

Cover Story

ROUNDUP: 9 PAF-STYLE HUMBUCKERS



LOLLAR IMPERIAL

LOLLAR HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF as a premium maker of vintage-style pickups, and the Imperials impressed us right out of the box with their superb build quality. The soldering on the covers is exceptionally neat, and the metal backs have a phenolic logo plate that covers an area surrounding the polepiece screws and the four base mounting screws. These pickups are wax potted for feedback resistance

and structural integrity, and they feature 2-conductor wiring with a braided-steel jacket.

As the name suggests, the Imperials are big sounding pickups that deliver a gutsy response when you dig into the strings. Their unbalanced coils reportedly help to keep the bass frequencies firm (we concur with that) and Lollar's method of tempering the magnet strength pays off by

LOLLAR	
Imperial	
PRICE	\$165 street (each)
DC RESISTANCE	8.85Ω bridge 7.79kΩ neck
MAGNET	Alnico 2 neck, Alnico 5 bridge
POTTED	Yes
CABLE	2-conductor, braided- steel jacket
COVER	Nickel sliver, nickel-plated
CLEAN TONE	●●●●●●
OVERDRIVE TONE	●●●●●●
DYNAMIC RESPONSE	●●●●●●
VINTAGE VIBE	●●●●●●
BUILT	U.S.A.

allowing the Imperials to deliver an excellent blend of output and clarity—managing to stay very clear and sweet at lower settings, or when you back off on your picking—while still being able to push an amp's front end hard enough for ballsy distortion tones. Kudos to Lollar for offering a pickup that does everything a good PAF should, but with a little extra sauce on the side. lollarguitars.com