

Body size at lower bout: 17 3/8" Scale length: 25 1/2". Nut width: 1 11/16"

Sunburst finish, nitrocellulose lacquer.

Materials: Solid handcarved fiddleback maple back and sides; solid bookmatched handcarved spruce top; solid maple neck with 3-ply walnut/maple centerstripe; Brazilian rosewood fingerboard with mother of pearl "cloud" style fingerboard inlay; fancy vine style mother-of-pearl peghead inlay, five-ply body binding, bound fingerboard and headstock.

Hardware: Original gold-plated Frequensator tailpiece and 16x1 Epsilon-logo tuners, hex-key adjustable truss rod. Compensated adjustable Brazilian rosewood bridge.

The Epiphone Deluxe was introduced as the company's top-of-the line model in 1931, and upsized to 17" late in 1935. The direct competitor with Gibson's L-5, the Deluxe sold for the same price, though more ornate and typically louder and somewhat brighter in tone. With its tremendous cutting power, the Deluxe was a perennial favorite of big band guitarists who had to face down an entire horn section without an amp. Though cataloged through 1955, few examples are seen after 1953, when Epiphone's New York factory closed.

This guitar is carved of tight fiddleback figure maple, with a fine grained quartersawn bookmatched solid spruce top. It's lightweight and well balanced, and weighs less than 6 lb., and has the brilliant projection and clarity for which Epiphones have always been renowned.