

SPECS

Revival Guitars

(888) 996-2567;
revivalacoustics.com

MODEL	RG-26
PRICE	\$659 retail/ \$527 street
NECK	Mahogany
NUT WIDTH	1.69"
FRETBOARD	Rosewood, 25.5" scale
FRETS	20
TOP	Solid spruce
BACK	Solid mahogany
SIDES	Solid mahogany
BRIDGE	Rosewood w/compensated bone saddle
TUNERS	Grover chrome
ELECTRONICS	N/A
WEIGHT	3.9 lbs
FACTORY STRINGS	D'Addario EXP
KUDOS	A great sounding 00-sized alterna- tive. Solid wood construction. Sweet price.
CONCERNS	None.



Revival RG-26

IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO GET AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO A BOUTIQUE-GRADE guitar for minimal cash outlay, it hardly gets better than the RG-26. This small-bodied beauty from Chinese manufacture features all solid woods, a gloss finish, and sweet looking appointments. Running down the list we find neat wooden bindings on the body and neck, inlaid wood back and end stripes, a heel cap and rosewood headstock facing, and a perfectly rendered abalone rosette and fretboard dots. The construction is top notch in all areas, including the inner workings, where we see carefully shaped and sanded scalloped braces, tight joints, and not a stray speck of dust or glue.

Playability-wise, the RG-26 rules thanks to its moderately slim neck, which sports a low action and well-shaped frets with smooth ends. The guitar's intonation is excellent—thanks in part to the properly cut bone nut and compensated bone saddle—and its acoustic voice is crisp and open with good complexity and presence in the upper mids and highs. The RG-26 has what the company calls a “00 thin body shape,” which, though comfortable to get around on, is a limiting factor to both its volume and projection. But while the RG-26 doesn't have the low-end mass of a dreadnought- or jumbo-sized instrument (which is something that solo performers tend to look for), it is ideally suited for recording. Slap a good mic on this guitar and revel in the pure and balanced tones that come back at you. Built by people who obviously care about attention to detail, the result speaks for itself and the RG-26 gets an Editors' Pick Award.

