



# OVA

There are many problems inherent in building a guitar out of wood, not least that the material is susceptible to atmospheric conditions and that it has a limited amount of elasticity — stretch it too far and it will either bend permanently, or break.

Many other materials have been tried, not least plastic. Gibson attempted some work upon plastic instruments many years ago, and there was also the famous plastic 'Maccaferri' guitar that was sold through mail order outlets in the USA. Now, of course, there is carbon graphite and this has been used to great effect on the Bond and Steriberger, and there is also Lyricon, a matt fibre solid, used in the bowlbacks of the Ovation range of instruments.

Distributed in the UK by Rose Morris, the Ovation range has grown considerably over the past decade — from the Balladeer

and Glen Campbell models, through to the new Adamus series.

The first time that I personally laid eyes on the Adamus was the TV film of P. McCartney Esq., playing same while dragging out Mull Of Kintyre . . . not an auspicious introduction, but one that was speedily made up for by subsequent appearances of the instrument with Nancy Wilson of Heart, and later Adrian Legg and Roy Harper two excellent acoustic musicians, with widely different needs in an acoustic, but both of which were satisfied with this innovative guitar.

The Lyrachord roundbacks of the Ovation range came as a spinoff from helicopter technology — a material that was being experimented on for greater durability of these flying machines, and which Victor Kaman also discovered was an answer to some of the many problems

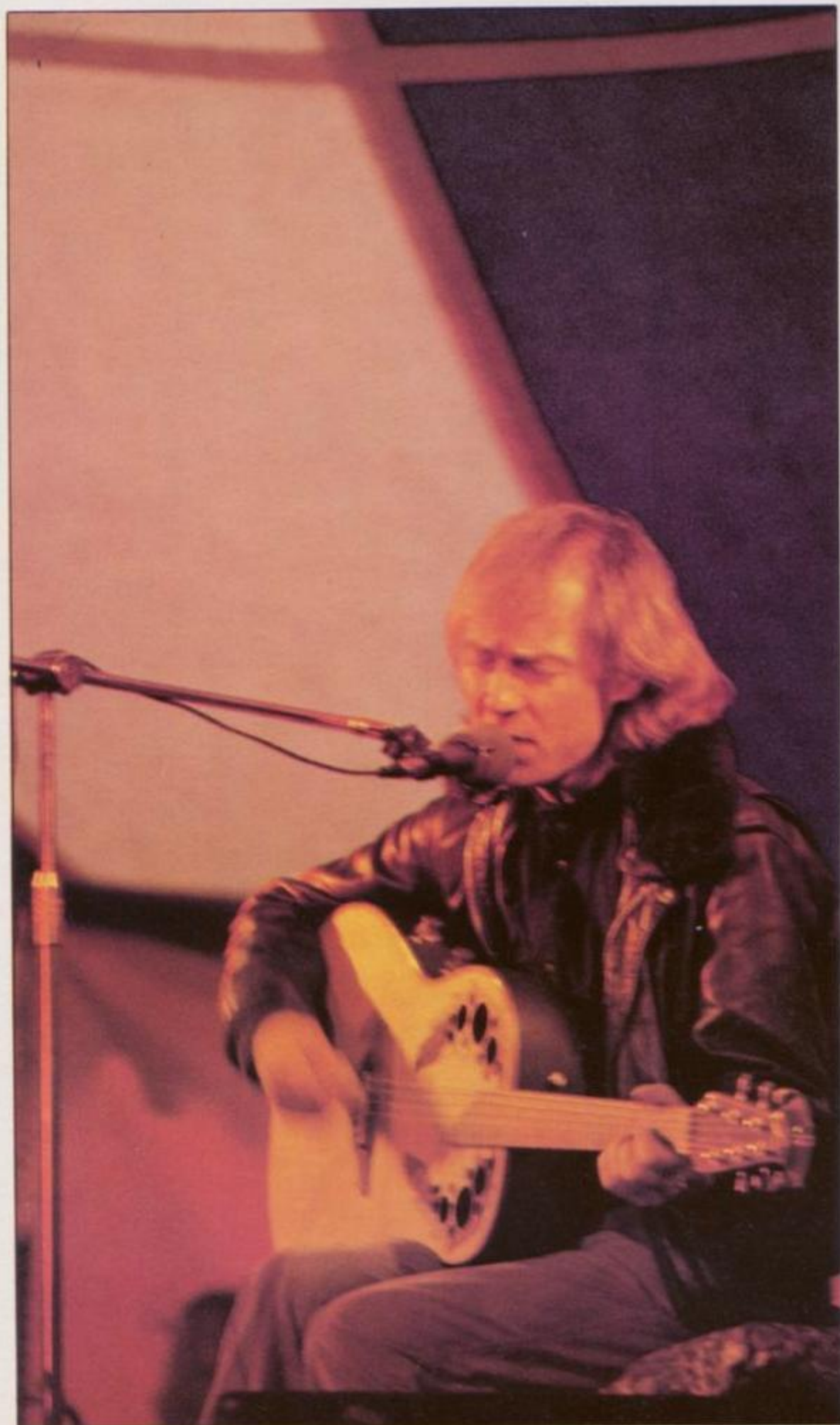
that musicians faced when presented with traditionally styled guitars. The story of that breakthrough is now well known, but of course it hasn't ended yet! Kaman is still experimenting, and we should expect to see some other new developments on this theme in the years to come.

But the latest chapter is that of the Adamus — utilising for the first time the Lyrachord top instead of the usual wooden style favoured for the Ovation range. These were offered in a variety of colours to begin with — and caused a stir in Shaftesbury Avenue when they were displayed for the first time in the window of the Rose Morris shop there.

Subsequently came the Ovation Adamus Elite, probably the most versatile acoustic/electric guitar in the World. The construction is of Lyrachord bowl-



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back, with the return of the wooden top. Roy Harper and Adrian Legg are both now utilising the delights of this instrument. The soundhole placement gives a specific and logical extension to the old single hole school of thought – coupled to the old violin and mandolin idea of the f-hole placement. In effect, the acoustic sound from the Adamus is very bright and clear – and it is also very like to the electric sound that the guitar can generate.

Recently there has been a drive towards a more acoustic base for modern rock (and pop) music, and the demands of the musicians of the early 1970s who needed easily amplifiable acoustic guitars, has delivered to the new artists of the 1980s not only compatible instruments, but also stylish ones too!