



EVH® UNVEILS NEW BUMBLEBEE TRIBUTE MODEL

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (July 18, 2019) – In celebration of the 40th anniversary of five-time platinum-selling 1979 album *Van Halen II*, EVH® is privileged to unveil the **'79 Bumblebee** tribute guitar. Eddie Van Halen debuted this wildly iconic black-with-yellow-stripes guitar on the cover of the seminal album, and played it extensively throughout the band's 1979 world tour.

"The '79 Bumblebees that we're making sound very much like how I always wanted the original to sound," said Van Halen. "So it may have taken 40 years, but I now have everything I wanted back then— a bitchin'-looking guitar that plays and sounds great."

A limited run, the meticulously recreated '79 Bumblebee tribute model features all of the original specs, including an ash Strat® body, bolt-on birdseye maple neck with oiled back finish, straight 12" radius birdseye maple fingerboard with 22 jumbo frets, katalox dots and black side dots, and skirted Strat-style "Tone" volume knob.

True to Van Halen's pickup recipe, the instrument has been outfitted with an EVH '79 Bumblebee humbucking bridge pickup. EVH also matched the Bumblebee's six screw holes, (hidden under the original prototype non-fine tuner locking tremolo bridge that EVH recreated just for this project), along with the original prototype locking nut. All hardware has been relined, including the custom brass string retainer, screw-eye strap hooks, side output jack and original period-correct Schaller® tuning machines.

Its black-with-yellow-stripes paint job has also been relined to match the wear and tear from his heavy year of touring in 1979, and the guitar is stylishly finished off with chrome hardware.

Notably, the back of the headstock of each guitar bears Eddie Van Halen's signature, adding to the value and the once-in-a-lifetime collector's nature of this instrument.

Arriving in a custom-made Anvil® hardshell case, the package also includes '70s-era Fender® Super Bullets strings, Van Halen '70s tortoiseshell picks, an exclusive Bumblebee collector's booklet, Young Guitar book *Van Halen Live Tour in Japan 1978 & 1979*, and several autographed items—a certificate of authenticity, 8"x10" 1979 concert photo of Eddie Van Halen and vinyl copy of *Van Halen II*.

Bumblebee's Origins

During the recording process for *Van Halen II*, Eddie Van Halen sought something fresh to play other than his original "Frankenstrat," which at the time was being heavily copied by many major guitar companies.

Van Halen had the idea to build a new guitar with an ash body and black-and-yellow-stripe paint job, with rear-loaded electronics so there would be no pickguard. He tasked Wayne Charvel to make the original guitar, which had a maple neck, maple fingerboard and dot inlays. Other features on the first-incarnation guitar (as pictured on *Van Halen II*) were a standard nut, single Mighty Mite® humbucking pickup with transparent bobbins, single chrome volume knob, original Charvel six-screw brass tremolo bridge, and Schaller® tuning keys.

While pleased with the looks of the guitar, Van Halen was less impressed with its tone and quickly began tinkering with it, as he was prone to do. He installed a new Boogie Bodies maple neck with a natural headstock, unfinished back (which he has always preferred) and 12"-radius dot-inlay maple fingerboard. Next to go was the Mighty Mite pickup. After selecting a DiMarzio® Super Distortion humbucking pickup, he swapped out its ceramic magnet for an alnico 2 magnet from a Gibson® PAF. He rewound the pickup by hand, dipped it in paraffin wax and put copper tape around the windings.

Van Halen also stripped out the original Charvel bridge, leaving its six screw holes behind. He instead outfitted the instrument with a prototype two-point Floyd Rose® bridge and locking nut with retainer bar, becoming the first professional rock guitarist to use a locking-nut tremolo system. He also swapped out the chrome volume knob with a Strat-style skirted "Tone" knob. After all these modifications, only the original body, striped paint job, screw-eye strap hooks and Schaller® tuners remained from the first version of the guitar.

"Bumblebee," as it would quickly come to be known by fans, became insanely popular and remains a longtime favorite for Van Halen listeners everywhere.

In an eternal sign of deep respect, Eddie's original Bumblebee guitar was buried alongside Pantera guitarist "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott, who died tragically in 2004. Eddie Van Halen was Abbott's main influence, and Bumblebee was Abbott's all-time favorite guitar.

For more information, please visit www.evhgear.com.

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About EVH®: Two of the most important and recognizable names in rock 'n' roll joined forces in 2005 to develop and launch the EVH brand of guitars, amplifiers and musical products. Guitar icon Van Halen Van Halen combines more than 40 years of unparalleled instinct and innovation in instrument and amp design with the expertise of the craftsmen and engineers at Fender® to create some of the highest quality, best sounding and most durable musical instrument products available today.

EVH brand products are the embodiment of Van Halen Van Halen's legendary sound crafting abilities created in partnership with Fender, one of the world's leading musical

instrument manufacturers, marketers and distributors. Notable products include EVH 5150III® amplifiers and cabinets, Frankenstein™ replica guitar, Striped Series and Wolfgang® guitars in addition to high-quality EVH brand guitar accessories. For more information, visit www.evhgear.com.

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ABOUT FENDER

Since 1946, Fender has revolutionized music and culture as one of the world's leading musical instrument manufacturers, marketers, and distributors. Fender Musical Instruments Corporation (FMIC)—whose portfolio of owned and licensed brands includes Fender®, Squier®, Gretsch® guitars, Jackson®, EVH®, Charvel®, Bigsby®, and PreSonus® – follows a player-centric approach to crafting the highest-quality instruments and digital experiences across genres. Since 2015, Fender's digital arm has introduced a new ecosystem of products and interactive experiences to accompany players at every stage of their musical journey. This includes innovative apps and learning platforms designed to complement Fender guitars, amplifiers, effects pedals, accessories, and pro-audio gear, and inspire players through an immersive musical experience. FMIC is dedicated to unlocking the power of musical expression for all players, from beginners to history-making legends. In 2026, Fender celebrates 80 years of giving artists “wings to fly,” carrying on the vision of its founder, Leo Fender, and connecting players through a shared love of music.

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