



FAITH

FECS Eclipse Saturn & FS Natural Saturn

With significant improvements like better timbers, sexier trimmings and all-new pickups and preamps, the Faith brand is looking more tempting than ever. Review by **Jerry Uwins**

Launched in 2003, Faith guitars are made with all-solid woods throughout. The whole range underwent a big Series 2 revamp in 2006 – the date at which the gloss-black Eclipse electros were added. Now the brand has progressed to Series 3, with yet more tweaks designed to further enhance quality and value. These changes – which apply to both our review samples and, indeed, all Faith guitars – include higher-grade back/side timbers, in this case mahogany; rosewood body binding on the Naturals and flame-maple on the Eclipses; macassar striped ebony headstock overlays instead of rosewood, and broader, plusher abalone rosettes. The pins on the ebony bridges, which have been slightly restyled, are now arrayed in a gentle curve to help minimise stress along the grain.

FECS Eclipse Saturn

This all-black cutaway spruce-top dreadnought is a mighty fine looker. The flamed binding contrasts beautifully against the impeccably shiny lacquer, and on the inside the guitar is as clean as a whistle. Like all Faiths, it has a useful strap button at the heel. The gloss treatment is continued up the full-scale mahogany neck, which has



Six trim pots provide a degree of individual string balance



Soundhole decoration is more lavish than before

Tweaks include higher-grade backs and sides, plusher abalone rosettes and the Shadow L4020 Hex electro system

a mainstream span and a comfortably slick, shallow-to-medium-depth 'C' profile. Bridge string spacing is only a gnat's under 55mm, so it's a good all-purpose arrangement.

Cosmetic re-jigs aside, the main development on the Eclipses is a new Shadow system: the L4020 Hex. This involves a Nanoflex 6 undersaddle transducer with a separate pickup ➔

FINAL SCORE

| FAITH FECS ECLIPSE SATURN | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Build Quality | 19/20 |
| Playability | 18/20 |
| Sound | 18/20 |
| Value for money | 18/20 |
| Looks | 17/20 |
| TOTAL | 90% |

FACTFILE

Faith FECS Eclipse Saturn

DESCRIPTION Cutaway dreadnought electro-acoustic. Made in Indonesia
PRICE £699 inc. case

BUILD Engelmann spruce top, mahogany back/sides/neck. 20-fret ebony board. Ebony bridge, Tusq nut/saddle, Grover tuners. Shadow L4020 Hex with Nanoflex 6; Volume, Bass, Middle, Treble, Pan, Phase, string gain trim pots, auto-chromatic tuner
OPTIONS FECS Jupiter jumbo (£729) or FECS Venus (£689) – cutaway with L4020 Hex
LEFT-HANDERS No
FINISH Gloss black

SCALE LENGTH 650mm/25.6"
NECK WIDTH
Nut 43mm
12th fret 52.5mm
DEPTH OF NECK
First fret 20.5mm
Ninth fret 23mm
STRING SPACING
Nut 36.5mm
Bridge 54.5mm
WEIGHT 2.16kg/4.75lb

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RRP £599

Epiphone DAVE NAVARRO 'JANE'
Solid spruce/sapele, hexagram neck markers, Two-band eSonic system
RRP £499

Note: both the above are gloss black and cutaway, with tuner-loaded preamps