

**FACTFILE**

**Faith FS Natural Saturn**

**DESCRIPTION** Dreadnought acoustic. Made in Indonesia  
**PRICE** £559 inc. case

**BUILD** Solid Engelmann spruce top, solid mahogany back and sides. Mahogany neck with 20-fret black-bound ebony fingerboard. Ebony bridge, Tusq nut and saddle, black-buttoned gold Grover Rotomatic tuners, two strap buttons  
**OPTIONS** FS12 12-string (£659), FSCE cutaway electro (£675) with Shadow Performer Tuner system  
**LEFT-HANDERS** Yes, the FSL (£589)  
**FINISH** Gloss natural top, satin back, sides and neck

**SCALE LENGTH** 650mm/25.6"  
**NECK WIDTH**  
Nut 43mm  
12th fret 52.5mm  
**DEPTH OF NECK**  
First fret 20mm  
Ninth fret 23mm  
**STRING SPACING**  
Nut 36.5mm  
Bridge 54.5mm  
**ACTION AS SUPPLIED**  
12th fret treble 2.0mm  
12th fret bass 2.5mm  
**MAX RIM DEPTH** 120mm  
**MAX BODY WIDTH** 393mm  
**FINGERBOARD RADIUS** 16"  
**WEIGHT** 1.93kg/4.5lb

**CONTACT** Barnes & Mullins  
01691 652449  
www.faithguitars.com

**Like these? Try these..**

**Tanglewood**  
TW15-NS  
Spruce/mahogany with one-piece voluted neck and bone nut and saddle  
RRP £599

**Vintage**  
V1400  
Features flame-maple body, neck binding and abalone rosette  
RRP £429

**Walden**  
D2040  
Finished in nitrocellulose and including wood bindings and rosette  
RRP £466

**Note:** all the above are satin-finish all-solid spruce/mahogany. The Walden includes a case



Figured ebony bridge now comes with curved bridge pins



Rosewood binding and a second strap button as standard

**These dreads look classy and play well, the sounds are on the money, and the Hex system offers that little bit extra**

for each string, individually routed to the preamp which has six trimpots. These enable you to balance output variances across the strings, a common problem with undersaddle systems. In reality the difference between min and max gain on each trimpot is fairly subtle, so it won't rectify any severe imbalances, but it's a neat idea and effective for fine adjustments.

Apart from a three-band EQ, phase and a system-muting tuner, there's a pan control which, if using a 'Y' lead hooked up to two amps, enables the strings' image to be shifted across the soundfield. When running through a single amp the control is best left at its centre setting. This neat feature raises the possibility of applying a different effect to each side of the sound.

**Sounds**

With punch and projection well up to typical dreadnought levels, the acoustic delivery is sunny with nicely sparkling highs, though not at the expense of a reasonably firm low end. There's some scooping in the mids, giving an even, open texture across the strings. Powered up, the Hex system's gain is fairly modest but the sound is natural, with a sympathetic range of middle and bass, whether cut or boosted. The only caution is to go easy with the treble unless you like very zingy highs.

**FS Natural Saturn**

Apart from not having a cutaway or electro system, this FS is essentially the Eclipse laid bare. The all-natural finish - satin with a gloss top - reveals a prettily cross-silked, close-grained Englemann

spruce top, and the mahogany, with bookmatched back, looks smart, as does the front's wood-purpled rosewood binding. The finishing, as before, is tip-top.

As on the Eclipse, the bound macassar ebony fingerboard doesn't carry any front markers except for the octave 'F' motif, but there's the essential line-up of side dots. The scarfjointed neck is a shade shallower under the first position but otherwise dimensionally - including string spacing - is a dead ringer for the other's, and plays equally obligingly. The near-medium fretting on both instruments is very well dressed. One minor hardware variation is gold tuners rather than the Eclipse's chrome jobs, though both feature black buttons.

**Sounds**

Due probably to its largely satin finish - and maybe the absence of a cutaway - the FS has slightly more overall exuberance, an attack that's a shade snappier in the midrange and a low end that subtly deeper and warmer. Beyond these tonal nuances, the sound is akin to the Eclipse's and shares its likeably sunny disposition.

**Verdict**

Brand owner Barnes & Mullins got it pretty much right with Faith from the word go, and the subsequent revamps see them just getting better and better. With its all-black livery the FECS Eclipse Saturn is aimed at the more rock-



minded electro performer, while the FS will please those looking for a more traditional vibe. There's a reassuring precision to the build quality of both; these dreads look classy and play well, and the sounds are right on the money... and the Eclipse's new Hex system offers something that little bit extra and different. Choose either model - both including case - and you'll be making a worthwhile, affordable investment. 🎸

FINAL SCORE	
FAITH FS NATURAL SATURN	
<b>Build Quality</b>	19/20
<b>Playability</b>	18/20
<b>Sound</b>	18/20
<b>Value for money</b>	18/20
<b>Looks</b>	16/20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89%</b>