

WE TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THIS SINGULAR SIGNATURE GUITAR  
BUILT BY ALISTER ATKIN FOR SINGER-SONGWRITER BOO HEWERDINE

# BLACK BOOTY



■ An ebony headstock fascia matches the smart black finish perfectly



■ This is certainly one way to let the audience know who you are

■ He's been covered by kd lang, ... written songs for Eddi Reader (including her hit 'Patience of Angels') and produced six excellent albums of his own, all while somehow avoiding mainstream fame. However, it's probably a safe bet that if you have heard of Boo Hewerdine, you're already a fan.

Atkin Guitars boasts an impressive list of singer-songwriter endorsees, including Nick Harper, Kate Walsh, Turin Brakes, Jim Moray and Status Quo (we kid you not). Hewerdine has been playing an Atkin OM since 2000 but, thanks to years of near-constant touring, the guitar is now "well and truly hammered" (in the words of its maker, Alister Atkin) and has been retired to the studio. Hewerdine's beautifully made new guitar follows the spec of the standard Atkin OM, with a Sitka spruce top, Indian rosewood back and sides, Brazilian mahogany neck and ebony fretboard, bridge, headstock veneer and binding. However, the faultless black lacquer finish on the top of the guitar – a notoriously difficult thing to achieve – and the eye-catching 'Boo' inlaid in pearl on the fretboard are what you'll notice first.

Being an instrument built for live use, the guitar is fitted with an L.R. Baggs Element Active pickup

system, which uses a discreet endpin preamp and a small volume control tucked inside the soundhole.

Alister Atkin offers all of these options (and many more) on his hand-made instruments, with prices starting at £1,695 for the standard OM model. **GB**

■ [www.boohewerdine.net](http://www.boohewerdine.net)  
■ [www.atkinguitars.com](http://www.atkinguitars.com)



■ Boo Hewerdine (left) pictured with his custom guitar and the man who made it, Alister Atkin

