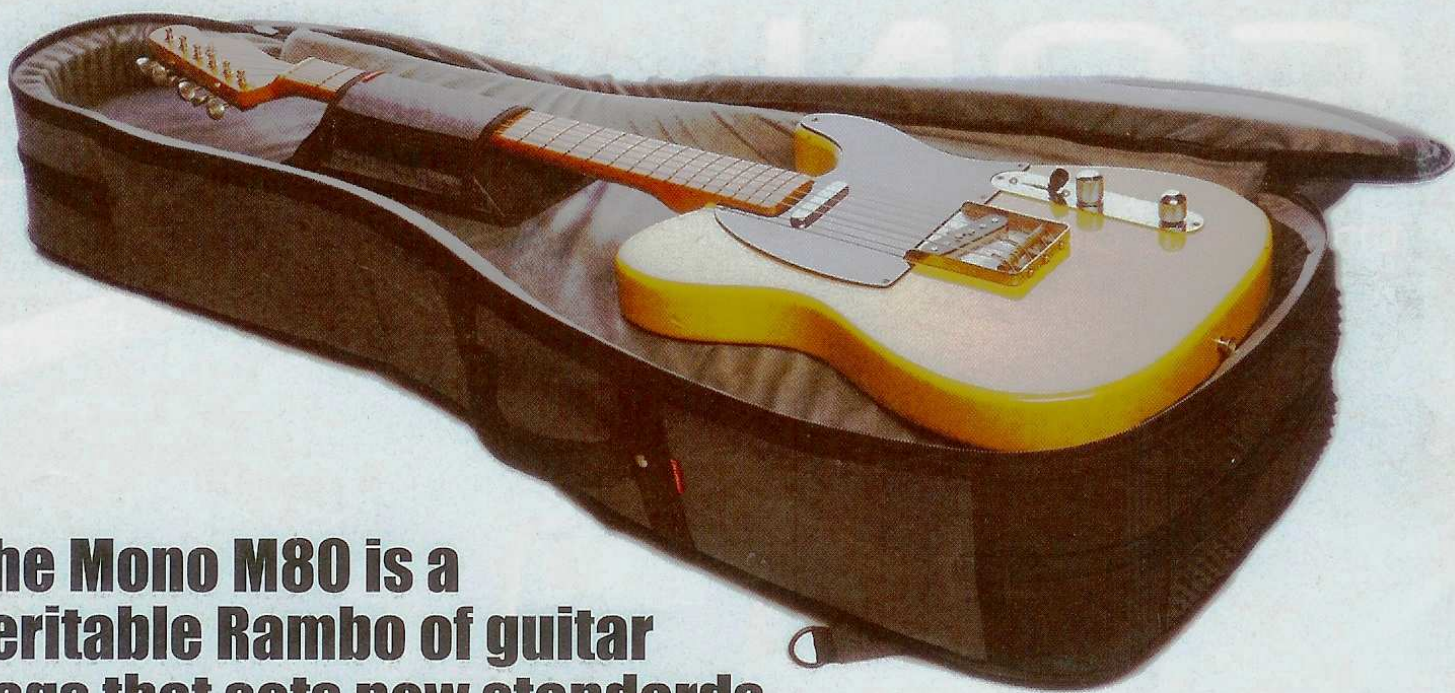


MONO M80-EG Guitar Case



The Mono M80 is a veritable Rambo of guitar bags that sets new standards in style and protection...

Words: Tim Slater

MONO

M80-EG Guitar Case
SRP £129.00

All prices incl VAT

CONTACT:

Madison and Fifth

T: 01858 446782

W: www.monocases.com

WHAT IS IT?

A high quality military spec soft guitar case with built-in cable holder.

WHY SHOULD I WANT ONE?

The Mono M80 combines the portability of a gig bag with much superior fit, features and protection. Ideal for pro & semi pro players that travel long distances and don't have the room or means to store your guitar or bass in a bulky hard case or semi-flight case.

Several years ago I was playing in a band that regularly travelled overseas but circumstances dictated that we had to travel light, which meant ditching all gear deemed unnecessary by our esteemed band leader. One of the first things to go was the bulky instrument cases. Heck! Even the flippin' keyboard player was forced to invest in a heavy duty nylon gig bag so as to help avoid the band getting nailed for excess baggage duties at the airport.

For our part, the rhythm guitarist and I both bought expensive gig bags that at the time were deemed to be pretty much at the top of the range. But we soon realized that despite having more pockets than an octopus's anorak, as far as actual protection was concerned our fancy gig bags offered little resistance to the considerate attentions of the airport baggage handlers.

Almost ten years down the road I still use my old gig bag but the point is that my encounter with the Mono M80 guitar case has hammered home how far the humble soft guitar case has progressed: What was formally state-of-the-art now seems ill-fitting, heavy and doesn't offer particularly impressive security compared to the M80's military spec components

and comprehensive 360° protection. Mono's UK distributors Madison and Fifth are keen to stress that the M80 isn't a gig bag in the traditional sense but is an entirely different ball game. We agree entirely but seeing as the M80 is light and constructed using padded material as opposed to a standard hard case we'll describe it as a gig bag in the context of this review to avoid confusion, if that's ok with you? Good.

Lock & load...

The Mono M80 feels more like a combination of a gig bag and a soft case similar to the ones that you find being used to carry drum hardware or sports kit. Indeed the M80's air of something derived from a space-age rucksack isn't too far from the mark. The M80 is made from the same lightweight scratch resistant material that you find on good quality outdoor gear such as rucksacks and expensive walking boots while the webbing and rivets are sourced directly from the same suppliers that supply equipment to the FBI and the US military!

The M80 isn't just a pretty face either. On board there are a couple of unique protection features including an internal neck brace with a Velcro strap that holds the guitar in place to

stop it sliding around during transport. The neck brace also keeps the guitar headstock suspended away from the bag's internal wall; if the M80 happens to fall over backwards the padded brace absorbs any impact that could potentially snap off the guitar's headstock at its most vulnerable point. Down at t'other end, a bumper on the lower section acts as a shock absorber that protects the guitar's lower strap button from the type of impacts that again can potentially cause minor or more significant damage to the instrument. While we're at it, the M80's entire circumference is ringed with impact absorbing material and there is also plenty of room for storage for the usual paraphernalia that guitarists cart around; strings, guitar tuners etc. There is even a handy built-in cable-tie. Neat.

The M80 isn't bargain priced kit but it is obviously aimed at the travelling guitarist who doesn't want the hassle of lugging their bulky OEM hard case around to gigs but still wants a decent standard of protection for their guitar. At this level you are talking about a serious investment but if your guitar still looks as good in ten years time as it does now, then the M80 will seem like a bargain. **PM**