Advanced Form Range
AFR BASS

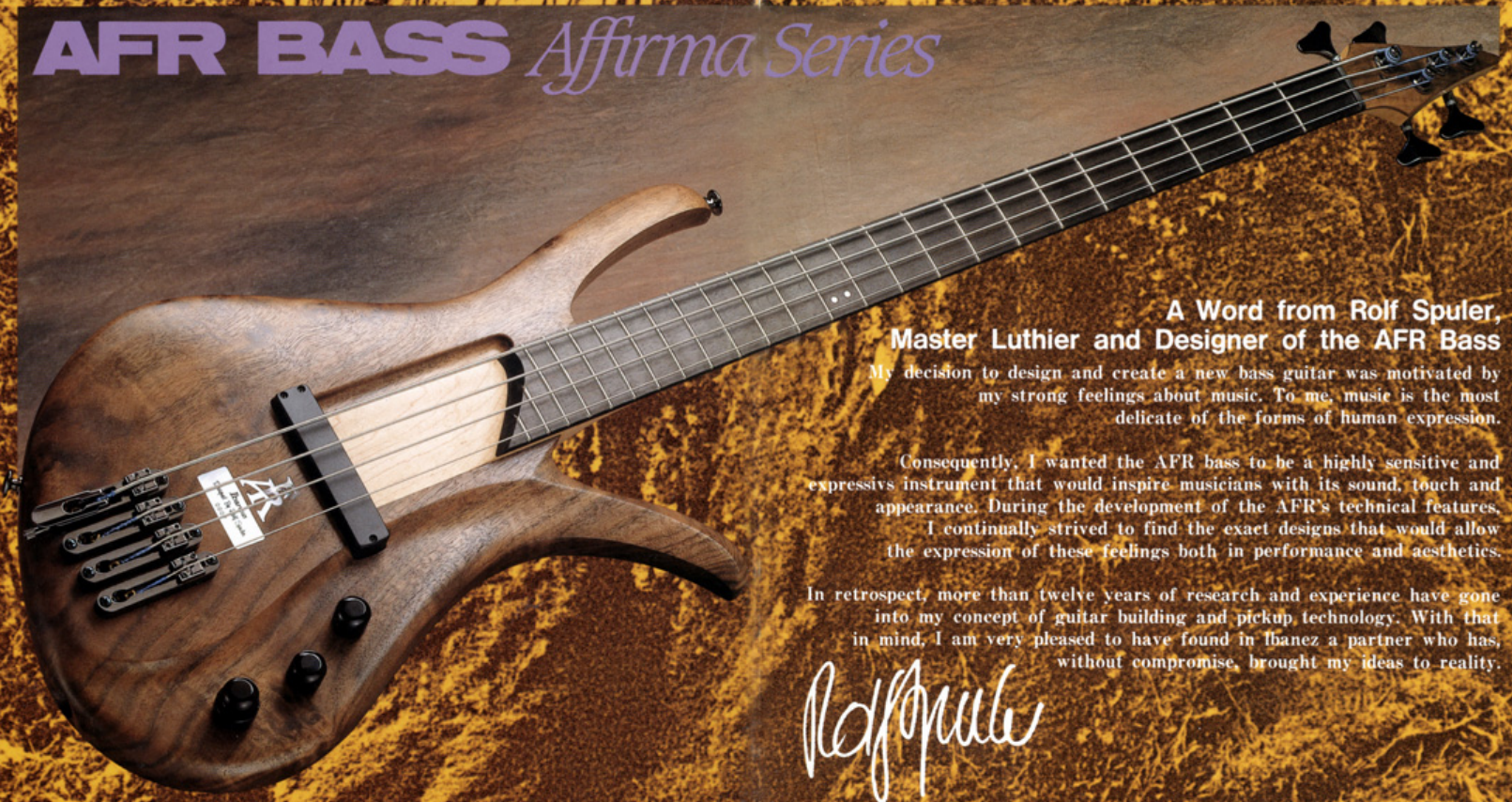
The AFR Concept

With a host of new features, the AFR bass sets a new standard in string instruments. Designed by the innovative Swiss luthier Rolf Spuler, the AFR was created to meet the critical demands of musicians who require a natural sounding, sensitive instrument with wide dynamic range and effortless playability during even the longest performances. Additionally, the instrument should look as distinctive as it sounds.

The AFR bass exmplifies all of these qualities: It combines a light weight, aesthetically contoured body with a strong yet comfortable neck, a small headstock and a superb pickup system.

The AFR is the personification of Rolf's impassioned convictions that a new instrument should be both inspired by music and the inspiration for it.

AFR BASS *Affirma Series*



A Word from Rolf Spuler, Master Luthier and Designer of the AFR Bass

My decision to design and create a new bass guitar was motivated by my strong feelings about music. To me, music is the most delicate of the forms of human expression.

Consequently, I wanted the AFR bass to be a highly sensitive and expressivs instrument that would inspire musicians with its sound, touch and appearance. During the development of the AFR's technical features, I continually strived to find the exact designs that would allow the expression of these feelings both in performance and aesthetics.

In retrospect, more than twelve years of research and experience have gone into my concept of guitar building and pickup technology. With that in mind, I am very pleased to have found in Ibanez a partner who has, without compromise, brought my ideas to reality.

Rolf Spuler

4STRINGS

04

A104

BODY: SAMAN
NECK: MAPLE
FINGERBOARD: EBONY
HARDWARE: COSMO BLACK
PICKUP: PIEZO AND AFR 4 SPECIAL
CONTROL: 1-V, 1-BALANCE, 2-EQ
COLOR: OIL FINISH
**AVAILABLE FRETLESS MODEL A104F*

A204
BODY: KRALO WALNUT
NECK: MAPLE
FINGERBOARD: EBONY
HARDWARE: COSMO BLACK
PICKUP: PIEZO AND AFR 4 SPECIAL
CONTROL: 1-V, 1-BALANCE, 2-EQ
COLOR: OIL FINISH
** AVAILABLE FRETLESS MODEL A204F*

A304
BODY: FLAMED MAPLE
NECK: MAPLE
FINGERBOARD: EBONY
HARDWARE: COSMO BLACK
PICKUP: PIEZO AND AFR 4 SPECIAL
CONTROL: 1-V, 1-BALANCE, 2-EQ
COLOR: OIL FINISH
** AVAILABLE FRETLESS MODEL A304F*

5 STRINGS

05

A105

BODY: SAMAN
NECK: MAPLE
FINGERBOARD: EBONY
HARDWARE: COSMO BLACK
PICKUP: PIEZO AND AFR 5 SPECIAL
CONTROL: 1-V, 1-BALANCE, 2-EQ
COLOR: OIL FINISH
**AVAILABLE FRETLESS MODEL A105F*

A205
BODY: KRALO WALNUT
NECK: MAPLE
FINGERBOARD: EBONY
HARDWARE: COSMO BLACK
PICKUP: PIEZO AND AFR 5 SPECIAL
CONTROL: 1-V, 1-BALANCE, 2-EQ
COLOR: OIL FINISH
** AVAILABLE FRETLESS MODEL A205F*

A305
BODY: FLAMED MAPLE
NECK: MAPLE
FINGERBOARD: EBONY
HARDWARE: COSMO BLACK
PICKUP: PIEZO AND AFR 5 SPECIAL
CONTROL: 1-V, 1-BALANCE, 2-EQ
COLOR: OIL FINISH
** AVAILABLE FRETLESS MODEL A305F*

FEATURES

A104F
BODY: SAMAN
NECK: MAPLE
FINGERBOARD: EBONY
HARDWARE: COSMO BLACK
PICKUP: PIEZO AND AFR 5 SPECIAL
CONTROL: 1-V, 1-BALANCE, 2-EQ
COLR: OIL FINISH

A105F
BODY: SAMAN
NECK: MAPLE
FINGERBOARD: EBONY
HARDWARE: COSMO BLACK
PICKUP: PIEZO AND AFR 5 SPECIAL
CONTROL: 1-V, 1-BALANCE, 2-EQ
COLOR: OIL FINISH

Only the Most Select Woods...

In order to insure that every AFR exhibits the right sound, feel and appearance, each piece of wood used in its construction in meticulously selected by experienced craftsmen.

The AFR Half-Through Neck

An essential ingredient of the AFR's superior sound is due to Rolf's extensive study of sound and guitar design. His work in guitar building revealed that the sound character of a bass or guitar should be influenced only by body resonance and pickup response; the neck should be as stiff as possible in order to suppress resonance.

Since the neck and body of a bass perform very different acoustic functions, it follows that different materials should be utilized. To join these materials properly, the AFR's new half-through-body construction affords the best stability because the body is not completely divided (as in standard neck-through-body construction). Also, with half-through-body construction, the AFR's entire body is able to bring all its resonance to bear which provibes the optimum in sound character and sensitivity.

The Best of Both Worlds... A Maple Neck Reinforced With Graphite

A maple neck with an ebony fingerboard is a classic and proven combination but it tends to overemphasize its resonance that 'dead spots' happen. The addition of two graphite bars strengthen and stabilizes the AFR neck in order to achieve a much more balanced response. With this combination of materials, AFR owners receive all the advantages of both wood and graphite necks.

FEATURES

An Entirely New Bridge

Rolf Spuler created the "Mono Rail" bridge (pat. applied for) exclusively for the AFR bass. This very sophisticated system features an individual unit on each string so that each string's vibration is transmitted separately to the body. This provides a much more dynamic response and sustain than found in conventional bridge systems. Changing strings also becomes much simpler and faster. The four-string of the AFR version is fitted with the "Stay-D-Tune" detuner (pat. applied for) on the low string. This innovative feature allows for quick change between two different tunings (for example, E to D).

Thumb Rest

More and more bassists are using different hand positions to achieve wider varieties of sound. The AFR's thumb rest makes it possible and comfortable to pluck the strings from any thumb position.

Headstock Arrangement

Note the AFR's reversed tuning machine configuration which reduces headstock mass and also provides straighter and shorter string lead to the saddle. This arrangement gives the AFR easier, more accurate tuning with increase tuning stability.

The AFR's Active Electronics

The AFR's active electronics offer very efficient bass and treble controls, a soft volume control, and a balance control that mixes the magnetic and piezo pickups. The AFR's 18V powered electronic circuitry does not limit the dynamics of the pickups which makes the AFR an instrument of incredible expressiveness.

A Piezo Bridge Pickup

All AFR models come with the "ppp" (pat. applied for), a polyphonic pickup developed by Rolf Spuler. Its ingenious construction shows a completely separated pickup for each string which allows the pure transformation of each string's vibration to an electric signal. This piezo pickup consistently reproduces an entirely natural sound with strong presence, powerful low end and a very high dynamic response. There are no disturbing "scratchy" sounds, slide-noises or feedback. The level of each piezo pickup can be individually adjusted by a trim potentiometer located on the PC board.

A Magnetic Neck Position Pickup

The AFR's magnetic neck position pickup is a more conventional magnetic pickup capable of covering a wide frequency range. Located in the standard position between neck and bridge, this pickup reproduces both solid lows and crisp trebles.

SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE

Ibanez

© COPYRIGHT1991 NOV91102 PRINTED IN JAPAN
● THE CONTENT OF THIS CATALOGUE ARE COPYRIGHTED 1991 BY HOSHINO GAKKI CO.,LTD. AND MAY NOT BE COPIED IN ANY MANNER WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN PERMISSION OF HOSHINO GAKKI CO., LTD.