

## GEAR BOX

# Peavey EXP

## T-T-Talkin' 'Bout My...

By Michael Ross

Last month we reviewed the Parker Mojo, which featured both electric and acoustic capabilities—a magnificent instrument with a price tag to match. But perhaps your pocketbook is a tad limited, or you just need an electric with a piezo for one tune in the set and can't justify a four-figure ticket. The folks at Peavey have come to the rescue with a Korean-made guitar that offers electric and acoustic sounds yet only takes an economical hit on the wallet.

### TIGER, TIGER

The mouthful that is the Generation EXP Custom ACM model (standard Piezo model available) is a mostly classy-looking instrument. Ours came with a tiger-eye (Peavey's term for orange) quilt maple top (pictured in wine red), double binding, and painted headstock. I find the sophisticated appearance marred by mismatching uncovered middle and bridge pickups with a covered neck pickup, though some might rightly say this adds a little funk to the look. The satin neck and well-finished frets make the instrument very comfortable to handle. The action came on the high side for an electric but helped keep the acoustic sound buzz free and made bending a breeze.

Played through a Fender Hot Rod Deluxe, the ceramic pickups sounded surprisingly warm. The bridge pickup was full but provided enough snap to twang like the country axe it resembles. The middle single-coil alone proved suitable for blues riffing and added the requisite "out-of-phase" attitude to the bridge and neck pickups. The neck

pickup proved articulate enough for rock or blues, and with the tone rolled off, produced a wonderful jazz tone—warm without being muffled. Some of the credit goes to the perfectly voiced tone control. One quibble: the five-way switch allows only bridge, middle, neck, and the combination of middle with neck or bridge. An additional switch or push/pull pot would have allowed the option of the bridge combined with the neck without adding unduly to the cost.

The EXP piezo features Peavey's patented ACM circuit, which helps replicate an acoustic guitar sound. Played through a Carvin acoustic amp, it did indeed sound like a flat-top, with full bass and little or no piezo harshness, even when snapping the strings. Blending in the electric guitar sound for a hybrid tone, however, yielded the most interesting results. Adding a little acoustic to the neck pickup with its tone rolled off sounded like an archtop

played at low enough volume to hear the acoustic tone. Blending it behind the bridge pickup added beef to the twang of the swamp riff below.

### THE GREATEST GENERATION

The days of throwing your electric behind your back and playing an acoustic on a stand for one verse or an intro are over; the Generation EXP Custom ACM allows you to switch sounds with the flick of a three-way toggle. More importantly, it will let you develop a whole range of new sounds without breaking the bank.

**CONTACT** Peavey, 601-483-5365, [peavey.com](http://peavey.com)

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Drop D tuning:  
(low to high) D-A-D-G-B-E

Moderately

D7

**GEAR BOX** FEATURES BODY Solid alder body, quilt top, binding on back and top NECK 25" scale, dual-expanding truss rod, Rosewood fingerboard ELECTRONICS Humbucker/single-coil/single-coil pickup configuration, patented ACM (Acoustic Analog Modeling) circuit HARDWARE Steel-plate bridge with die-cast saddles FINISHES Available in tiger-eye, sunburst, wine red, and purple PRICE \$649.99