



## Slip Sliding Away

The boffins at Wolfram have been at it again, developing another item to take the slide guitar world by storm *Words David Mead*

The slide world was rocked a little while ago when Wolfram released their precision-made Tungsten Carbide slides. Players such as Martin Simpson were knocked sideways by the sound and tone obtained from their impossibly shiny surface and the English guitarist quickly began using them on stage and in the recording studio. Many other players joined the Wolfram Slide pack, despite the hefty price of £250 plus packaging. This might have caused a few intakes of breath along the way from would-be purchasers, but it was a reflection of the amount of work put into every single slide, which has to be ground and polished to within a tolerance of 500ths of a millimetre. Then there was the weight – a whopping 190g; we tried one and it felt like a piece of military hardware or something NASA would dream up for the International Space Station. But Wolfram didn't rest on its laurels; far from it. By listening to their customer base, they found that the weight

and price were perhaps putting everyone except the top pros off from enjoying some precision slide-power. With that in mind, they have developed a new range – and *Guitarist Presents Acoustic* has received one of the first models released.

This time, Wolfram has used humble stainless steel as the basic material for the new series and the weight is reduced, too, as the new slides weigh in at 105g – still heavy enough to put some considerable oomph into your slide playing, but not quite dense enough to penetrate armour plating, as was the case with the original line!

Tellingly, Martin Simpson has adopted the new stainless steel slide as his own, so much so that Wolfram has christened the new model the Martin Simpson Signature Slide. If you want a few more vital statistics, then the new slides are machined in the UK from a solid billet of marine-grade stainless steel and hand-polished to achieve the mirror finish. Construction and finishing are both aimed at delivering the best

possible tone and to minimise string noise in use.

Two versions are available, medium and small, the latter retaining the same weight and balance as its bigger brother so there's no compromise with tone. It's merely been reconfigured with a smaller inner bore and a slightly shorter length. Both have a tapered interior for added comfort in use. So, you get all of the hi-tech precision of both design and execution in the stainless steel version and yet the price is eminently more affordable at £35.99. We've had the opportunity to have a little play with one and it's the real deal – smooth as you like and as toneful as your wildest dreams.

Each slide will come in its own presentation box, plus a velvet pouch to keep it in – and if that wasn't already enough to have you reaching for the plastic, you'll also receive a booklet with a special guide to slide playing from Martin Simpson himself.

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