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Sleek Gibson F-9 makes legendary mandolin sound more affordable

The Gibson F-9 mandolin brings the legendary sound of Gibson's "F-style" scroll-body instruments to musicians on a budget. The new model from Gibson's Original Acoustic Instruments division has all the meticulous, handcrafted construction features of Gibson's classic F-5 line but with a sleek, no-frills look for a more affordable price.

"Gibson's f-hole, scroll-body mandolin has been not only the industry standard but the dream instrument for mandolin players ever since 1922," said Henry Juskiewicz, chairman and CEO of Gibson Guitar Corp. "The F-9 brings the Gibson dream within reach of more musicians than ever before."

Gibson acoustical engineer Lloyd Loar created the original f-hole Gibson mandolin, the F-5, in 1922, and the model is still considered the pinnacle of mandolin design. The F-9 has all the design features that have given the F-5 its legendary tone, including a hand-fitted dovetail neck joint, solid maple neck, sides and back, solid spruce top and a hand-tuned tone chamber.

The F-9's no-frills design gives it a sleek look that is unique among traditional mandolins, with black binding on the top of the body, no fingerboard inlay and Vintage Brown finish - a hand-stained light chocolate color with an extremely thin satin lacquer outer coat.

The Gibson F-9 is made at The Gibson Bluegrass Showcase in the Opry Mills retail complex, a stone's throw from the Grand Ole Opry House. In addition to a live performance venue, the 30,000-square-foot facility houses a retail store with instruments and Gibson wear, a restaurant and the headquarters of Gibson's Original Acoustic Instrument division, where visitors can watch skilled craftsmen at work handmaking Gibson mandolins and banjos, Flatiron mandolins and Dobro® resonator guitars.

For more information on the F-9, The Gibson Bluegrass Showcase and the entire OAI line, visit www.gibson.com.

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Contacts:

Jason Padgitt, Rogers & Cowan, 310 201 8840, jpadgitt@shandwick.com

Walter Carter, Gibson Guitar Corp., 615 871 4500, ext. 2268, walter.carter@gibson.com