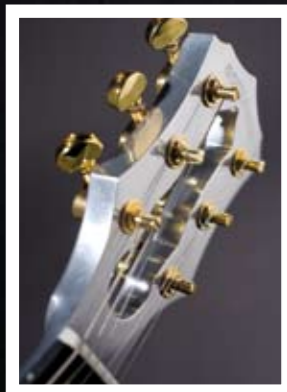


HEAVY METAL



WE TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT A UNIQUE ALUMINIUM SIX-STRING FROM A NEW BRITISH CUSTOM GUITAR BUILDER

■ This stunning instrument is made by Anthony Goulding, who has combined his many years experience in precision engineering with a love of guitars to create this awesome all-aluminium axe.

Goulding's guitars are made individually to order. They're based around the same body shape, but otherwise just about anything goes, and prices start from £2,900. Any pickups and electronics you like can be accommodated, and Goulding offers all manner of coloured anodised finishes, in addition to chrome- and gold-plating and the polished aluminium finish seen here.

The guitar's body starts out as a 2-inch-thick billet of solid aluminium, which is then routed out from the rear. The neck is milled from a separate block of aluminium and attached to the body with four large bolts. The front of this particular

guitar has been machined to create a 'German carve' effect around the edge of the body, but you can specify a flat top if you want.

Similarly, the choice of hardware is up to you. The tailpiece and pickup mounting rings on this guitar (both gold-plated brass) were designed and made by Goulding himself, but you could also opt for a Bigsby or stoptail. This guitar is equipped with both magnetic humbucking pickups and an L.R. Baggs piezo bridge, yielding a wide range of sounds.

The guitar is surprisingly loud when played unplugged. Through an amp, a definite hollowbody resonance comes through but unlike a conventional hollowbody, the guitar is highly resistant to feedback. **GB**

■ Call Goulding Guitars on 01702 619214 or visit www.gouldingguitars.com

