

At a glance**Tanglewood
MasterDesign TSM1**

BODY: Solid spruce top, solid mahogany back and sides
NECK: Mahogany
FINGERBOARD: Rosewood
SCALE: 25.6"
FRETS: 21
ELECTRONICS: B-Band A1
HARDWARE: Gold with black buttons
FINISH: Natural
CONTACT: Tanglewood Guitars 01937 841122
WEB: www.tanglewoodguitars.co.uk

£1,199

Tanglewood MasterDesign TSM1

This electro-acoustic from the high end of the market shows TG its worth...

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The TSM1 delivers a great balance of low end and the elusive sparkle of a solid acoustic

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There's nothing quite like a well made acoustic guitar: a combination of high-quality solid woods gives maximum resonance and will only get better with age. Tanglewood (a luthier already known for its quality, value-for-money guitars) has teamed up with the Swedish master builder Michael Sanden to build a production guitar that has boutique, handmade morals.

The sizzle: The MasterDesign series sees Tanglewood venture into the more exclusive, upper-end of the market. Admittedly, the price tag is rather daunting but, as the website explains, "the brief was to produce a big, clear but well balanced sound, coupled with the best materials and the highest level of hand craftsmanship available in a large production facility". The TSM1 has the spec and attention to detail of a boutique-made

instrument with the availability and backup of a production guitar. This all-solid acoustic has a mahogany/spruce auditorium body, a B-Band A1 preamp and an abalone rosette and inlay.

We say: Strum some open chords and the TSM1 springs to life with a large warm tone. Fingerpicked notes ring out with a nice sense of even volume, but this guitar is also extremely dynamic. The auditorium-shaped body is comfortable to play and delivers a great balance of low end and the elusive sparkle that comes from a totally solid acoustic. Strum a bit harder and you'll accent this with a punchy boom that resonates straight through the body and remains tight at high volumes.

While there are cheaper models on the market, if you're after some high-end acoustic action, look (and listen) this way.
Stuart Williams

SUMMARY

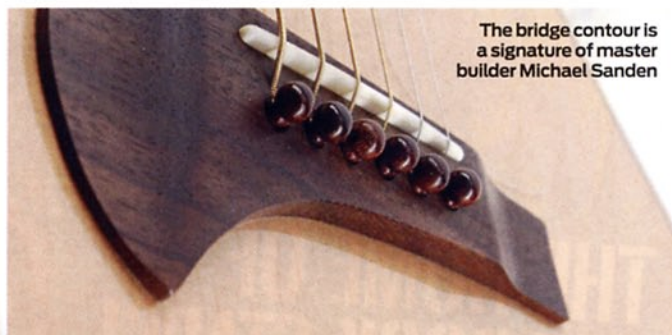
For: Top quality build and playability

Against: You'd better get saving



TG says... A masterful solid body acoustic

The bridge contour is a signature of master builder Michael Sanden



Preamp
 The volume control is discretely hidden inside the soundhole

Inlay
 Instead of a headstock logo, you get a tasteful inlay at the 12th fret

Body
 The all-solid design means this guitar will improve with age