

REVIEW Wudtone PRS DD, JAN 16

George Greiswig, Song of the River Music, USA

**Wudtone**  
*Guitar Innovation*

Enough already...how does it sound?

Okay, more subjectivity here. But listen to the clips I posted elsewhere on this forum, and you should be able to hear obvious differences. I was genuinely surprised at how much.

Many people in that thread noted the increase in brightness of one over the other, and indeed the brighter one was the Wudtone. But there is more to the tone change. Putting on the Wudtone was a bit of a revelation in that regard: you often hear “like lifting a blanket off” in forums like this, and I always kind of equate that with the high-end (which, hey, is where blankets tend to absorb sound, right? Call me Mr. Literal.) In this case, what I hear through my studio monitors is a more even response, almost like the stock bridge was scooping out some mids and rolling off the highs a bit.

One thing that is perhaps less subjective: using my main lead patch, I could almost always get a note or two to feed back, especially the first G on the second string. That also corresponded to a midrange bump that I thought I was hearing, or hearing as a deficit of other midrange. With the Wudtone bridge, I get feedback in those same places (probably a guitar resonance), but I also am getting feedback in a lot more places. And on my ODS clone and the AxeFX Dumble patch I made, both of them seem to have more places on the fretboard that slip into that “note flip” territory where a note starts feeding back at the octave up, or another sweet harmonic.

**Dynamics:** for whatever reason, I do seem to be playing with more right-hand variation than before. The bridge seems to bring that out of me as a player. Playing lightly still manages to let the guitar ring, but just at a lower volume. Dig in, and it responds as you’d expect from a hardtail. In fact, the dynamics just feel more “hardtail” to me. This is very hard to describe, and I am still not completely convinced that I’m not attributing a feel thing to what is actually more of a tonal thing. Heck, it is possible I am imagining it altogether. But when I recorded that test clip I put up, I noticed what I thought was a difference even then that made me wonder if I’d done something different with my right hand. So I tried more stuff with my right hand. And changing my right hand changed the way the guitar responded. In ways that I at the very least had not noticed before.

**Operation :** Another possible advantage to the Wudtone design – it can easily be set up to be a down-only virtual hardtail. The way the plate hits the shim means that it easily can be set up to just bounce right back to “flat and flush” with the shim. In fact, before I adjusted the claw spring tension, that’s exactly how it worked. And for someone who doesn’t use tremolo much, or only for divebombing, this might be a good thing. And it is virtually guaranteed to bounce back perfectly in tune in that situation.

Overall, I think this is a very good and clever design, and offers some differences that are worth considering. I was struck by the changes in tone... both the degree of change and the quality of it.

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