the Sixty-Six makes another bold statement in the line. It all starts with a shrunk ash Jazz Bass body that sits comfortably for any guitarist and keeps traditional appointments like the unmistakable chrome control plate and knobs.

The tones of the HSS pickup configuration (with five-way switching) are truly flexible, as a humbucking bridge pickup is joined by two Player Series single-coil Tele pickups that produce pristine, well-defined tone.

"You can go from a nice, searing lead into clean tones that are quacky and nice with a single-coil," said Abbassi. The maple neck boasts a "Modern C"-shaped profile with a 9.5"-radius fingerboard makes it easy to bend notes wide without "choking." And the vintage-style tuning machines and synchronized tremolo only add to the Sixty-Six's classic vibe.

All in all, the sixty-Six packages the sound, feel and look Fender is famous with modern, player-centric features perfect for the stage.

By Mike Duffy <https://www.fender.com/articles/gear/mighty-versatile-inside-the-alternate-reality-sixty-six>

Another reviewer noted: "Classic Fender sound meets unique visual style in the Sixty-Six, which makes a bold statement with its down-sized Jazz Bass® body. The flexible HSS pickup configuration can crank out anything you ask from fat leads to funky rhythm tones. Combining vintage-inspired appointments with modern, player-oriented features, it's packed with a ton of useful, unique sounds. Made for the stage, this instrument delivers the sound and feel we're famous for, and then some.

Engineered for classic Fender tone, with a bit of an edge for modern guitarists, the fat-sounding Player Series humbucking bridge pickup is joined by a pair of snarling Player Series single-coil Tele® pickups in the middle and neck positions. The traditional



five-way switch gets you all the tones you need from the unique pickup set. The six-saddle vintage-style synchronized tremolo keeps everything in tune while providing a dash of vintage aesthetics. Comfortable for almost any playing style, the neck sports a “Modern C”-shaped profile, along with a 9.5”-radius fingerboard and 22 medium-jumbo frets for a comfortable playing feel.

With its down-sized Jazz Bass body, flexible-sounding pickups and one-of-a-kind visual style, the Sixty-Six is an instrument that’s as unique as you. Includes deluxe gig bag.” (<http://www.dwmusic.com.au/fender-alternate-reality-sixty-six-limited-edition-electric-guitar-mx18177847>)

So, a lot of good reviews for a great guitar! As for the Fender Meteora HH in surf green?? I kept thinking about how good it was to play and I finally gave in and got Derringers to ship it to me a few weeks later. Both are spectacular. I’ll do a review of the Fender Meteora HH in a later issue.

Do you want to see the Sixty-Six in action? Check out the demo video above.

<http://www.dwmusic.com.au/fender-alternate-reality-sixty-six-limited-edition-electric-guitar-mx18177847>

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With its down-sized Jazz Bass body, flexible-sounding pickups and one-of-a-kind visual style, the Sixty-Six is an instrument that’s as unique as you. Includes deluxe gig bag.

Model Name

Fender® Sixty-Six™, Maple Fingerboard, Natural

Model #

0145022321

Series

Alternate Reality Series

Country Of Origin

MX

Color

Natural

Body

Ash

Body Finish

Gloss Polyester

Body Shape

Jazz Bass®

Neck Material

Maple

Neck Finish

Gloss Polyester
Neck Shape
Modern "C"
Scale Length
25.5" (648 mm)
Fingerboard
Maple
Fingerboard Radius
9.5" (241 mm)
Number of Frets
22
Frets Size
Medium Jumbo
String Nut
Synthetic Bone
Nut Width
1.650" (42 mm)
Position Inlays
Black Dots
Truss Rods
Standard
Bridge Pickup
Player Series Alnico 2 Humbucking
Middle Pickup
Player Series Alnico 5 Tele Single-Coil
Neck Pickup
Player Series Alnico 5 Tele Single-Coil
Controls
Master Volume, Master Tone
Pickup Switching
5-Position Blade: Position 1. Bridge Pickup, Position 2. Bridge and Middle Pickup, Position 3. Middle Pickup, Position 4. Middle and Neck Pickup, Position 5. Neck Pickup
Pickup Configuration
HSS
Bridge
6-Saddle Vintage-Style Synchronized Tremolo
Hardware Finish
Nickel/Chrome
Tuning Machines
Fender® Vintage-Style
Pickguard
3-Ply Black/White/Black
Control Knobs
Vintage Style Black Plastic Jazz Bass®
Strings
Fender® Super 250L NPS (.009-.042 Gauges)
Dimensions
4.50x15.20x42.20 IN
Weight
11.80 LB

GUITARS

AMPS

EFFECTS

PIANOS & KEYBOARDS

PREOWNED

OTHER

(02) 6163 3600
0ITEM(S)
0ITEM(S)

(open)
GUITARS
(open)
AMPS
(open)
EFFECTS
(open)
PIANOS & KEYBOARDS
(open)
PREOWNED
(open)
OTHER

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Home Fender Alternate Reality The Sixty-Six Limited Edition Daphne Blue Electric Guitar - MX18165600

Fender Alternate Reality The Sixty-Six Limited Edition Daphne Blue Electric Guitar - MX18165600

0 Review(s)

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Availability: Out of stock

\$1,799.00 \$1,798.00

Zip PaymentOwn it now, pay laterlearn more »

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DESCRIPTIONADDITIONALVIDEOS

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ITEM SHOWN: Fender® Sixty-Six™, Maple Fingerboard, Daphne Blue

MODEL #: 0145022304

UPC #: 885978097470

SAP NAME: FENDER SIXTY-SIX MN DPB

CASE/GIG BAG: Deluxe Gig Bag

Product Specs

Model Name

Fender® Sixty-Six™, Maple Fingerboard, Daphne Blue

Model #

0145022304

Series

Alternate Reality

Country Of Origin

MX

Color

Daphne Blue

Body

Ash

Body Finish

Gloss Polyester

Body Shape

Jazz Bass®

Neck Material

Maple

Neck Finish

Gloss Polyester

Neck Shape

Modern "C"

Scale Length

25.5" (648 mm)

Fingerboard

Maple

Fingerboard Radius

9.5" (241 mm)
Number of Frets
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Frets Size
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Hardware Finish
Nickel/Chrome
Tuning Machines
Fender® Vintage-Style
Pickguard
3-Ply Mint Green
Control Knobs
Vintage Style Black Plastic Jazz Bass®
Strings
Fender® USA 250L Nickel Plated Steel (.009-.042 Gauges)
Dimensions
4.50x15.20x42.20 IN
Weight
11.80 LB

<https://www.musiciansfriend.com/guitars/fender-alternate-reality-sixty-six-electric-guitar>

OVERVIEW

Versatile tone on a body that's familiar, yet different.

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FEATURES

Gloss-finish solid ash body
25.5"-scale maple neck with 22-fret maple fingerboard
Fender Player Humbucker (B) and Tele (M/N) pickups, 5-way switch
Vintage-style synchronized tremolo and tuners
Click or call to order your Alternate Reality Sixty-Six today.

SPECIFICATIONS

Body
Body shape: Offset
Body type: Solid body
Body material: Solid wood
Body wood: Ash
Body finish: Gloss

Orientation: Right handed
Neck
Neck shape: C modern
Neck wood: Roasted Maple
Joint: Bolt-on
Scale length: 25.5 in.
Truss rod: Dual-action
Neck finish: Satin
Fingerboard
Material: Maple
Radius: 9.5 in.
Fret size: Medium jumbo
Number of frets: 22
Inlays: Dot
Nut width/material 1.65 in. (42 mm)
Pickups
Configuration: HSS
Neck: Player Series Tele
Middle: Player Series Tele
Bridge: Player Series humbucker
Brand: Fender
Active or passive pickups: Passive
Series or parallel: Parallel
Controls
Control layout: Master volume, tone
Pickup switch: 5-way
Hardware
Bridge type: Tremolo/Vibrato
Bridge design: 6-saddle vintage-style synchronized tremolo
Tuning machines: Vintage-style
Color: Chrome
Other
Number of strings: 6-string
Case: Gig bag
Country of origin: Mexico