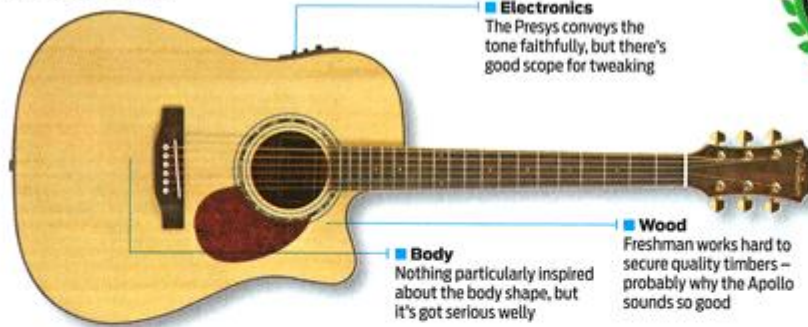


# Freshman Apollo 3 DC £499

We have lift-off



■ **Electronics**  
The Presys conveys the tone faithfully, but there's good scope for tweaking

■ **Body**  
Nothing particularly inspired about the body shape, but it's got serious welly

■ **Wood**  
Freshman works hard to secure quality timbers – probably why the Apollo sounds so good



## At a glance

### Freshman Apollo 3 DC

**BODY:** Solid spruce top and laminate mahogany body  
**NECK:** Mahogany  
**FINGERBOARD:** Rosewood with dot inlays  
**SCALE:** 648mm  
**ELECTRONICS:** Fishman Presys dual blend system  
**HARDWARE:** Gold die-cast  
**LEFT-HANDED:** No  
**FINISH:** Natural finish  
**CONTACT:** Freshman Guitars 01355 228028  
**WEB:** www.freshmanguitars.co.uk

**F**reshman founder Sean Kelly makes a good case for the Apollo 3's price tag. "We don't allow second-best," says the Glaswegian luthier. "Everything is done under my design and I source the woods myself, haggling hard to get premium quality tonewoods... The top is solid AA-grade sitka selected spruce. There are a lot of guitars out there; we have to be better."

It's not the biggest name, nor much to look at, but the Apollo



starts impressing from the moment you strum it unplugged. There's a gorgeous balance to the tone that has sometimes been lacking in this test: a rolling, clear, characterful voice that

you'd happily play without the embellishment of amp or effects, with spruce bite and organic mahogany warmth combining to remind you that this thing used to be a tree. Alongside a manageable neck and effortless fingerboard, it's enough to make you forget about the pretty bulky body (and slightly untidy nut). The best news? Plugged in, it's exactly the same – only louder.

**Conclusion:** Freshman has a habit of building dark horses;

the Apollo 3 turned up looking unassuming then proceeded to nail the raw sound we'd been hunting for and relay it through an amp. You could gripe over the extra £100 here, but it's a small price to pay for a great-handling, tone-packed guitar that will sustain you well into your career.

### SUMMARY

**For:** Lovely balanced tone, great feel

**Against:** Doesn't jump off the shelf

★★★★★

**TG says:** Great Scot!