

## Reader's Rig



Country-blues and folk guitarist Marjorie Thompson gets the most out of her custom Lizard Eye and Gottschall guitars thanks to their slim, speedy necks.

**WHO SHE IS** Marjorie Thompson is a singer-songwriter/fingerstyle guitarist from Providence, Rhode Island, who plays country-blues and folk music and has recorded four CDs of original songs. Originally from New York City, she took up guitar in the mid '60s and it soon became a lifelong passion. Thompson's busy professional life once sidelined music—she's currently dean of Brown University's biology department, where she has worked for more than 21 years—but attending Jorma Kaukonen's Fur Peace Ranch Guitar Camp six years ago changed that. "After the camp I couldn't stop playing and my progress just exploded," Thompson relates. "The way Jorma breaks pieces down unlocked the door to my own music. His manner, style, and aplomb made me work hard to apply that knowledge to my material." Thompson is now a teaching assistant in Kaukonen's beginning fingerstyle classes, and she plays about 75 shows a year with bassist Greg Franklin under the band name MoSugar.

**MAIN GIG GUITAR** Custom Lizard Eye Orchestra Model (shown above), built by luthier Fran LaMalva ([www.lizardeye.com](http://www.lizardeye.com)) of Groton, Massachusetts. "The Lizard Eye is tailored for me with a somewhat narrower waist because I'm tiny—five-foot tall!" she says. "It has a handpicked set of dark East Indian rosewood, an Engelmann top, bubinga binding, and a modified V neck that is fast and slim because I have very small hands."

**SECONDARY AXES** Collings OM2C and C10, Taylor 814, RainSong OM, and Gottschall Funnelbody flattop, designed and built by Peter Gottschall ([www.gottschall-guitar.de](http://www.gottschall-guitar.de)) in Uttenweiler, Germany. "It has soundholes inside its double cutaways and it projects surprising volume and tone for its size," Thompson says. "It's also very comfortable to play, and has a very fast, slim neck that's perfect for my playing style."

**AMPLIFICATION** Lizard Eye and Collings: Fishman Rare Earth pickups, Monster cable, L.R. Baggs Para Acoustic D.I. For smaller gigs, she uses an AER Compact 60 amp and an AER AG8 monitor. "For road gigs, we recently bought the new Bose Personal Amplification System with a bass module, which is fabulous," she says. "It's easy to set up and it fills rooms we play perfectly, with no feedback, and with a warm, natural sound."

**STRINGS AND THINGS** D'Addario EXP lights, Boss TU-2 and Intellitouch PT1 tuners.

**FAVORITE GIG** "The Coffee Depot, a lovely listening room in Warren, Rhode Island. The gracious hosts and clientele make me feel so welcome that I decided to use the recording of my gig there last December for my fourth album."

---