



**FENDER LAUNCHES ONE-OF-A-KIND
"TAKASHI KATO STRATOCASTER®
GUITAR" WITH GUITARIST OF
RENOWNED JAPANESE SKA AND
JAZZ BAND, "TOKYO SKA PARADISE
ORCHESTRA"**

**NEW TAKASHI KATO SIGNATURE MODEL BOASTS
"VINTAGE" RECREATION OF KATO'S BELOVED 65' STRATOCASTER®
GUITAR KNOWN AS "RYUBOKU (DRIFTWOOD)"**

TOKYO, Japan (November 21, 2022) — Fender Music Corporation Japan (FMCJ) today announces the launch of the Takashi Kato Stratocaster® guitar in collaboration with renowned guitarist Takashi Kato of the Japanese ska and jazz band, Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra.

"I'm very happy for the opportunity to collaborate with the Fender team to create a signature model based on my favorite guitar," said Takashi Kato. "I was most particular about the Paradise Blue body color. It's been designed to develop a more vintage feel the more you play it, so I hope players will enjoy the journey of making this guitar uniquely their own. To be compatible with the current music scene, the pickups are wound tighter at the

rear, but hand-wound-like tension gives a good picking nuance and makes it really comfortable to play. Although it is a vintage style guitar, it's developed with stage use in mind, so I think it's a one-of-a-kind guitar that can be used in all kinds of situations!"

Since their debut in 1988, the Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra has performed both in Japan and around the world. With performances in 31 countries and participation in many of the world's largest music festivals, including Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra has captivated fans worldwide with their unique sound and strong stage presence. Takashi Kato's original 65' Stratocaster® guitar, affectionately named "Ryuboku (Driftwood)", has been his main guitar for as far as he can remember. Kato, who is well versed in vintage Stratocaster® guitars, has created this signature Takashi Kato Stratocaster® guitar with the hope that many guitarists will have the opportunity to experience its charm.

Modeled after Kato's original Strat® guitar, the new Takashi Kato Stratocaster® guitar features an original Paradise Blue color, a unique color created to match Kato's own Lake Placid Blue vintage Stratocaster® guitar whose color has deepened with play and age. The Takashi Kato Stratocaster® guitar comes complete with a metallic finish and a nitrocellulose lacquer topcoat, kept to a minimum allowing for a vintage look and sound that players can enjoy. The neck, profiled from Kato's own guitar, faithfully reproduces the vintage grip, while the narrow-tall frets provide smooth playability. This guitar also comes with three specially developed Custom Wired Vintage Style Single Coil pickups that successfully produce rich overtones and edge akin to hand-wound pickups.

High-resolution lifestyle and product images of the Takashi Kato Signature Stratocaster® guitar can be found [HERE](#). For technical specs, additional information on new Fender® products and to find a retail partner near you, visit fender.co.jp. Takashi's signature model will be released in Japan on September 20th. Please contact your nearest official Fender dealer for details on additional overseas release dates.

TAKASHI KATO STRATOCASTER® GUITAR (¥217,800 JPY)

ABOUT TAKASHI KATO:

Takashi Kato was born on September 20, 1971 in Tottori, Japan. Currently active as Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra's guitarist, Kato was made an official member of the band in year 2000. His main guitar is a Lake Placid Blue Fender 65' Stratocaster. Formed in 1989, Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra has remained at the forefront of the Japanese ska scene by incorporating elements of jazz, pop, and rock in their music. The band has made the world their stage and have performed in 31 countries to date, as well as at numerous major music festivals. In 2013, they became the first Japanese artist to take the main stage of Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival (USA). And in October 2019, the band won the Espéctaculo Alternativo award at Las Lunas del Auditorio, the biggest music awards event in Mexico, for their outstanding live performance. Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra continues to push boundaries, spreading "Tokyo Ska" music to the world and leading the music scene with their vision of "NO BORDER".

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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.

CONTACT DETAILS

GLOBAL MEDIA INQUIRIES

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