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# Deep Impact

**JERICO AVENGER LONG-SCALE ELECTRIC GUITAR** By Eric Kirkland



**L**ONG-SCALE ELECTRIC guitars are a logical choice for modern guitarists who crave more depth, resonance and sonic authority yet prefer to avoid the hand-cramping neck width of most seven- and eight-string axes. Studio engineers' routinely utilize them to thicken anemic tracks, but onstage applications have understandably been limited by their typically larger bodies and equally unwieldy 28- to 30-inch-scale necks. Jericho Guitars is a relative newcomer that hopes to change this paradigm with its sleek and stylized Avenger. The Avenger is a 27-inch-scale guitar that looks and feels like any standard-scale guitar and is designed to complement the tonal curve of today's high-gain super amps.

**FEATURES** As the old joke goes, guitar players are willing to try anything new, as long as it's identical to what they're currently using. Thus, with some careful design and construction choices, Jericho made the Avenger's length and body size identical to those of any standard-scale guitar. Lightweight mahogany ensures fully formed lows and midrange depth, but the critical tone and construction elements are neck-centric.

Jericho specially selects the maple used for its necks from a reserve stock in British Columbia and extends a long, tone and stability enhancing neck tenon into the body. The neck is created by affixing flat-sawn maple to the sides of a rock-solid quarter-sawn maple core and topping it with an ebony fretboard,

producing defined notes and withstanding the tension exerted by massive strings. Hardware, likewise, is selected for musicality and stability. It includes a Graph Tech TUSQ XL nut, Grover tuners and a TonePros Tune-o-matic bridge. The pickups are Seymour Duncan's Invader at the bridge and a Full Shred at the neck, which are mated to a three-way switch and master controls for volume and tone. Although not expressly built for a long-scale guitar, the pickups' overwound gain, magnet strength and EQ curve are an ideal match for the Avenger's weighty voice.

**PERFORMANCE** There is no rule that says you have to string the Avenger with baritone-sized wires. In fact, Jericho encourages players to experiment with string gauge. I ultimately preferred it set up heavy on the lows and light on top. The Avenger is smooth, fast and highly responsive, with the conventional feel of low action paired to a C-shaped neck. When plugged into a high-gain amp channel—preferably one with enough power and damping to deliver the Avenger's full spectrum of low-end tone—the Avenger delivers extreme levels of low-end thrust, yet it remains musical and expressive. The high-gain Duncan pickups aren't overly focused in the lows, so there's no need to worry about blowing out your speakers. The highs, however, will scream off the ebony fretboard with tone that is fully developed and three-dimensional, unlike standard-scale guitars with a higher resonant peak.

## CHEAT SHEET



### STREET PRICE

\$849

### MANUFACTURER

Jericho Guitars,  
[jerichoguitars.com](http://jerichoguitars.com)

- Flat-sawn sides and a quarter-sawn core ensure that the maple neck is stable enough to handle the strings' higher tension, yet has enough bounce to produce organic tones.

- Seymour Duncan Invader and Full Shred humbuckers deliver famously hot highs and dialed-in lows, while optimizing tonal balance with pole pieces that are height-adjusted to match the bridge's radius.

### THE BOTTOM LINE

Jericho's 27-inch scale Avenger vastly expands the guitar's range while maintaining the physical dimensions, feel and weight of more commonly scaled guitars, opening a new door into the realm of deep-toned musical expression.