

Ken Smith BT5G 5 string bass

Click [here](#) for a larger picture.

Builder: Ken Smith.
Model: BT5G 5 string bass.
Serial Number: 5G 1058 93FM.
Case/Gigbag: original hardshell case (black).

Dimensions

Scale Length: 34 inches.
Neck Shape: flat-oval.
Width at Nut: 1 3/4 inches.
String Width at Bridge: 2 13/16 inches.
Overall Length: 44 1/4 inches.
Widest: 13 3/4 inches.
Weight: 10 pounds.

Construction

Neck: 5-piece maple and morado, neck through with heavily contoured heel, large original style Smith headstock with black veneer and large pearl "S" logo.
Fingerboard: morado, 24 frets, with large 'Smith' dots.
Body: quilted maple top and back on mahogany core, decorative accents between top/core/back, as well as between neck and body.
Finish: high gloss.

Hardware

Bridge: Smith quick release, low profile (gold).
Tuners: Smith minis (gold).
Strap buttons: inlaid Dunlop locking.
Outputs: 1/4" mono.

Electronics

Pickups: Smith soapbars with exposed (adjustable) polepieces.
Controls: volume, balance, bass, middle, treble.
Preamp: Smith active, 9-volt.

Condition

Fret wear: extremely light.
Superficial wear: none.
Deep wear: none.
Hardware wear: light wear on tuning machines (plating is a little dull in some parts).
Pickups wear: none.

Overall Condition: [near mint](#).

Comments:

An unusual story, but if you think about it, it makes sense... Looks like someone went out and found the best sounding Smith bass they could find - in this case an early 90's BT model (the ones with the large headstock - yay!), and then gave it a very expensive high gloss finish. Perhaps they just didn't like the typical (thin) Smith finish? Or perhaps they just like really shiny instruments? For whatever reason, here it is now, the only high gloss Smith bass we've ever seen. The refinish itself is flawless and the bass is now about as minty as you'll find (which is almost a little weird considering the bass is actually about 10 years old!), it really does look brand new, certainly a lot cleaner than just about every 'new' showroom bass we've ever seen hanging in a store. The shiny finish really does look fantastic on the lovely quilt maple top and back - wow, this bass IS beautiful. More happy news: this bass also sounds real good - deep, rich, and evenly balanced throughout all registers, with a real nice attack and sustain for days, and of course the characteristic smooth Smith mids (we tend to favor the sound from the three knob system, but this one sounds really good too). And we've said it many times but we'll say it again, these BT-bodied Smith basses have the little extra width at the waist that make them one of the most comfy sit down basses ever (actually my personal favorite sit down basses ever, but I just had to say 'one of the most' because one of the other Bunnies likes the Fodera Anthony Jackson basses too and whines when I speak in absolutes), it just sits right up in your lap in perfect playing position - very nice, not an easy trick to design a bass you know, I think Ken Smith is underappreciated as a designer. With all the (really boring) pretender copycat basses out there these days, these older originals are looking better than ever before.



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