Dino’s Corner

Welcome to Dino’s corner, I’m Dino Velvet your host. In the upcoming months, I will be reporting on a number of topics and telling a lot of lefty – and some righty- stories.

First, some background. Like many of you, I started with piano lessons at a very young age. When the school band programs came around I learned to play the Trumpet.

I was good and band class was a lot of fun. We did not have the term “Band Geeks” in those days, so we really did not know we were. When I started to become a teenager

I realized that playing trumpet was not cool, but playing guitar certainly was. My older righty brother had a Decca Acoustic floating around so I started to mess with that.

I started playing electric when I was 14 and quickly realized that being a lefty meant overcoming some things. Especially in the early 70’s.

I spent several years behind the counter of a local music store; we were a Gibson and Gretsch dealer. So there will be lots of Gibson stories. Many Gibson stories,

Although not from the weenie, forum perspective you are probably used to.

I was there when eBay started and for us it was as if a Pandora’s Box had opened. There will be lots of eBay stories and tips on buying and selling there.

I was also there when most all of the forums came about, and am still a member of most of them. Therefore, there will be forum stories as well. Like most lefties, I became an accidental

Flipper. There was simply no way to ever know what these guitars were really like without actually buying them. A line in a Tony Bacon book launched a lifetime pursuit of Japanese Les Paul’s.

In addition, I was there too when Ishibashi, Taniguchi, came into view. In fact if you ever bought a MIJ LP on ebay or Reverb, there’s a pretty good chance I was the one who first brought it over from

Japan. So we will talk about that too. I have been to a number of Guitars shows, Both NAMMS and Gearfest so we have some stories and advice for you there. Moreover, if you are a noob at all this I can save you a fortune

And keep you from getting ripped off. However, the main reason you want to read my column is very simple: I have no dog in this fight. I have a real job. I have no website, do not work for anyone and am not

Beholden to anyone or thing in the music business. So I am more than happy to say when a product, or a store, or a seller sucks.