



KTS titanium saddles from £39

Need some new saddles? Time to try KTS's ultimate quality titanium sets

by Dave Burrluck

WITH ITS EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH weight-to-strength ratio and resistance to corrosion, titanium is a key material in the aerospace and automotive industries – not to mention its medical applications and use in jewellery and watch manufacturing. This 'white', non-magnetic metal is now readily available for your guitar in the form of a range of saddles. KTS doesn't claim it to be the "best" material but does suggest it'll improve sustain, depth and clarity over commonly used die-cast material – and compared to plated steel it simply won't corrode. KTS manufactures titanium saddles/bridges for various guitar-types: Strats, Teles, Les Pauls...

and even Fender Mustangs!

IN USE: We tested a set of titanium saddles on a Fender Highway 1 Strat and an Epiphone Les Paul. Did the earth move? No. But in both instances we heard a subtle tonal improvement – a little more smoothness and depth most obviously – and certainly no harm in the sustain department. There's also what we can only describe as a more focused clarity. Interesting.

Verdict

Boutique makers like DeTemple, John Suhr and Joe Barden have all sung the praises of KTS's titanium saddles and – although pricier than conventional retro-fit saddles from the likes of Graph Tech – they seem an obvious choice if you're dissatisfied with your tone. "I have installed them on several of Nils Lofgren's and Joe Perry's guitars (as

well as my own), replacing the old rusty and worn parts, and now I know I will be able to make exact adjustments any time with no worries," says Joe Barden. That's high praise indeed.

KTS titanium saddles increase clarity, smoothness and depth

KTS SADDLES	TEST RESULTS
Build quality	★★★★★
In use	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★☆☆
<p>■ WE LIKED Beautifully made with good, not bright, sound clarity and definition</p> <p>■ WE DISLIKED Not cheap but like a new pickup could help improve your guitar</p>	

KEY INFO | KTS TITANIUM SADDLES | PRICE: FOR STRAT (£65) T-0-M (£39 EXC BRIDGE) | TYPE: SADDLES | WEB: WWW.WDMUSIC.CO.UK

Guitarist RATING

