



**PRICE: £4,899**

# Avalon L320 DBC

When does a comfortable acoustic guitar become more than just comfortable? When it's Avalon's Double Bevel Cutaway, of course.

**“Sat with it under your arm, you naturally meld with its personable frame”**

Identified as a jumbo for its body size, the overall proportions of this Master Series model hides its physical volume well and at the same time provides a reassuring sense of substantiality and finesse that tells you that there is more here than meets the eye upon first inspection.

## Build Quality

This is perhaps not least of all related to a unique feature – that when you examine the rear of the body you see that the comfortable contoured bevel theme is continued on the lower bout. As the photographs here reveal, it is not simply a reverse image of the top bevel but a dedicated and honed contour which makes for an added level of intimacy in your playing experience. It's no gimmick either. Sat with it under your arm, you naturally meld with its personable frame and you find yourself poring over the instrument rather than

tolerating hard edges. The top bevel tapers beautifully at each of its opposite terminations, suitably outlined with effectively simple binding. The bevels themselves blend beautifully into the binding, which is virtually seamless and testimony to a highly exacting

degree of attention to detail. The bevel itself is one of three different options available from Avalon, so you have a greater level of personalisation to buy something highly individualistic should you so desire.

The thematic bevel ebony wood is also used on the cutaway. As your playing hand opens out at the higher registers, the smooth and cool ramped upper part of the cutaway allows great access while adding seriousness to the guitar's persona. This is underscored by the ebony bridge and smart bridge pins resembling soldiers stood to attention. Notice also the delicately carved pin slots with leading edge insightfully carved to ensure not just clean seating of the string but also prevention of the string itself

## Woods Used

The top is a beautifully figured piece of Sitka spruce, featuring wonderful bear claw marks. Back and sides are of rich, premium figured Indian rosewood. The five piece neck is mainly mahogany, rosewood and sycamore.





## Avalon L320 DBC

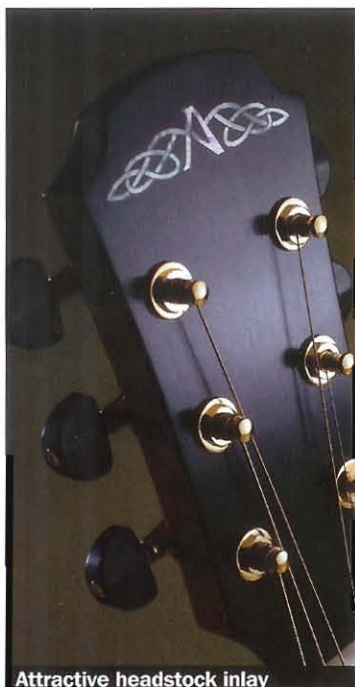
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### Technical Specification

**Manufacturer:** Avalon Guitars Ltd  
**Model:** L320DBC  
**Retail Price:** £4,899  
**Body Size:** Jumbo  
**Made In:** Northern Ireland  
**Top:** Sitka Spruce (Bear claw)  
**Back and Sides:** Premium Figured Indian Rosewood  
**Neck:** 5 piece Mahogany, Rosewood, Sycamore  
**Fingerboard:** Ebony – Edge bound with Sycamore and Ebony  
**Frets:** 20  
**Tuners:** Gotoh SG381  
**Nut Width:** 44  
**Scale Length:** 650  
**Onboard Electronics:** None (All Avalon's are prepared to receive under saddle transducer and end pin jack)  
**Strings Fitted:** 12-53, D'Addario (EXP16)  
**Left Handers:** Yes (same price for l/h & r/h)  
**Gig Bag/Case Included:** Hiscox Hardshell

### Contact Details

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Attractive headstock inlay



## “The thematic bevel ebony wood is also used on the cutaway.”

detail to grab your attention while at the same time not being overly ostentatious.

### Sound Quality

The bridge itself features some great intonation elements. Firstly, the saddle is in two parts, enabling a better distinction between treble and bass string physics. Secondly, the saddles are slanted over to a specific angle, which has several benefits. Amazingly, due to this slight angling of the saddle, you benefit from a greater increase of transferred power from the string into the top of the guitar. Because of this you get enhanced fundamental note definition (and

volume), but more importantly an increase in harmonic detail which would otherwise be lost to a perpendicular saddle slot. Because the saddles are well seated without any ‘free play’, this optimises power transfer and prevents any rattling in situ. This may appear obvious but is in fact a problem too often encountered, particularly when a transducer system is introduced.

Perhaps most importantly and less obviously, this subtle feature also helps with the liberation of harmonic content from the strings’ stimulation of the guitar top. If the angle is too great or too little, then not only do you lose detail, but the vocal individualism

### What We Think

#### What did our test results reveal?

**Pros:** Amazingly playable neck profile and fretwork.

**Cons:** No fingerboard inlays – side markers only. Gotoh 510 machines at this price could be expected.

**Overall:** Premium price point with added comfort and exacting construction.

of the guitar diminishes. This is where the personality of the guitar comes alive. The overtones which identify the Avalon tone range from a dark, moody and chocolatey bass end to a brooding and melancholic mid range and treble response. There is a whole canvas here for you to fill with your deep and meaningful lyrics if you work the dynamics of the L320 DBC.

This is different to the rake angle of the strings over the saddle itself as they reach down to the bridge pins, but make no mistake it is an intrinsically linked component to the physics of the volume and ultimately the projection of the guitar.

### Conclusion

The bearclawing on the top and oil painting-like detail in the reddish-to-green premium-figured Indian rosewood back is truly as interesting as it is impressive. The neck profile has an amazing feel for being all things to all players and is reason enough to want to play this guitar. It is expensive at £4,899, but I don't believe this is surprising when you consider its descendancy.

Russell Welton

### Acoustic Test Results

#### Our ratings explained

5 Stars: Superb, Almost faultless  
 4 Stars: Excellent, Hard to beat  
 3 Stars: Good, covers all bases well.  
 2 or 1 Stars: Below average, poor

### Rating out of five

#### How well did this guitar fare?

Build Quality	★★★★★
Sound Quality	★★★★★
Value for Money	★★★★★

