

## Martin j40 vs Gibson sj 200 short reviews

'While searching for the one and only guitar I've played lots of guitars lately. Believe me in Denmark they cost a fortune! So no time for doing any mistakes... I wanted a perfect allround guitar and found it! I tried Gibson SJ200, Martin HD28 etc. Until i found the J40... A jumbo but not as big as SJ200. This guitar is...Perfect! In my mind i was looking for Gibson but just try this guitar and i'm convinced you'll pick this one too! The sound is FANTASTIC!!!I've only owned my J-40 for a week, but I've been playing a long time and know acoustic guitars pretty well. I currently own Taylor and Guild acoustics as well as another Martin. In the store, I compared the J-40 head-to-head against a Taylor GS7, Gibson J-200, J-45, and Hummingbird, a Guild D-55, and Martin D-28, HD-35, and HD-28V. The Martin J-40 was the standout of the bunch, which speaks volumes to me. I love the tone of Martin dreadnoughts, but the J-40 has their big, rich bass without the boominess and with much better treble high frequency response - in short, it has a much more balanced sound, in my opinion. It's also just as loud as the dreadnoughts. The string spacing at the bridge is a little tight for fingerpicking, in my opinion, making this primarily a strummer's and flatpicker's guitar; however, it does sound outstanding played fingerstyle. How to describe the sound? Full, deep, rich, balanced; but beyond that adjectives fail me. It sounds beautiful to my ear, better than all the other amazing guitars I compared it with. I think it's the most underrated and least known of Martin's line, but possibly the best. I'll have this guitar for life and eventually pass it down to my daughter.

For my taste, the J-40 has just the right amount of ornamentation; a little bling, but not overdone. I would have preferred a factory-installed pickup system, but I can have that added easily enough. I don't understand why Martin doesn't include strap buttons on their guitars, but that's almost too minor to mention.

In a word, perfect. I've been over my J-40 very carefully, and I can find no flaw in it, anywhere. It's pricey, but not unreasonably so considering the quality, features, and tone, as well as the fact that it's American-made.'

'The J 200 is an addition to my only other Gibson, the Songwriter Studio Deluxe EC. The Songwriter is like the majority of guitars, using Sitka top and Rosewood back and sides. I wanted something different. Something that isn't like the majority of guitars. Something with a little more "wow" factor. And boy, Gibson did not disappoint. If only I could select the right verbs to describe this awesome guitar. Beautiful. Elegant. Stunning. A few words that are totally inadequate to describe this guitar. The fit and finish is totally perfect. I am "wowed" every time I look at the J200. The playability and tone just blows me away. While the Songwriter is brighter the J200 has a more consistent, mellow tone. Finger picking, using your fleshy fingers, will produce a more mellow tone as compared to the Songwriter, which is brighter. However, the J200 has a more consistent tone over all the strings any place on the neck. I didn't seem to get that with the Songwriter. The J200 is such a dream to play and listen to that I would suspect I will not be playing the Songwriter much. Am I going to throw the Songwriter in the dumpster? Hmm. Probably not. Anyone interested in a used Songwriter? hahaha. I am an intermediate guitarist. So, moving up and down the neck, whether strumming, flat or finger picking, has not always be easy on my previous guitar. On the J200, it now seems much easier. And, notes that didn't always ring true on the Songwriter, now ring true and full and more resonate on the J200. I wouldn't want anyone to shy away from the Songwriter. Its a marvelous guitar. But, its not a J200. Paying another 2 grand for the J200 makes a big difference in playability, sound, and

beauty. I can only imagine the improvement as the guitar ages. Not sure it can get any better than this. I am blown away. If you have been on the fence about whether to jump up to the J200, then I'd say, get off the fence and purchase this truly magnificent guitar. You will not be disappointed.'

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