

## **Doner Designs Time Machine Bass Guitar Sale Listing**

### **Description**

Offered for sale is a time machine theme bass guitar hand-made by Doner Designs. The bass was inspired by the *Back to the Future* movie series and 100% of the sale proceeds (net of shipping and selling costs) will be donated to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

This one-of-a-kind custom creation results from a 300 hour labor of love by Steve and Richard Doner. The bass is a fully functional instrument constructed from premium components, but is also a work of art suitable for display by anyone, musician or not.

Direct reference to the *Back to the Future* movie series was avoided, out of respect for intellectual property, but the bass features a selectable destination year display, a device resembling a flux capacitor and other electronic gadgetry sure to please fans of the time travel entertainment genre, 80's pop culture and musicians alike.

For still-photography, the chasing lights effect can be changed to an always-on photo-mode with the flick of a switch. The lighting and time machine gadgets utilize a rechargeable NiMH RC battery pack which is fully isolated from the audio electronics for 100% noise-free guitar operation.

Wood parts consist of a Warmoth Iceman alder body and a Warmoth maple neck with ebony fretboard. A Nordstrand Power Blade P bass pickup delivers exceptional classic tone to an Audere two-band preamp which produces a transparent uncolored signal when the knobs are at noon with the flexibility of onboard bass & treble boost/cut capability. Hardware includes a Babicz bridge and Hipshot tuning machines. The unique finish features hand-sprayed nitrocellulose lacquer. The silver base coat is covered with a misting of bronze and black to create a corroded metal appearance which is protected by several coats of clear matte finish nitro.

### **Features & Specifications**

- Custom design, construction, finish and setup by Doner Designs in suburban Chicago
- Warmoth 20 fret maple neck with ebony fingerboard
- Warmoth alder Iceman bass body
- Nordstrand Power Blade ceramic magnet P bass pickup
- Audere two-band preamp with passive tone when set flat and boost/cut controls for bass and treble
- Babicz Full Contact Hardware bridge
- Hipshot Ultralight tuning machines
- ReRanch Guitar Products nitrocellulose lacquer finish
- AxetremeCreations custom clear cavity covers, switch plate and warning label
- Ernie Ball Cobalt flatwound strings
- External 9 volt battery box for easy replacement of preamp battery
- Key operated switch for activation of audio electronics

- Covered military style switch for activation of time machine electronics
- Rechargeable NiMH battery for operation of time machine electronics (2 hour fast-charger included)
- Four digit destination year display selectable from the year 0000 to 9999 AD. Each digit individually selectable. Year defaults to 1985 when power is turned on.
- LED lights in a device resembling a flux capacitor. Lights can be switched between the normal chasing effect or to an always-on state for still photography
- LED lit vacuum tube in rear cavity
- LazrArt custom neck plate

### **Accessories Included**

- Electro- Harmonix headphone amplifier
- Tascam over-ear studio headphones
- Perri's leather lighting bolt strap
- Snark clip-on tuner
- Pro Rock Gear deluxe padded gig bag
- Custom instrument cable
- Fast charger for 7.2 volt NiMH RC battery (1-2 hour charge time)
- Wall hanger

### **Estimated Value**

Valuation of an item like this is not an exact science to say the least. The only known is that the value of the raw materials is approximately \$2,000 and the donated labor is approximately 300 hours. We set a target price of \$17,000 to start out.

As illustrated in the table below, one could view the \$15,000 excess above the materials value to be a donation and assume there is no artistic or labor value beyond the raw materials. At the other extreme, one could assume a labor rate of \$50 per hour (less than the cost of a plumber) which would value the labor at \$15,000.

It's all in the eye of the beholder. However the buyer thinks of it, we hope that the combination of the coolness of the guitar and the great cause will lead to a high selling price for the benefit of the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

We do not give tax advice, but note that both the materials and Doner Designs' labor were 100% donated. No compensation or tax deduction was taken on our side of the transaction and all of the net proceeds (after shipping and selling costs) will be direct donated to the Michael J. Fox Foundation via eBay for Charity.

	<u>Zero Labor Value</u>	<u>Mid Labor Value</u>	<u>High Labor Value</u>
Materials value	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Labor value (est. 300 hours)	-	7,500	15,000
Donation to a great cause	<u>15,000</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>-</u>
Target Price	<u>\$ 17,000</u>	<u>\$ 17,000</u>	<u>\$ 17,000</u>

As for the sale process, we are starting with a fixed price listing. Depending on how things go, we may reduce the price and may initiate a series of auctions with decreasing reserve prices until the bass is sold. We intend to be patient and strive to maximize the donation to the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

### **Safety Warnings**

- Never leave the guitar unattended when charging the 7.2 volt NiMH RC battery
- Always disconnect 7.2 volt NiMH RC battery when the guitar is not in use
- Disconnect 7.2 volt NiMH RC battery from charger and from guitar if the battery becomes hot to the touch
- Consider having wall hanger professionally installed or purchase a floor stand instead to ensure that the bass is not at risk of falling when on display
- Please read all included instructions

### **Shipping/Pickup/Delivery**

For a buyers within a reasonable drive from metro-Chicago, Doner Designs may seek to arrange a personal delivery, pickup or meet-halfway arrangement if distance and logistics permit. Shipping of art can be risky and insurance is expensive. We would also enjoy meeting the buyer.

Please allow 24-48 hours for shipping information after payment and delivery information is provided – seller needs to obtain insurance coverage. Please allow up to 5 business days for shipping. Seller will communicate with buyer every step of the way but this unique item will require special handling. Intention is to ship via UPS and insure with UPS Capital unless in-person pickup/delivery can be arranged.

Please feel free to ask any questions (or make offers) and we will respond as quickly as possible. Note that Doner Designs is not a full-time business. We both have day jobs. This is a charitable hobby that my son and I operate on the side. For more information about Doner Designs or the time machine bass please visit our website.

<http://www.donerdesigns.org/>

<http://www.donerdesigns.org/time-machine-bass>

**Why the Listing Indicates a 95% instead of a 100% Donation**

The 5% holdback is to cover shipping, insurance and selling costs. We set the percentage at a level that will allow us to drop the selling price as needed without changing the holdback percentage each time. Any excess remaining after funding the shipping, insurance and selling costs will be contributed to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's research as a separate cash donation.

Thank you for your interest!

Steve Doner, Founder  
Doner Designs

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