

The
Ovation
Roundbacks



 **OVATION INSTRUMENTS**
Division of Kaman Corp., New Hartford, Connecticut

W. P. Muste & Jewelers
5112 W. Irving Park Road
Chicago, Illinois 60641

Ovation The Innovation Guitar

A stunning innovation in guitar styling and performance, the Ovation roundbacks are the most scientifically designed fretted instruments produced in 400 years.

This new family of fine acoustic guitars—unique in contour and in the materials of which their bowls are made—combines the sophistication of contemporary aerospace technologies with the painstaking craftsmanship that has characterized master guitar workshops for centuries.

Ovation roundbacks are distinguished by their gracefully rounded (semi-parabolic) backs—precision-formed of Lyrachord, a lightweight engineered silicone fiber and resin material with a molecular structure far more resonant and durable than wood.

Like amphitheatres, echo chambers, band shells and sea shells, the internally smooth one-piece rounded back of an Ovation acoustic guitar produces measurably superior natural amplification of undistorted sound across the instrument's entire tonal range.

Aircraft adhesives, stronger than the components they join together, bond the Ovation's graduated top of choice Sitka spruce and its Lyrachord bowl, its warp-resistant laminated Honduras mahogany neck, ebony fingerboard, Brazilian rosewood bridge and peghead veneering into an instrument of extraordinary strength and durability. A fully adjustable torsion rod, designed to withstand 2,200 pounds of tensile stress, reinforces the neck. Nickel-silver frets are set and honed to a tolerance of plus or minus .003 of an inch.

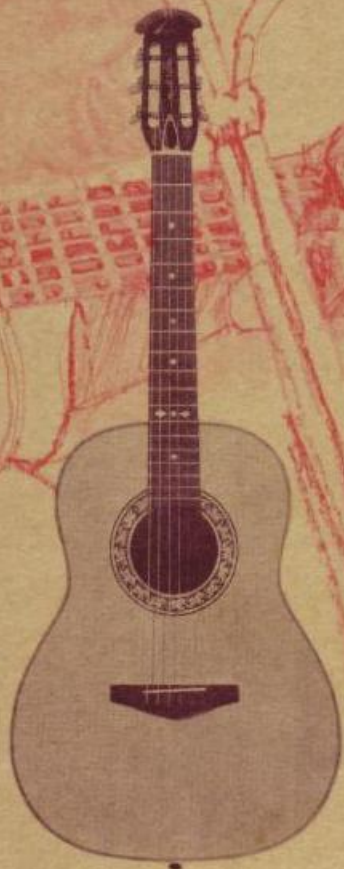
And finally, every Ovation roundback is finished with hand-rubbed polyester, another resilient but damage-resistant product of aerospace technology.

But beauty and durability alone are not the criteria by which an Ovation roundback should be judged. Just one hearing will demonstrate without question what all this technology has produced—a remarkable new sound on today's music scene.

THE JOSH WHITE

Named for one of America's foremost folk and blues interpreters, this steel string model has a slightly broader neck than other six-string instruments to afford wider string spacing and consequently more flexibility in playing both finger and flat pick styles.

The classic tuning machinery is gold, hand-engraved and fitted with carved simulated bone pegs.



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THE STANDARD BALLADEER

For flat and finger-picking styles of playing that are popular among serious students, folk and folk-rock, blue grass and country-western musicians, the steel string Balladeer's superior timbre and tonal projection make even the most accomplished performer sound better. This is due in large measure to the Ovation's rounded Lyrachord backs.



THE DELUXE BALLADEER

All Ovation soundboards are made of the highest grade of Sitka spruce obtainable, but the very choicest specimens are reserved for the Deluxe Balladeers' graduated tops. Tuning machinery is the finest available. The distinctive floral pattern rosette is a new concept in guitar ornamentation and there is an extra band of black in the purfling. The binding is ivory grained.



THE TWELVE-STRING

To that unique new-old sound to be had only with a 12-string guitar, the Ovation roundback adds a whole new dimension . . . richer, brighter, stronger . . . more presence . . . an almost harpsichordian effect. The 12-string's slightly smaller soundhole contains and amplifies the octave harmonics.





THE CONTEMPORARY FOLK CLASSIC

A new venture in guitar esthetics as well as sound, the Contemporary Folk Classic is available in four bowl colors — red, green, blue and black. The rounded Lyrachord silicone fiber and resin bowl on this model is slightly shallower than those of other Ovation roundbacks. Light yet extremely durable, the Contemporary Folk Classic is ideal for beach or picnic, party or performance. Its nylon voice is well balanced yet exceptionally brilliant in the upper ranges. The rosewood fingerboard is flat.



THE CLASSIC

The characteristic report of the nylon strings is sharpened and intensified by the Lyrachord bowl of the Classic model. The ebony fingerboard is wider and perfectly flat, with inlaid sideboard markings at the 3rd, 5th, 7th and 9th frets. Wood herringbone purfling complements the formality of the rosette ornamentation. The gold-plated classic tuning machinery is hand-engraved, with carved simulated bone pegs.



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1 Ovation roundback guitars—the first significant departure from conventional acoustic instrument design in 400 years—in final assembly at the New Hartford, Conn., plant of Ovation Instruments Division of Kaman Corporation. The sound chamber of the Ovation roundback is made of Lyrachord, a space-age engineered silicone fiber and resin substance with a molecular structure far more resonant and durable than wood. It is almost impervious to damage, heat or moisture. Lyrachord can't warp, check, split or crack.

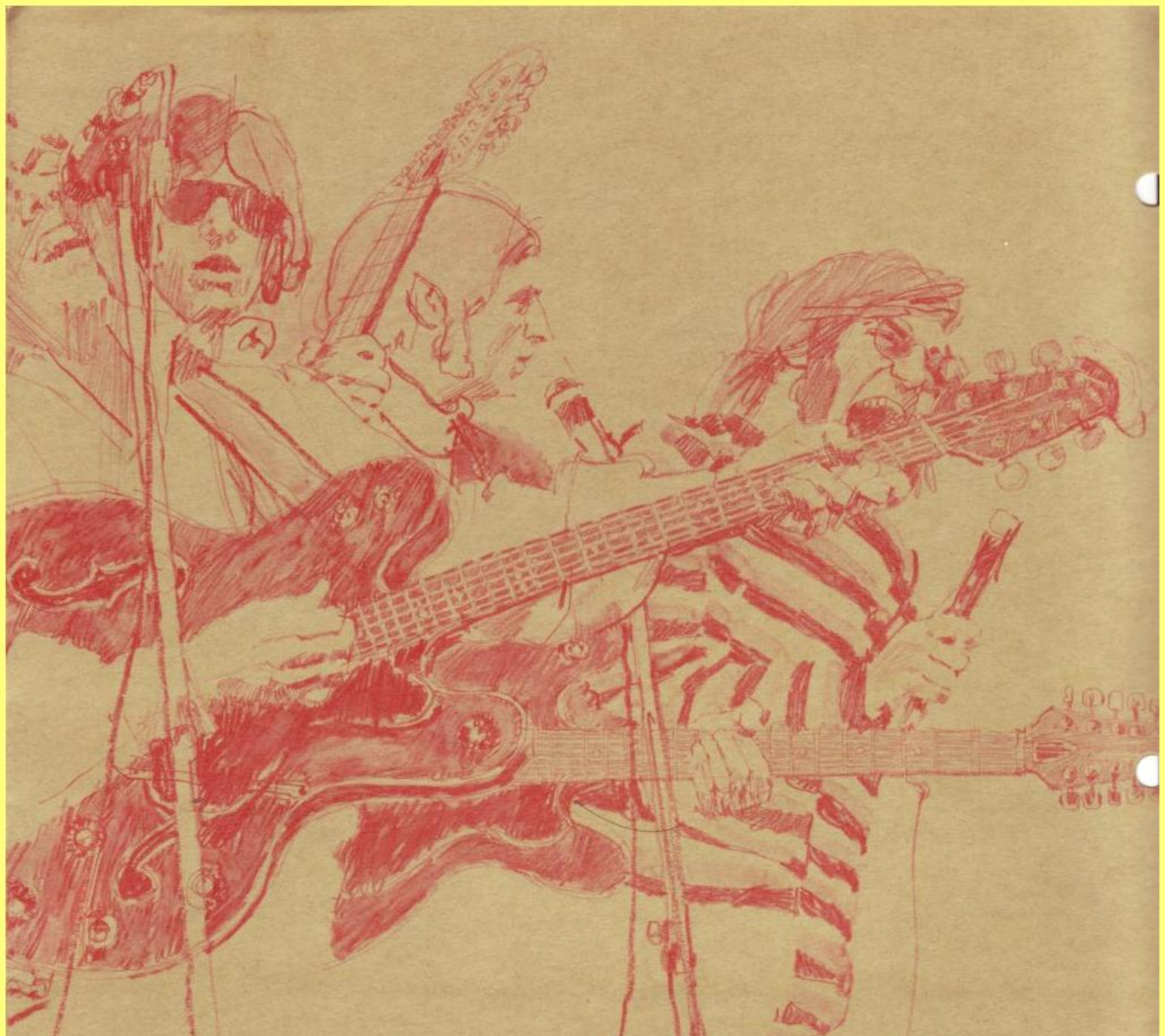
2 Nickel-silver frets imbedded in the ebony fingerboards of Ovation roundback guitars are hand-honed to plus or minus .003 of an inch precision. Fret spacing and height are critical details in the finishing of a fine instrument.

3 Before inseting the ornamental rosette of an Ovation roundback, a woodworker carefully smooths a sound hole routed in the spruce top.

4 Aircraft adhesives—stronger than the components they join together—permanently bond the rosewood bridge to the Ovation roundback's soundboard.

5 Jim D. Gurley, Ovation Instruments' general manager, checks matched spruce soundboards at New Hartford, Conn. factory. Only the choicest Sitka spruce—12 annual rings to the inch—is used for the 1/8" thick graduated tops of Ovation roundbacks.

6 At the end of the line... a fine Josh White model guitar is given final inspection before shipment to dealer.



Storm Warning

Out of the same advanced aerospace technology that produced the Ovation roundbacks has come a superb new line of acoustic electric guitars and basses—the Ovation Electric Storms—and the powerful new solid-state Apollo amplifiers.

The Electric Storms come in three models—two six-string and a 12-string, and there are two models of electric basses. All are thin-bodied, arched-top double-cutaways with fully adjustable necks and bridges, dual pickups and separate tone

and volume controls.

Three models of Apollo amplifiers, designed and produced by the same company that makes cardiostethoscopes to monitor the heart and pulse beat of America's orbiting Astronauts, offer out-of-this-world dimensions in the control and amplification of the newest sounds on today's popular music horizon.

Ask your dealer for a complete catalog on the Ovation Electric Storms and Apollo amplifiers.

The Ovation Story

Ovation Instruments is the newest division of Kaman Corporation, a diversified Connecticut-based company of more than 2,700 employees, almost a fourth of whom are scientists, engineers and technicians.

The industries in which Kaman partici-

pates include electronic instrumentation, aerospace, nuclear sciences, space medicine, educational and social sciences, oceanography, transportation and—most recently—recreation.

In October, 1966, Kaman Corporation formed Ovation Instruments Division to produce and market an unusual new line of guitars—acoustic and electric—and musical instrument amplifiers.

Back of this decision was more than two

years of intensive acoustical inquiry into guitar design, the objective of which was to see if Kaman's expertise in developing and manufacturing helicopters, airframe and missile components, electronic instrumentation and other products for the aerospace industry could be applied creatively to the centuries-old art of guitar making.

In what is believed to be one of the most searching scientific inquiries into the physics of the guitar ever undertaken,

Kaman's engineers made two important discoveries. One was that an internally smooth, one-piece rounded guitar back projected musical sound more efficiently—and therefore with greater tonal purity, clarity and volume—than conventional all-wood guitars, the straight backs and sides of which must be braced and reinforced internally by many strips of sound-dampening wood.

The other discovery was that an aero-

space material—resin-impregnated silicone fiber—not only could be formed into a semi-parabolic and more voluminous sound cavity housing but (even more important) that this material also could be “tuned” chemically and with heat to have precisely specified resonance properties.

The fact that such an engineered material—Kaman called it Lyrachord—is also virtually indestructible adds a measure of durability unheard of in the entire history

of guitar manufacturing. Lyrachord can't warp, check, crack or split and is impervious to ordinary moisture and temperature extremes. Moreover, dimensional precision and quality control are inherently part of its fabrication process.

Since February, 1967, Ovation Instruments Division has been producing and marketing guitars and related products at its plant in New Hartford (Conn.) Industrial Park.

Specifications

| | Josh White | Standard Balladeer |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Overall length | 40" | 40 $\frac{3}{4}$ " |
| Width at lower bout | 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ " | 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ " |
| Width at waist | 10 $\frac{1}{8}$ " | 10 $\frac{1}{8}$ " |
| Weight | 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. | 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. |
| Scale length | 25 $\frac{1}{4}$ " | 25 $\frac{1}{4}$ " |
| Number of frets | 18 | 20 |
| Composition | Nickel-silver | Nickel-silver |
| Neck joins body at | 12th fret | 14th fret |
| Fret marker positions | Face—3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 12th, 15th | Face—3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 12th, 15th |
| Fingerboard Radius | Ebony 14" | Ebony 10" |
| Neck width at nut | 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ " | 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ " |
| Tuning machinery | Classic, hand-engraved, gold-plated, carved simulated bone pegs | Kluson patent heads |

| Deluxe Balladeer | Twelve-string | Contemporary Folk Classic | Classic |
|--|--|---|---|
| 40 $\frac{3}{4}$ " | 40 $\frac{3}{8}$ " | 39 $\frac{1}{2}$ " | 40" |
| 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ " | 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ " | 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ " | 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ " |
| 10 $\frac{5}{8}$ " | 10 $\frac{5}{8}$ " | 10 $\frac{5}{8}$ " | 10 $\frac{5}{8}$ " |
| 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. | 5 lbs. | 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. | 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. |
| 25 $\frac{1}{4}$ " | 25 $\frac{1}{4}$ " | 25 $\frac{1}{4}$ " | 25 $\frac{1}{4}$ " |
| 20 Nickel-silver | 18 Nickel-silver | 18 Nickel-silver | 18 Nickel-silver |
| 14th fret | 12th fret | 12th fret | 12th fret |
| Face—3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 12th, 15th | Face—3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 12th, 15th | Sideboard—3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th | Sideboard—3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th |
| Ebony 10" | Ebony 14" | Rosewood Flat | Ebony Flat |
| 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ " | 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ " | 1 $\frac{63}{64}$ " | 1 $\frac{63}{64}$ " |
| Grover Rotomatic patent heads | Kluson patent heads | Classic, hand-engraved, gold-plated, carved simulated bone pegs | Classic, hand-engraved, gold-plated, carved simulated bone pegs |