

# READER GUITAR OF THE MONTH

**Name:** Terry Goyette

**Hometown:** Raymond, New Hampshire

**Guitar:** Doubleneck Bass/Guitar



**B**ack in 1985, I bought my first electric guitar, an Aria Pro II ZZ Standard, and around 1990 I traded it in for a bass. One summer in the early 2000s, I decided I wanted another ZZ, and I ended up finding a couple on Craigslist. I bought one broken and one cracked ZZ body and two necks, as well as a bagful of parts for cheap from some guy about an hour's drive away.

The first thing I did was glued the cracked body back together. I was going to restore the guitar and make it look like my 1985 ZZ, but wondered about the spare body and neck. Someone suggested making a doubleneck like James Hetfield's, and since I'm a bass player and a huge Rush fan, a bass-on-top-and-guitar-on-bottom doubleneck sounded fun. "Xanadu," anyone? After some mockups, I cut both bodies and glued them together, keeping the Explorer-ish shape. I had some spare parts, such as pickups, lying around from other projects, so I used those.

Since I was doing this project on a shoestring budget and don't know any professional painters who would work for free, I decided to paint it myself. I found articles about DIY instrument-painting using off-the-shelf colors and rattle cans. By this time, it was October, and in typical New England fashion, we had a freak snowstorm. The temperature and humidity were all over the place, and inexperienced me trudged on with painting and sanding, hoping to finish the project before Christmas. I found out how much I disliked refinishing guitars—and refinishing this guitar was an exceptional feat because the body is so much bigger than any standard guitar or bass.

There was a little piece of wood from between the guitar neck and the neck pickup that fell off during sanding that ended up giving me the biggest headache of all. Without thinking, I cut the excess neck pocket where that piece was, mounted the neck, and went on doing other things. Without knowing, I inadvertently changed the scale length of the guitar which would keep me from properly tuning it. This was apparent when I tried to play a simple G chord. It sounded horribly out of tune.

I had to move the neck back to its original position, and there are visible scars from the mistake, but ... not much I can do about that now. This project taught me a lot, especially to accept who I am: not perfect. I'm not, and the doubleneck is not either, and I'm okay with it! It's a fun instrument to play and one of my favorite-sounding basses! 🍷



**Since I'm a bass player and also a huge Rush fan, a doubleneck with a bass on top and guitar on bottom sounded fun. 'Xanadu,' anyone?"**



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