

## **Transcription of Harmony Central ~ Line 6 preview video of Variax 700 Acoustic**

For those who don't have the ability to view/hear the Line 6 video, here's a transcription, just without audio and video ;-).

This transcription maybe 'incomplete' or 'unreliable'. Due to average translating and hearing ☺ abilities. However the most info will come across correctly.

Transcribed Harmony Central ~Line 6 Preview Video Variax 700 Acoustic from Namm Jan. 2004

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### Rich Lasner

Line 6 introduces the Line 6 Variax Acoustic guitar, with a suggested street price of US \$ 1,199,99. In developing this guitar we addressed two of the major issues we feel are stumbling blocks into great acoustic sounds both live, at high volumes without feedback and in the recording studio, regardless of the environment, microphone placement or any other ambient noise problems that normally plague good recorded acoustic guitar sounds.

### James Santiago

This is the Variax Acoustic 700, we're going to start with what we called the Jumbo model which is based on the Gibson J-45

*~Demo of guitar sound*

In contrast to that we're going to go forward to be a smaller parlor type of tone. I'm sure you'll notice the shifts in the body resonance and other things as we play the chords

*~Demo of guitar sound*

This type of steel strings, we've also done something that's not common for this type of guitar, which is modeling a nylon strings guitar so as I come over to this you'll notice the attack of the string and the roundness of the string below, more full balance like you'd have with a nylon string guitar rather than the steel string

*~Demo of guitar sound*

We've also added one extra thing to preview which is a small Japanese banjo called Shamisen. But as you listen along you'll notice as I play quickly the attack like playing with a small pick and the fretting...

*~Demo of guitar sound*

Besides having 16 models of great guitars we've added knob to scroll through the models but you can also use this for alternate tuning. So when you hold down the button, the light starts flashing and brings you to alternate tuning mode.

I'll go through some tunings other than the classic EADGBE, it also has Dropped D, Open G, DADGAD tunings, natural tunings and the special Variax Bass tone tunings

I'm going to go scroll through and play the strings open so you can hear how the guitar 'retunes' itself.

*~Demo of guitar sound*

Besides the retuning of the guitar we also have the virtual capo and a few other special things. So if I go back out of that mode, and just pull up that Jumbo guitar. By holding

down again, one of the sliders here comes up that virtual capo as I move it up and down if can go up a fifth or go down an entire octave. Here can hear the guitar shifting the whole pitch.

*~Demo of guitar sound*

What I can also do, if I get out of that.. Is being able to preset all those guitars and besides the alternate tuning things and virtual capo and 16 models, you're able to actually hear things like microphone placement. So if I stick with this acoustic sound hear this. The sliders here become microphone placement So what I'm doing here is taking the microphone placement and taking it across the guitar so you'll hear what it sounds like when the microphone is just recording the body of the guitar.

*~Demo of guitar sound*

So what comes out of the guitar can go direct to your P.A. or recording gear and it is, like it now, very flat, like here through the monitor here. Where normally you'd have the piezo electric pick up and have to go to electronics and preamps just to make it sound good

But here you have a really beautiful guitar sound with microphones set up in the studio correctly and when you scroll through you don't have to worry about something like feedback or additional noise while recording

Whell I'm going to leave you with one last thing which is this feature where normally when you play solo acoustic guitar, you have to arrange things to make it happen. I'm going to arrange these two last strings (low strings) actually bass strings so I can do a solo guitar thing...

*~Changes the preset.*

So now you hear these two strings as a bass..

*~Demo of guitar sound*

End of video

Source of video: <http://trio.harmony-central.com/ramgen/WNAMM04/Line6-Variax.rm>

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