

BASS PLAYER – SEPTEMBER 2005

A two-dimensional photograph of the Prima Artist just doesn't do it justice. Its exquisite construction is thoughtful and beautiful. Each exotic wood was chosen for sonic considerations. The Prima's two-wood body core is a first in my experience. Dingwall chose alder for the treble side and walnut for the bass side because, respectively, their resonant characteristics favor those strings' frequency ranges. The body-core joint is wavy to maximize surface area, and it looks cool. The Dingwall FD3.4 pickups and knobs are covered to match the body's three-part lamination. For optimum strength and rigidity, the Dingwall's five-piece neck is reinforced with twin tapered carbon-fiber spars. The slanted, veneered headstock is contiguously carved from the neck at a compound angle to ensure a linear string path to the tuners. Dingwall uses large-head machine bolts to attach the neck and bridge because of the pullout-resistance superiority to wood screws. Even the strap buttons get the detail-oriented treatment: Hard maple plugs under each button prevent the wood screws from pulling out of the softer body-core woods. I loved the battery cover, which is attached with two strong magnets for reliable-but-easy removal.