

# THE FUTURE IS NOW

## The Jon Kammerer Custom Canis Major



**A**s we roll deeper into the 21st century, the category of “acoustic-electric” guitars is wholly separate from traditional acoustics, and the Kammerer line is proof. Its new Canis Major model sports builder Jon Kammerer’s trademark curvy body and unique design style, but with a few wrinkles to set it apart from the pack.

The Canis Major also differs from earlier Kammerer designs in a few areas. While it retains that lozenge body shape and narrow headstock, this box has a traditional soundhole and a deeper, more substantial back, creating a larger sound cavity and more-impressive acoustic volume. It’s not loud like a regular dreadnought, but in the age of acoustic-electric axes, it’s a perfectly workable level for practice and songwriting. For gigs, plug in to activate a L.R. Baggs Element preamp with a thumbwheel Volume mounted on the soundhole rim.

The U.S.-made Canis Major has a 25” scale and flamed-maple neck with 21-fret ebony fretboard that’s tantalizingly slim and fast. The three-piece body is poplar (top, back, and center-band insert) and is cut with a CNC milling machine for absolute precision; Kammerer offers various tonewoods and back depths, so inquire about options. A satin-lacquer finish on the body and hand-rubbed oil on the neck give a fast, natural feel. The natural top of the tester was nicely grained, with an abalone rosette and fingerboard inlays. The singular Kammerer headstock and its

sunken post holes are also nice appointments.

Another unique feature is that the neck is not just a

bolt-on, but affixed to the body with machine bolts that go into an aluminum plate via threaded brass inserts. This allows for easy neck removal, while a dual-action truss rod allows quick tweaks.

Plugged in, the Canis Major proves its mettle quickly enough. The deeper body is balanced for lap playing, but overall light weight and shape make it comfortable for standing and gigging. The neck is freakishly fast and easy to grab. Whether strumming, fingerpicking, tapping, or playing lead, it’s hard to dislike this almost-electric profile.

Tonally, the smaller body shape reduces the chances of feedback and bassy howls onstage, while the pre-amp provides acceptable acoustic dimensions for stage work. With stylish looks, usable tones, and a blazing neck, the Canis Major is an excellent option for the jamming and gigging acoustic-electric guitarist. Welcome to strumming in the 21st century. – *Pete Prown*

Price: \$2,800  
[www.jonkammerercustoms.com](http://www.jonkammerercustoms.com)

