



# Rode Hard

## Lindsey Buckingham's 1979 Turner Model 1

PHOTOS: TOM WALZEM

In 1978, Rick Turner set out to build the guitar that later became known as the Model 1. He wanted to create a guitar that blended old-world craftsmanship and styling with a modern solidbody design and contemporary electronics. Turner based the body silhouette on a circa-1825 Stauffer guitar and decided to make the guitar out of solid mahogany with a slightly arched top and back. He opted for a set maple neck with a reinforced headstock. The Model 1 had a single pickup that rotated to allow different tonal possibilities.

While the Model 1 was still in the design stage, Lindsey Buckingham saw the plans and offered to





buy one of the first ones off the line. In 1979, Turner built the first few and, true to his word, Buckingham bought #79-003, the third one made. Over the next few years, Buckingham toured the world with Fleetwood Mac, playing his original Turner Model 1 in front of millions of fans.

Over the years, Turner refined his initial design, upgrading the preamp and adding piezo pickups to the bridge. Even though Buckingham added a few new Model 1's to his quiver, he still continued to play #79-003 on-stage. That is until a year or so ago, when he smacked the headstock and nearly broke it off. "This guitar was 'rode hard and put away wet,'" says

Turner. "A few years ago, Lindsey was breaking guitars as fast as we could fix them. This one has just lagged on the repair. It will live again, but I need to pull the fingerboard, splice on a new peghead, reinforce the joint with a couple of strips of carbon fiber, and put it back together."

It's good to know that, one day, this legendary guitar will ride again.

— Michael John Simmons