

1981 Zemaitis “Macabre” 5-String Keith Richards Model Guitar

Custom Built by Tony Zemaitis, UK
Offered exclusively by Lloyd Chiate, owner
Voltage Guitars, Toluca Lake, California

Voltage Guitars



ZEMAITIS

History:

The 1981 Zemaitis “Macabre” 5-String Keith Richards Model guitar has to be one of the rarest guitars constructed by the Zemaitis shop located in Chartham, Kent, UK. Guitar number one was owned and operated by Keith Richards and has since disappeared through a theft or fire, no one seems to agree completely. Due to the fact Keith’s guitar disappeared Tony Zemaitis agreed to build one final identical guitar for Kurt Scheidegger of Switzerland in 1981. This guitar was built to the EXACT specs of Keith Richard’s guitar from 1975. This instrument is the pinnacle of Zemaitis instruments and one of the rarest guitars available. Its natural mahogany finish is in wonderful original shape. The body has a cool back trap door to access the electronics and, as stated in the paperwork on the following pages, made to the exact design of Keith Richards personal 5 string “Macabre” having every abalone inlay on the top including a cool old pistol, a pirates knife, a skull and a mask with horns coming off the bridge, an alligator headstock logo, and the truss rod stating “Rebel Yell”. The 1981 Zemaitis “Macabre”5- string Keith Richards Model is the only guitar that remains of this unique design that was constructed by Tony Zemaitis. Mr. Zemaitis has passed away leaving no other legacy of this guitar from his shop. The following pages contain photographs of the guitar now owned by Lloyd Chaite of Voltage Guitars that includes all historic handwritten paperwork chronicling this instruments musical journey.

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Guitar



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Hand written note from Tony Zemaitis stating all specs on guitar are as close to original guitar built for Keith Richards

The 5 String

I have made it in all respects as close to the original as possible. The colour is the same and I looked through all my old papers to get the control knobs and pick up in exactly the correct places.

Keith wanted his guitar to look OLD (NOT NEW) so have done the same for you.

Hope you are pleased with the guitar

Best wishes

Taz

The 5 String

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"Keith wanted his guitar to look OLD (NOT NEW) so have done the same for you."

"Hope you are pleased with the guitar."

Best wishes

Tony

Hand written correspondence and specs from Tony Zemaitis

A. C. ZEMAITIS

Luthier  Guitar Maker

108, Walderslade Road,
Chatham Kent ME5 0LL

Telephone: MEDWAY (0634) 65086

VAT No: 205 0055 52

Date: 27/6/87

Dear Mr. Scheidegger,

Thank you for your letter and interest.

The Rolling Stones have approx 30 of my guitars and K.R. has a 5 string as you say.

To make a similar guitar would cost approx £400 depending on your requirements.



It has 1 Gibson H/B.

1 tone, 1 volume knob

Rhythm switch


5 challer mini machines


24 frets

The Mother of Pearl inlays to the body =  



The neck has

o and 

The head 

2/

My terms are:

1/3rd deposit in advance

My prices are from £350 to £900.

You decide the price and quality.

(All gtrs are at TRADE NOT SHOP prices)

On receipt of deposit I send you a full size drawing with details for you to look at and change any details. Remember more work puts up the price.

You then send it Back to Me. ←

I then commence work. (Approx 40 days)

The balance must be paid on completion.

When paid, I send the guitar to your nearest AIRPORT who telephone you of arrival. The freight charges are paid by you at the airport on collection.

Regret I have no photos of K.R. 5 string but

3.

Send one of James Honeyman-Scott
(Pretenders) of a single pick-up model

Please Return the photo !!

The photo glitter would be £500 approx.

I hope this helps you.

Very best wishes

Yours Tony Z.

Air Mail

HERR KURT SCHEIDEGGER
KIRCHMATTSTR. 11.
6312 STEINHAUSEN
SWITZERLAND



Be properly
addressed
POSTLOU'E IT

A. C. ZEMAITIS
108, WALDRSLADE ROAD,
CHATHAM, KENT.
TEL. MEDWAY (0634) 65088

Dear Kent,

31/7/81.

I am pleased to tell you that your guitar + case will be ready in approx 7 days time.

(7/8/81) £ 42.00

If you want to send me your telephone number I can ask for the airport to advise you of arrival, which usually takes approx. 3 days.

I am pleased with the guitar and have copied it in all respects.

I think Keith wouldn't know it from his own gtr!!!

Very best wishes

T.A. - 1

A. C. ZEMAITIS
108, WALDRSLADE ROAD,
CHATHAM, KENT.
TEL. MEDWAY (0634) 65088

Dear Kent,

10/7/81.

I will get you 2/case at TRADE left hand to play the high frets. (The price shops play guitar) ok?

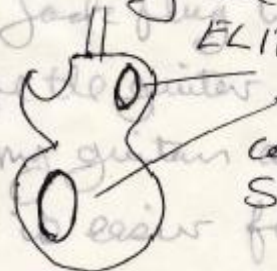
ON K.R. guitar there is a large metal plate on the back (electrical

IT IS NOT NECESSARY Shielding)

Do you WANT A LARGE PLATE? AS KR?

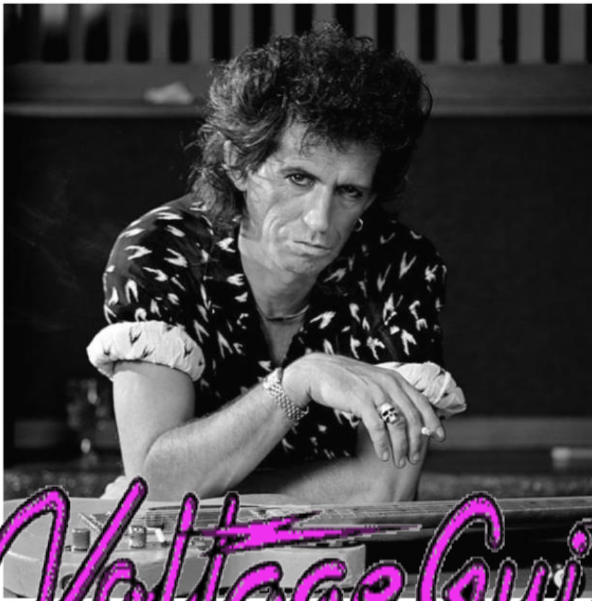


I normally use TWO ELIPSES



ash, and shape the guitar as you ask. All my guitars cover elapod switches. thinner so it easier for the

Please let me know!



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For more information please contact:
Lloyd Chiate, owner
Voltage Guitars
(323) 793-2721
voltageguitar@yahoo.com

