

Scrofulous Count	May 5th, 2006 02:31 PM Edit Profile
USA	Hi all, haven't been around in a while, but this got me scratching my head...this needs Hans!!!
	<p>Body is not a NB (should be hollowed out mahogany with a bound spruce or maple top), but is a slab mid-80's "Setzer" BB...but it lacks the wonderful neck of the Setzer BB, which was multi-bound with a mahogany board and the square/triangle abalone/MOP inlays (with the unfortunate pointy head). Neck looks like a typical low-end, rosewood, dots and chesterfield, much like the NB I...but the tuning machines are also weird.</p> <p>Sure looks like a Frankenbird, but is it an aftermarket kluge or is it an end of the line let's slap parts together guitar from the Westerly line?</p> <p>Frankenbird???</p>

Hans Moust Contributing Member	May 5th, 2006 03:05 PM Edit Profile
the Netherlands	<p>Hello Count,</p> <p>Good to hear from you! Actually it is a Nightbird from the early '90s.It's called a Nightbird Deluxe. I personally do not consider it a true Nightbird but that's what the big hats at Guild at the time thought it should be called.</p> <p>The information that goes with the auction is only partially correct. It is not a bad guitar but it is not in the same league as the 'true' Nightbirds and it should be priced at about half what the guy is asking for it.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Hans Moust</p>

Road King Cole Contributing Member ***	May 5th, 2006 04:41 PM Edit Profile
near Cape Cod, MA <i>better living through denial</i>	<p>Welcome back!</p> <p>Hope all is well.</p> <p>rkc</p>

Scrofulous Count	May 5th, 2006 08:42 PM Edit Profile
USA	Hi again and thanks...yeah, despite the NB name, actually seems a notch below the Setzer BB because it doesn't have the fancy neck. A "real" NB should always have the hogged out body and the nice carved wood top.

Scrofulous Count	May 5th, 2006 10:05 PM Edit Profile
USA	<p>Hey...I politely asked the seller about the guitar and pointed out it has a solid slab body, not like the real NB's in his cut-and-paste description...here's his response:</p> <p>"it is an unusual nightbird, that is the point!!...only a small number made for two years...most nightbirds have aspects similar to the 'new' bluesbird range.. regarding the neck.I think you should realise that it has a Nightbird serial number!! a number which matches the year mentioned. Regarding the body.. I am afraid I have to be blunt and tell you you are talking a load of crap!!..sorry but I know the tonal difference between solid and hollow..also there is the wieght.But apart from that, its easy to see by removing the pickups, that this guitar has a split top of different wood to the rest of the body...Please dont tell me about a guitar that you dont have in your hands You are arrogant and it seems an IDIOT!.."</p> <p>Well, I have owned a real NB as well as a Setzer BB, and I sure as heck know which this guitar is closer to!</p> <p>I know Guild production would swap parts at times and use everything left over in stock, so is it possible they had 20 or so Setzer BB bodies left lying around and then created the "NB Deluxe" just to use them up? The neck on those Setzer BB's really was fantastic, though, everything you expect on a top of the line Guild neck except a stupid headstock. This looks like a very normal, low-end Guild neck in every respect.</p> <p>Nice guitar, but not very nightbirdy except in name only. Maybe he'll read here and believe someone besides me...solid slab body, right Hans?</p>

Scrofulous Count	May 5th, 2006 10:24 PM Edit Profile
USA	<p>Never mind Hans...just looked at Dave Riemer's always nice Nightbird pages (where the seller ripped off the text in his ad)....look at the "misc." page...in the last ad shown, they talk about the NB deluxe as having a "solid poplar body" ...exactly like the Setzer BB.</p> <p>http://nightbirdpages.home.comcast.net/misc.htm</p>

Hans Moust Contributing Member	May 6th, 2006 12:55 AM Edit Profile
the Netherlands	<p>Hi Count,</p> <p>Well actually, I do mind! Most of the information in the sellers auction was taken from the Nightbird pages and the info is not correct, basically because David Reimer has never seen a Bluesbird Deluxe. Now, I don't blame him because they are sort of rare, but I have seen them and I can tell you that it's not a slab body like the '80s Setzer Bluesbird. It has a glued-on top but like I said before, as far as I'm concerned, it's not a 'real' Nightbird.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Hans Moust</p>

Scrofulous Count	May 6th, 2006 09:01 PM Edit Profile
USA	<p>Thanks Hans, just trying to get educated myself...you say there is a glued-on top, but the ad on David's page says "solid poplar body." Obviously the top is flat like the Setzer BB and it has the same contour on the top back. The electronic access hole on the back is a different shape, and the BB had an access cut center on the back for the pups and wanker bar springs. It certainly looks like the exact same body, and I know the BB was a slab (or bookmatched slab) of either poplar or maple (although the maple on my old one seemed to be a veneer on the slab).</p> <p>How is the NB DX body different from the Setzer BB?</p>

Hans Moust Contributing Member	May 7th, 2006 12:43 PM Edit Profile
the Netherlands	<p>Hello again Count,</p> <p>Re. just trying to get educated myself. Sure, I understand. We all do!</p> <p>Re. you say there is a glued-on top, but the ad on David's page says "solid poplar body." Like I said in my earlier posting, obviously David has never seen a Nightbird Deluxe himself.</p> <p>Re. Obviously the top is flat like the Setzer BB and it has the same contour on the top back. The top on a Nightbird Deluxe is not flat but it does have a similar contour cut out on the back.</p> <p>Here are some pictures to show some of the differences between the two:</p> <p>Nightbird Deluxe</p>

Hans Moust Contributing Member	May 7th, 2006 12:46 PM Edit Profile
the Netherlands	<p>Now here's the body of a '80s Bluesbird shot from the same angle. Notice the comfort contour on the top.</p> <p>'80s Bluesbird</p>

Hans Moust Contributing Member	May 7th, 2006 12:52 PM Edit Profile
the Netherlands	<p>Re. It certainly looks like the exact same body</p> <p>And here's a (bad) picture of the two side by side. Note the differences in the cutaway. The Bluesbird still has the old (sort of) M-75 style cutaway, while the Nightbird Deluxe has the typical Nightbird cutaway. Furthermore the Nightbird is somewhat bigger than the '80s Bluesbird, so there's no way you can turn some leftover bodies into something like the Nightbird Deluxe.</p> <p>Body shapes of Nightbird Deluxe and '80s Bluesbird</p>

Hans Moust Contributing Member	May 7th, 2006 01:05 PM Edit Profile
the Netherlands	<p>Now the fact that the Nightbird Deluxe has the overall shape of a Nightbird that doesn't make it a 'true' Nightbird in my book. The seller in the auction thinks differently but he definitely has most of the facts wrong. Unfortunately some people prefer being rude and arrogant instead of trying to educate others and maybe educate themselves in the process.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Hans Moust</p> <p>(This message was last edited by Hans Moust at 02:51 PM, May 7th, 2006)</p>

john_kidder	May 7th, 2006 03:51 PM Edit Profile
Canada <i>Just Guilds, please!</i>	<p>Nothing to add to this discussion, except to say welcome back, Count. Always interesting - sounds like a lovely encounter with a true gentleman of an eBay vendor.</p> <p>Cheers,</p> <p>John Kidder</p>

Scrofulous Count	May 8th, 2006 01:38 PM Edit Profile
USA	<p>thanks! Seeing them side by side points out the differences...I'd forgotten about the top contour on the BB, but both have the similar back contour. The top of the NB DX still looks pretty flat, more like the Setzer BB, rather than the pronounced carved dome of a real NB (or a real BB for that matter). As for Dave not seeing one before, I was actually referring to what Guild was saying about the guitars in the jpg of the ad with Buddy Guy that is the last image on the link below. The NB II and the NB Custom have the usual description of a "real" NB...semi-hollow carved mahogany body, carved maple top, etc. But the guitars at the bottom of the ad, the NB Standard and NB Deluxe, are both listed as having solid poplar bodies, mahogany necks, and no alternative wood for the top.</p> <p>http://nightbirdpages.home.comcast.net/misc.htm</p>

Hans Moust Contributing Member	May 8th, 2006 02:34 PM Edit Profile
the Netherlands	<p>Yes, I'm familiar with the Guild literature, but on that same page they say that the Nightbird Custom has EMG pickups, while the photo shows the regular HB-1 pickups. I've learned not to trust the catalog descriptions and/or photos. A lot of times the info is wrong or outdated!</p> <p>As far as the Nightbird Deluxe is concerned, it has an added carved top which is as arched as a regular Nightbird, but it doesn't show as well on a black guitar especially when there are no bindings.</p> <p>I'll try to make a photo tomorrow with a straight edge over the top.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Hans Moust</p>

Hans Moust Contributing Member	May 9th, 2006 01:27 AM Edit Profile
the Netherlands	<p>OK, here we go!</p> <p>I made some quick shots of a regular Nightbird and a Nightbird Deluxe both with a straight edge over the top, which shows the arching of the top very well.</p> <p>Here's the regular Nightbird:</p> <p>Regular Nightbird</p>

Hans Moust Contributing Member	May 9th, 2006 01:29 AM Edit Profile
the Netherlands	<p>and here's the same shot showing the top of a Nightbird Deluxe:</p> <p>Nightbird Deluxe</p>

Hans Moust Contributing Member	May 9th, 2006 01:39 AM Edit Profile
the Netherlands	<p>As you can see, the arching of the top is the same. That still doesn't make the black one a Nightbird and as far as I'm concerned they should not have called it a Nightbird Deluxe.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Hans Moust</p>

Scrofulous Count	May 9th, 2006 09:13 AM Edit Profile
USA	<p>Ok...so is it a hollow chambered body? Pickups have frequently varied from the hollow specs, but major parts are generally correct...and the top of that black one looks pretty darned flat in the pics!</p> <p>(This message was last edited by Scrofulous Count at 09:22 AM, May 9th, 2006)</p>

Hans Moust Contributing Member	May 9th, 2006 10:00 AM Edit Profile
the Netherlands	<p>Count,</p> <p>Re. so is it a hollow chambered body? No, of course not! That's why I do not consider it a Nightbird!</p> <p>Re. Pickups have frequently varied from the published specs Yes, they vary all the time, but it's pretty stupid to call them EMG in the text and show something else on the same page! (meaning: what is printed is not necessarily what you get!)</p> <p>Re. and the top of that black one looks pretty darned flat in the pics! Yes, it's the same one that I have and mine looks flat too when you take a regular picture. Like I said, it's the color and the absence of the bindings that does that.</p> <p>If you look at the reflections though, you can see it's not a flat surface.</p> <p>Hans</p> <p>(This message was last edited by Hans Moust at 01:00 PM, May 9th, 2006)</p>

Scrofulous Count	May 9th, 2006 09:41 PM Edit Profile
USA	<p>Seller has cussed me out royally and has now relisted the guitar with the same description stolen from Dave's NB pages, still insists it has a hollow mahogany body, and still keyword spams.</p> <p>What a nice kid!</p> <p>Thanks for all the info Hans...it still is a nice guitar, but not everything it is advertised as!</p>

Hans Moust Contributing Member	May 10th, 2006 12:58 AM Edit Profile
the Netherlands	<p>Hello Count,</p> <p>Like I said, I have one and it's a very good guitar but it's not a 'true' Nightbird. For the Buy It Now price he's asking you could get a 'real' Nightbird. This is the fourth time that he's listing the guitar and so far nobody went for it. That in itself doesn't mean anything but I believe that the guitar will sell at the right price which is about half of what he's asking. Don't think he's dishonest. Simply not well informed, maybe a little stubborn and not very polite. His eBay name 'dumalucky' shows some sort of honesty though. It probably indicates what he feels he is and what he hopes to become.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Hans Moust</p> <p>(This message was last edited by Hans Moust at 03:19 AM, May 10th, 2006)</p>

Hans Moust Contributing Member	May 12th, 2006 11:33 AM Edit Profile
the Netherlands	<p>hmmmmmm it seems like the 'relisted' auction has disappeared!</p> <p>Hans</p>