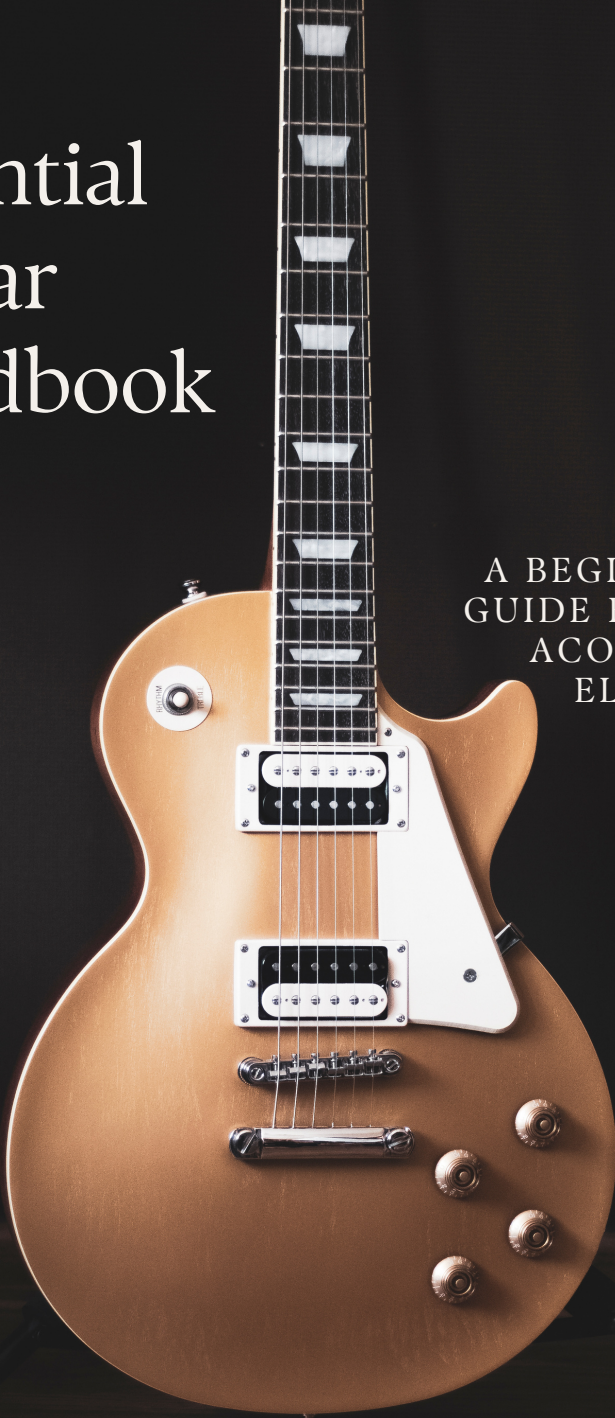


The Essential Guitar Handbook

A BEGINNER'S
GUIDE FOR THE
ACOUSTIC &
ELECTRIC
GUITAR



Thom Whitehead
Florida State University
EME5077 Spring 2024

PREFACE: A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

Hello everyone, my name is Thom Whitehead, and I am thrilled to share with you my comprehensive guide to getting started with the guitar. Whether you are a complete beginner or have dabbled with the guitar before you will find this book to be a trusted resource on your musical journey.

Playing the guitar is an incredibly rewarding experience that offers an outlet for creativity and emotion. The guitar provides endless opportunities for entertainment and enjoyment. Not only is playing the guitar fun but it can also help with personal development and foster social connections.

This *Essential Guitar Handbook* will cover all of the information, tips, and tricks that I have gained from over 20 years' experience with buying, playing, and maintaining guitars. This important information might typically be overlooked or seldom thought about by a typical novice guitar player.



When learning guitar, it is imperative to understand music theory, chords, scales, etc. While this book briefly touches upon some of those topics, it concentrates more on general guitar knowledge and how to select the right guitar for you.

The book is divided into five sections where we will learn all about acoustic guitars, electric guitars, explore factors that contribute to a guitars sound and comfort/playability, a buying guide for purchasing your guitar, and some tips on what to do to get started learning your new instrument.

PREFACE: A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

Whether your ultimate goal is to strum along to your favorite songs, write your own compositions, or perform on stage, this book will empower you to unlock your potential as a guitarist by starting off with the information you need to know.

To provide you even further details on certain topics, I have linked external resources like websites, blogs, and videos. To access these additional resources, click on the “[Here](#)” or text that is highlighted in [blue](#), as you see them throughout the book.

Below are just some examples of what you can achieve with this book:

- Determine what type of guitar is best for you,
- Identify the different parts of an acoustic and electric guitar,
- Categorize the different types of electric guitars,
- Explain the factors that influence a guitar’s sound and playability,
- Create a plan to buy your first guitar,
- Describe how to read tablature and chord diagrams,

Welcome to the world of guitars.
Let the journey begin!

Thom Whitehead



“A Close-up Shot of an Electric Guitar,” Photo by Andreu Marques

Table of Contents

Preface: A Note from the Author	i
Introduction: Different Types of Guitar	01
Section I: Acoustic Guitar 101	03
Part I – Acoustic Guitar Components.....	04
Part II – How Acoustic Guitars Produce Sound.....	06
Part III – Nylon String Acoustic Guitars.....	08
Part IV – Steel String Acoustic Guitars.....	10
Section II: Electric Guitar 101	12
Part I – History of Electric Guitar.....	13
Part II – Electric Guitar Components.....	14
Part III – Electric Guitar Pickups.....	16
Part IV – Electric Guitar Body Types.....	18
Section III: Sound & Playability Factors	20
Part I – Guitar Size and Scale Length.....	21
Part II – Wood Material & Neck Profiles.....	23
Section IV: Guitar Buying Guide	25
Part I – Creating a Plan.....	26
Part II – Recommended Brands.....	28
Part III – Guitar Accessories.....	30
Part IV – Amps & Pedals.....	32
Section V: Beginning to Play	35
Part I – Lessons.....	36
Part II – Music Theory, Guitar Chords, Tabs.....	38
Part III – Practice Routine & Guitar Maintenance.....	40
References	43

Introduction: Different Types of Guitar

Where to start? There are many factors when it comes to playing guitar, and a good starting place is learning about the different types of guitars.

If you ever walked into your local music shop you might have noticed that there are so many different types of guitars that you can choose from. Each type of guitar has its own unique characteristics, sound, and playing style. For the simplicity of this book, we will concentrate on **acoustic** and **electric six string guitars**. Even within focusing on these two categories, there are still many different types of guitars to learn about. For example, in the picture below you can see five different types of guitars that fall either into the acoustic or electric category. We will explore these more in depth on the following pages.

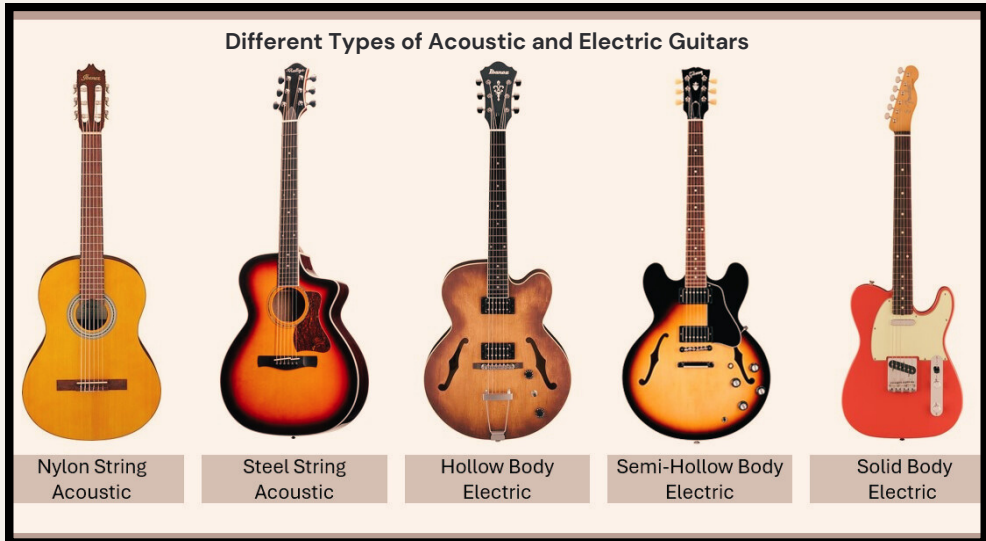


Photo taken from (Amazon.com: Ibanez Artcore AF55 Hollowbody Electric Guitar - Tobacco Flat: Musical Instruments, n.d.), (Gibson ES-335 Semi-Hollow Electric Guitar Vintage Burst | Guitar Center, n.d.), (Ibanez GA3 Classical Guitar, n.d.), (Prestige Guitars Ltd., 2023), (Vintera® II '60s Telecaster® | Electric Guitars, n.d.)

Introduction: Different Types of Guitar

Like many other stringed instruments, the guitar is a descendant of the lute. If you are interested in learning more about other types of guitars or string instruments related to the guitar, I encourage you to check out the resources below, and take a deeper dive into learning more about them. (Please click on the instrument name in blue below.)

[Bass Guitar](#) – Bass guitars look like electric guitars but have longer necks and fewer strings (usually four). They produce lower-pitched notes which helps provide a rhythmic foundation.

[Steel Guitar](#) – Are played horizontally and produce sound using metal strings and a metal bar or slide. They are often used in folk and country music.

[The Mandolin](#) – Has a small, pear-shaped body with a rounded back and a fretted neck with four pairs of metal strings (eight strings in total) that are tuned similar to a violin.

[The Banjo](#) – Banjos are characterized by their distinctive plucked sound and are commonly associated with folk, bluegrass, country, and traditional music genres.



Bass guitar | Description, Tuning, Sound Production, & History

Bass, electrically amplified stringed musical instrument that has typically four to six heavy strings and is the lowest pitched type of guitar. The bass is further distinguished by its relatively long neck and scale length (the...

Encyclopedia Britannica, Feb. 25

<https://www.britannica.com/art/bass-guitar>

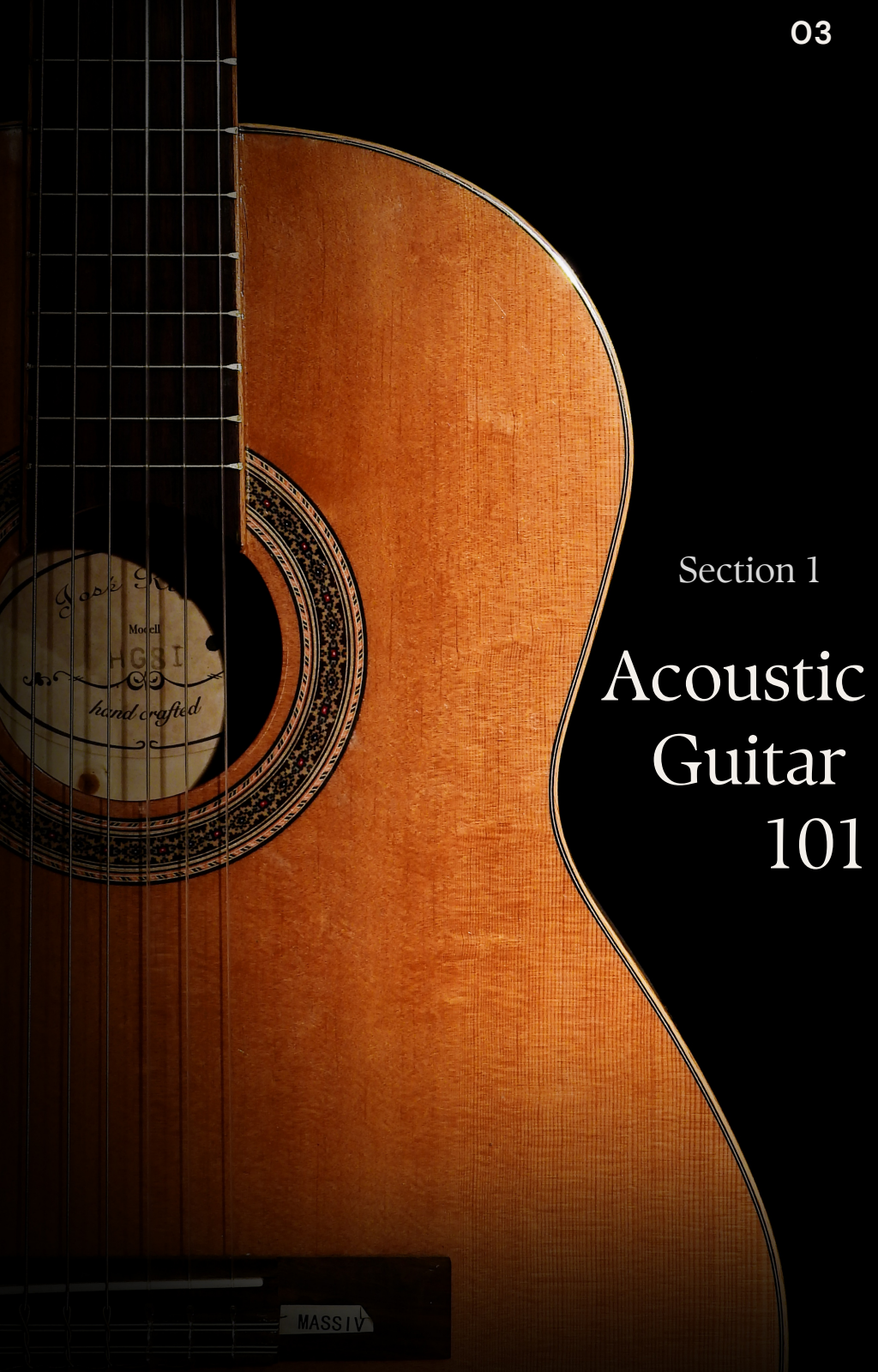


Steel guitar | Description, Types, & History

The steel guitar is any of several stringed instruments that are distinguished by being played on the lap, wherein a rigid object, typically a metal bar, is moved over the strings as the guitarist plucks notes and...

Encyclopedia Britannica, Jan. 19

<https://www.britannica.com/art/steel-guitar>



Section 1

Acoustic Guitar 101

Acoustic Guitar 101 - Part I

NYLON STRING ACOUSTIC GUITAR

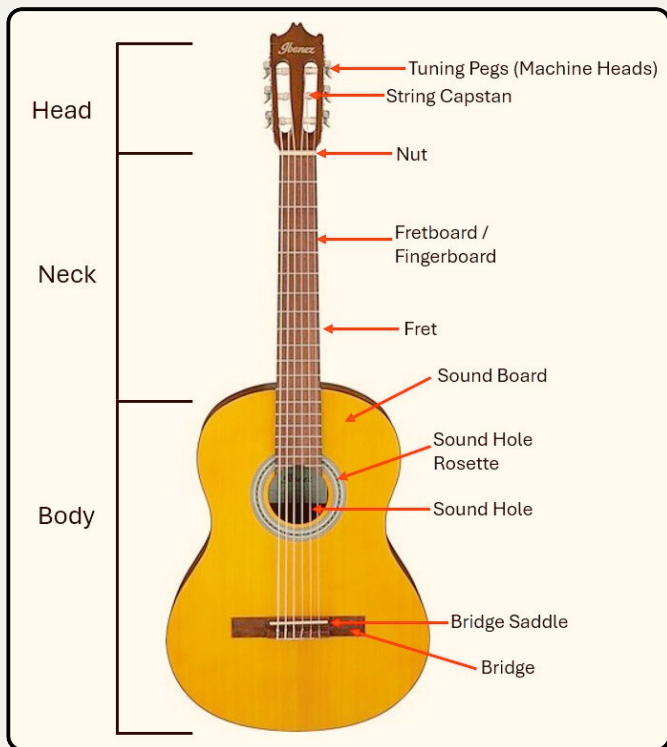


Photo taken from (Ibanez GA3 Classical Guitar, n.d.)

Components of an Acoustic Guitar

The next two pages will give an overview of the primary components that make up nylon and steel string acoustics. In a later section, we will see that there are a lot of similar components between the nylon/steel string acoustic guitars and their electronic counterparts. The Guitar can be broken down into three main parts: the *head*, *neck*, and *body*.

Head / Headstock

Located at the end of the guitar neck, the headstock serves as a critical component for tuning and maintaining the instrument's playability and sound quality. The headstock houses the tuning pegs, string capstans, and is separated from the neck by the nut.

Acoustic Guitar 101 - Part I

STEEL STRING ACOUSTIC GUITAR

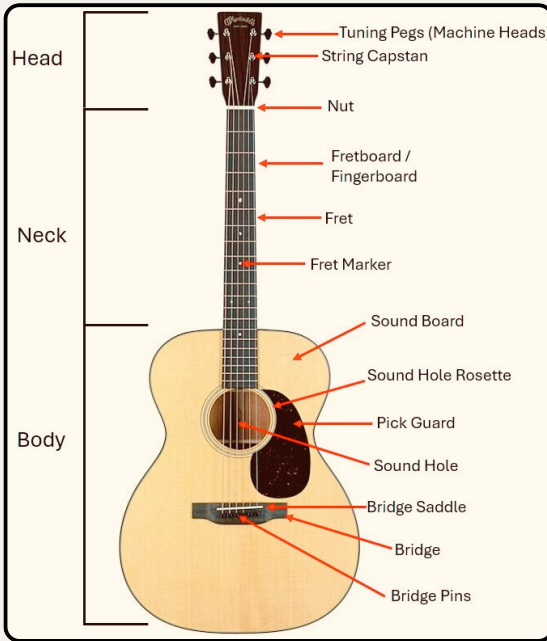


Photo taken from (Martin 00018 Acoustic Guitar, n.d.)

Nut

A piece of material (e.g., bone, plastic, graphite) that separates the neck and headstock. The nut's slots guide the guitar strings into proper spacing and alignment facilitating smooth tuning.

Neck

The long slender portion of wood that extends from the body to the headstock. The neck plays a crucial role in supporting the strings, providing a surface for **the frets** (thin metal strips) and fretboard. The neck influences the instrument's tone, playability, and overall feel. We will dive deeper to that in a later section.

Body

Acoustic guitars come in various body shapes and sizes, each with its unique sound characteristics and playability. It is one of the most recognizable and essential components of the guitar, contributing significantly to its tone, volume, and projection.

Acoustic Guitar 101 - Part II

HOW ACOUSTIC GUITARS PRODUCE SOUND

Now that we know a little more about the component parts of an acoustic guitar, let's review how they produce sound. Refer to the illustration diagram at the bottom of this page.

1. String Vibration

When a guitarist plucks or strums the strings of an acoustic guitar, they create vibrations. These vibrations travel down the length of the strings and into the guitar's body.

2. Bridge & Saddle

The strings of the guitar are anchored at the bridge, which is located on the soundboard. The bridge transmits the vibrations of the strings to the soundboard, and the saddle, a small piece of bone or plastic, helps transfer the vibrations to the soundboard more efficiently.

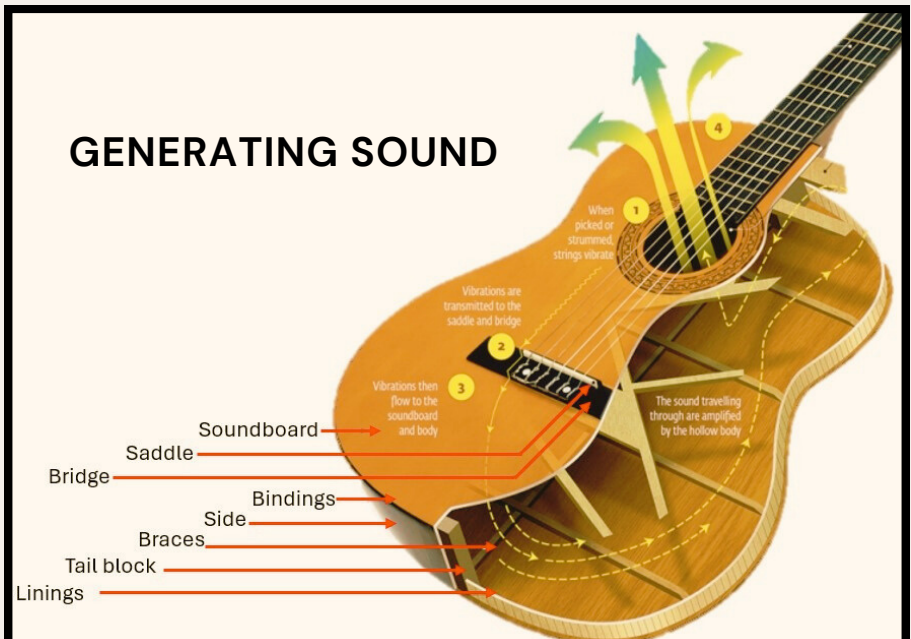


Image taken from (Michael, 2013)

Acoustic Guitar 101 - Part II

HOW ACOUSTIC GUITARS PRODUCE SOUND

3. Soundboard & Body Resonance

As the soundboard vibrates, it creates waves of sound energy within the hollow body of the guitar. The shape and construction of the body, including the air cavity inside, amplify and shape these sound waves.

4. Soundhole

The soundhole, typically located in the center of the guitar's soundboard, allows the sound waves to escape from the body, projecting the sound outward and making it audible to listeners.

Sound Reflection and Projection

As the sound waves bounce around inside the guitar's body, they interact with the various surfaces and shapes, creating a complex pattern of reflections and resonances. This process helps amplify and shape the sound before it exits through the soundhole and into the surrounding space.

In summation

The combination of string vibration, soundboard resonance, and body amplification allows acoustic guitars to produce their characteristic warm and rich tones without the need for external amplification.



"Hands Playing an Acoustic Guitar," Photo by The Aris Leoven Collection

Acoustic Guitar 101 - Part III

NYLON STRING ACOUSTIC GUITAR (NSAG)



"Brown Acoustic Guitar in Close Up Photography," Photo by Brett Sayles, Powered by Pexels

I. History: A Guitar by Many Names & Genres

The nylon string acoustic guitar is also known as a **Classical** or **Spanish** guitar. The NSAG has greatly transformed from its origins in Mesopotamia, then spreading to Spain, and eventually making its way to the Americas. If you are interested in learning more about the history of the NSAG, click [Here](#). Music genres that feature NSAGs include *Pop*, *Jazz*, *Classical*, *Flamenco*, and *Latin*.

II. NSAG Characteristics

- Smaller guitar body, wide fretboard.
- Nylon strings require less pressure on the fingertips to press down, resulting in less fingertip pain.
- NSAGs are lighter in weight, easier to hold and transport.
- Produce a mellow, less clear, and quieter sound compared to the steel string acoustics.
- NSAGs are typically plucked using fingertips / fingernails and not a guitar pick.
- NSAGs can be amplified by using a microphone or pickup.

Acoustic Guitar 101 - Part III

NYLON STRING ACOUSTIC GUITAR (NSAG)

IV. Holding, Form & Posture

One way to easily improve your skills as a guitar player is to learn and maintain the correct posture when playing. Correct posture also enhances your efficiency allowing you to access the entire fretboard, it minimizes sore hands, back pain, and muscle fatigue. Let's look at the two primary forms for holding a nylon string guitar, Flamenco and Classical. To listen to Flamenco style guitar, click [Here](#).

V. Flamenco Form

- Place the NSAG on elevated right leg (either cross leg or use foot stool),
- The guitar is angled so that it is almost parallel to the floor,
- Alternative way is to keep both feet on the floor and angle the guitar up



Photo taken from (Howcast, 2013)

VI. Classical Form

- NSAG rests on elevated left leg (recommend a footstool) at a 45-degree angle,
- The headstock of the NSAG is at eye level,
- Sit straight up, relax shoulders, keep head, neck, and spine aligned.
- Click [Here](#) to learn more about classical form.



Photo taken from (Werner & Werner, 2024)

Acoustic Guitar 101 - Part IV

STEEL STRING ACOUSTIC GUITAR (SSAG)

I. Steel String Acoustic Construction

SSAGs are also known as **Folk** guitars, and they are constructed very similar to NSAGs with almost all components made from different types of wood. Found inside the body of both guitars are thin strips of wood, called braces, which provide structural support and reinforcement to the soundboard and back. The various bracing patterns found in various guitar models, and produced by different manufacturers, impact the instrument's tone, volume, and responsiveness.

Let's now look at the characteristics that distinguishes a steel string acoustic guitar.

II. SSAG Characteristics

- SSAG use strings made of phosphor bronze or steel.
- The tension and thickness of the strings provide sound projection, sustain, and playability characterized by bright, vibrant, and dynamic sound.
- SSAGs are very popular and provide a wide range of versatility for use in various musical genres like folk, country, blues, rock, and pop.
- SSAGs have thinner necks compared to a NSAG making it easier for some to play.
- Like NSAGs, SSAGs can be amplified with a microphone, or using a detachable and/or built in pickup/transducer.
- You hold a SSAG as you would an electric guitar with both feet on the ground, and the guitar resting on your lap or standing with a strap connected to the headstock and strap buttons.

Acoustic Guitar 101 - Part IV

STEEL STRING ACOUSTIC GUITAR (SSAG)

III. SSAG Shapes and Sizes

SSAGs come in a variety of body shapes and sizes, each with its own sonic characteristics and features. Examples of these include the parlor, grand auditorium, dreadnought, and jumbo.

The parlor, 00, double-O, grand concert

The body style most similar to a NSAG. It is the smallest overall body size with thinnest soundbox resulting in a lack of volume. Comfortable to play, suitable for young or small frame players.

The grand auditorium, 000, triple-O

Slightly wider and deeper than the parlor style. The convex back increases volume and dynamic range of the soundbox and also increases the low-end response.

The dreadnought

A larger body style with a deep soundbox. Designed to produce a fuller sound with a resonant base compared to other body styles. The dreadnought is one of the most copied and popular body types.

The jumbo

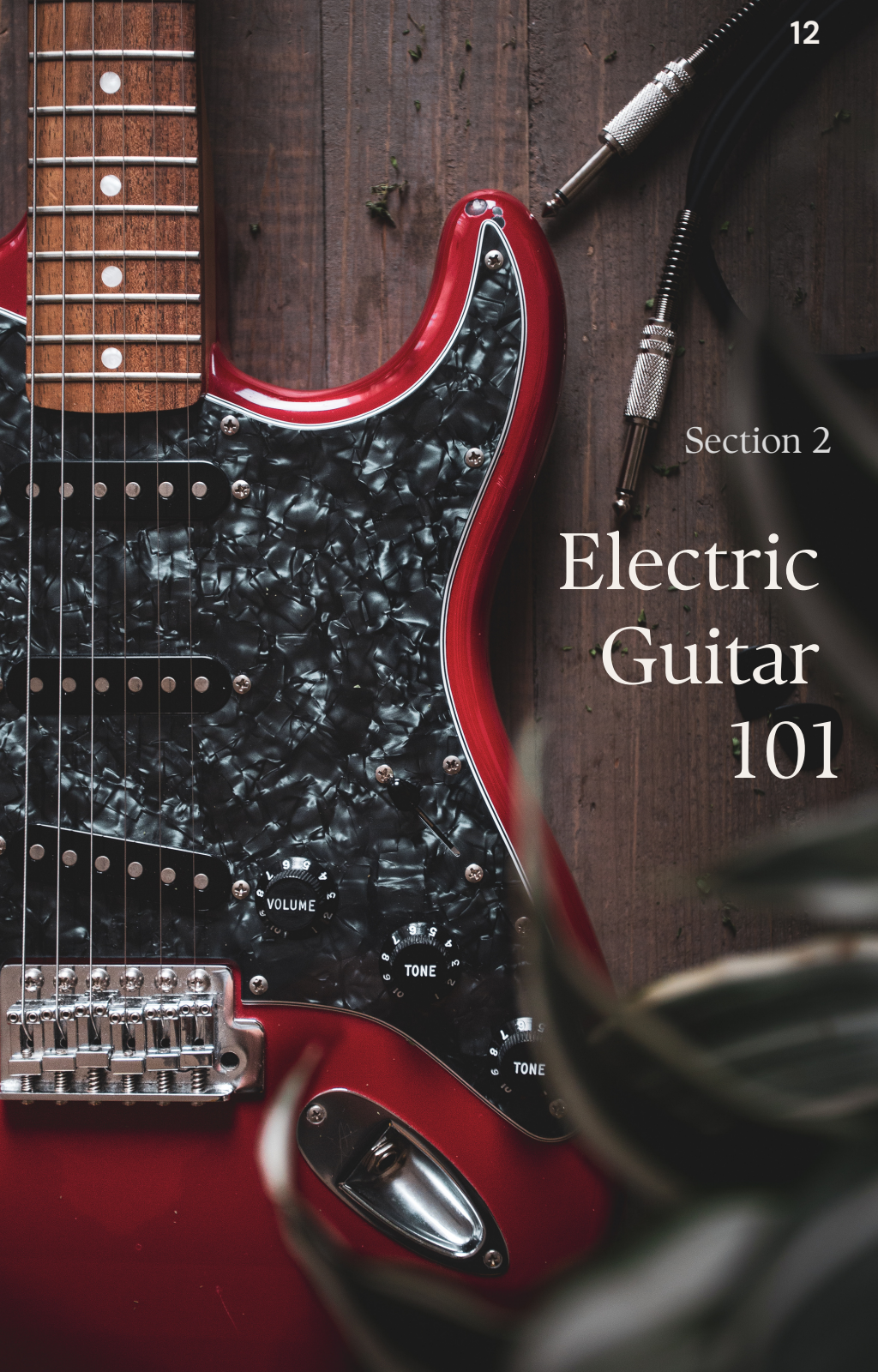
A larger body style bigger than the grand auditorium. Designed similar to the dreadnought to maximize volume and sustain. The large body maybe difficult to play for some players.



(Photo of Acoustic Guitar body styles from left to right: *parlor, grand auditorium, dreadnought, jumbo*)
Photos taken from (Fender CP-60S Parlor Acoustic Guitar Sunburst | Guitar Center, n.d.), (Martin J-40 Standard Jumbo Acoustic Guitar Aged Toner | Guitar Center, n.d.), (Martin Special Dreadnought X1AE Style Acoustic-Electric Guitar Natural | Guitar Center, n.d.), (Taylor 114e Grand Auditorium Acoustic-Electric Guitar Natural | Guitar Center, n.d.)

Section 2

Electric Guitar 101

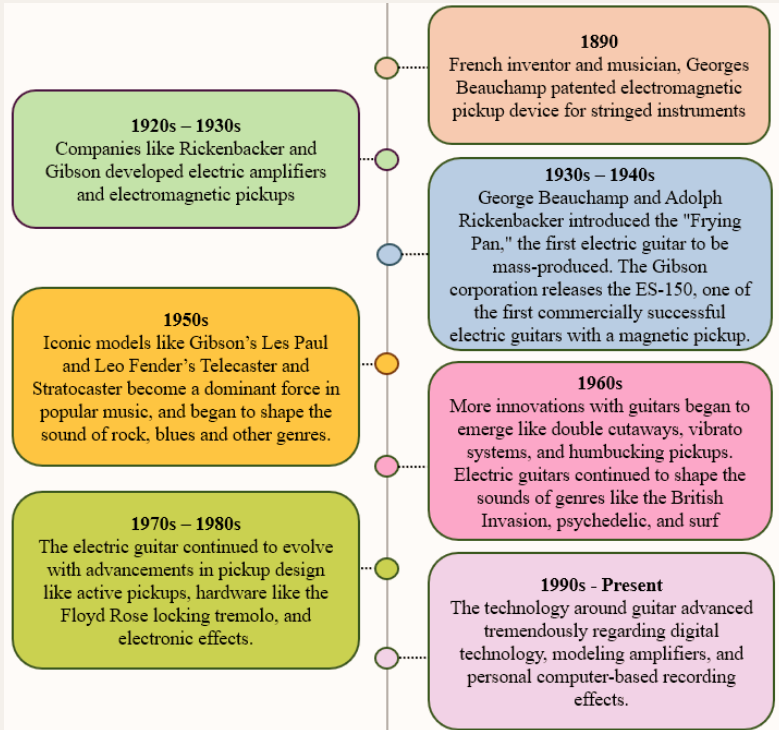


Electric Guitar 101 - Part I

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ELECTRIC GUITAR

History of the electric guitar

The history of the electric guitar is a fascinating journey that spans over a century and involves numerous innovations and developments. From its humble beginnings as an experimental novelty to its status as a cultural icon, the electric guitar has played a central role in shaping the sound and culture of the 20th and 21st centuries. Please see below for an overview of key milestones in the evolution of the electric guitar:



The introduction of the electric guitar marked a pivotal moment in musical technology, and greatly influenced the sonic landscape and path of contemporary musical genres. The electric guitar is a testament to human ingenuity, creativity, and the enduring appeal of music. To learn more about the history of the electric guitar, click [Here](#).

Electric Guitar 101 - Part II

ELECTRIC GUITAR COMPONENTS

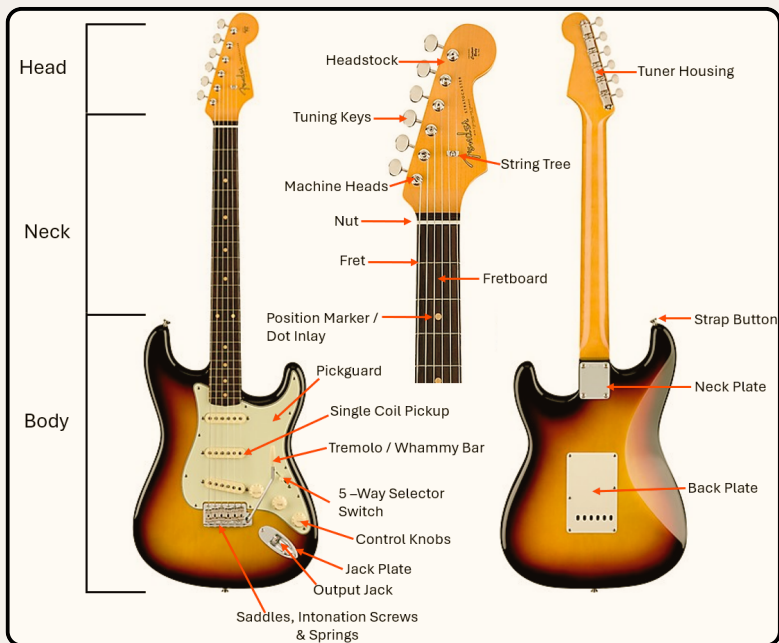


Photo taken from (Fender American Vintage II 1961 Stratocaster Electric Guitar 3-Color Sunburst | Guitar Center, n.d.)

Electric Guitar Components

You will notice the similarities between acoustic and electric guitars including the neck body and head. Let's explore a few components closer.

Body Shape and Design

Electric guitars come in various body shapes and designs, ranging from traditional designs like the Stratocaster (pictured above) and Les Paul (pictured on the cover of this book) to more modern and unconventional shapes like the SG, Flying V, Explorer, and others.

Bridge and Tremolo System

The bridge of an electric guitar holds the strings in place and transmits their vibrations to the body and pickups. Some electric guitars also feature a tremolo system, also known as a vibrato or whammy bar, which allows the player to bend the pitch of notes by moving the bridge up or down.

Electric Guitar 101 - Part II

ELECTRIC GUITAR COMPONENTS

Controls

Electric guitars have control knobs that allows the player to adjust various parameters of the sound. Typical controls include volume and tone knobs for each pickup, as well as pickup selector switches to choose between different pickup configurations.

The Output Jack

The output jack is where the signal from the pickups goes out to the amplifier.

The Pickguard

Pickguards are not only there to keep the pick from scratching the body, but also are the surface that some pickups are mounted to like a Fender Stratocaster (shown above).

The Frets

The frets are pieces of skinny metal that run across the fretboard at regular spacing determined by the length of the neck. Putting your finger against the fret shortens the length that the string vibrates and raises the pitch to the note of that place on the fretboard.

String Tree

String trees or string retainers keep the tension on the string and keep it from popping out of place.

Electronic Pickups

Electric guitars feature one or more pickups located on the middle of the body. The pickups help the guitar amplify the sound of the plucked guitar strings. The position of the pickup will have different sound qualities. The pickup closest to the bridge are designed for higher output than the ones near the neck, so that pickup will be louder, hotter, and more biting compared to the smoother middle or neck pickup.

We will review pickups more in depth on the next page.

Electric Guitar 101 - Part III

HOW AN ELECTRIC GUITAR PRODUCES SOUND

How Electronic Guitar Pickups Work

Electric guitar pickups are pivotal in sculpting the instrument's sound and allow for its versatility and expressive range. Unlike acoustic guitars, electric counterparts require amplification for sound projection. Pickups are made from one or magnets wrapped in wire coils, and this creates a magnetic field around the pickup. When a string is plucked it vibrates above the pickup and disrupts the magnetic field. The string movement through the magnetic field induces a small electric current in the coil of wire wrapped around the magnets. The induced electrical signal is then sent through the guitar's wiring to the amplifier, where it is amplified and converted back into sound by a speaker.

Types of Electric Guitar Pickups

Common types of pickups include single coil and humbucker pickups. Each type of pickup and proximal location on the guitar's body (e.g., bridge, middle, or neck) gives a distinct sonic characteristic. Pickups offer a spectrum of tones customizable via diverse configurations and effects, spanning from gritty rock and metal to smooth jazz and blues, showcasing their adaptability across genres. Click [Here](#) to watch a video and learn more.

Single Coil (S)

Single coil pickups are widely favored across diverse musical styles and are known for their bright, biting, and clear-cutting tone. While they offer a less powerful output compared to humbuckers, single-coil pickups provide a vast array of tonal options. Single coil pickups are versatile and can be used for both rhythm and lead guitar roles. One problem facing most single coil pickups includes a buzzing or humming noise (60 cycle hum), especially noticeable when the amp volume is turned up high.

Electric Guitar 101 - Part III

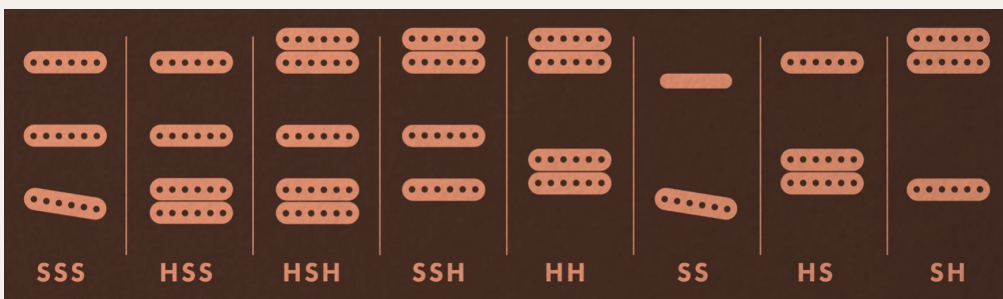
HOW AN ELECTRIC GUITAR PRODUCES SOUND

Humbuckers (H)

Humbucker pickups are known for their versatility across various musical genres. Named for their ability to eliminate hum commonly found in single coils, humbuckers offer a strong output, and often referred to as "hot" pickups. Renowned for their full, thick, and loud tones, humbuckers are integral to genres like rock and blues, spanning from classic rock to hardcore metal. They are also highly sought-after in jazz music, particularly when positioned at the neck, delivering the desired warm jazz guitar tone.

Pickup configuration

Various pickups and pickup configurations produce different tonal characteristics. Common configurations include SSS, (Fender Stratocaster) and HH (Gibson Les Paul). Below you will see eight different configuration patterns for single coil (S) and humbucker (H) pickups. The pickup image references the body of the guitar where the bottom pickup is the bridge pickup and the top pickup is the neck pickup.



Images taken from (Houghtaling, 2023)

Electric Guitar 101 - Part IV

HOLLOW BODY, SEMI-HOLLOW, SOLID BODY

Electric Guitar Body Types

There are many elements that contribute to the overall sound of an electric guitar, and the body type stands out as a fundamental factor. Pickups and strings can be easily swapped out if you are unhappy with their sound. Altering the guitar's body type is not as straightforward. Therefore, it is very important to select the electric guitar body type that aligns best with your desired sound.

We will now look at three electric guitar body types including the solid body, semi-hollow body, and hollow body.

Solid Body

The solid body type is the most common style for an electric guitar. This type of guitar is constructed entirely from solid wood, without any internal hollow spaces (excluding areas for pickups and controls). The density of the wood allows for extended sustain and more resistant to feedback from the pickups providing a more defined low-end response. While solid body guitars are used in a variety of genres these characteristics make solid body guitars the preferred choice among musicians who favor heavier musical styles.



Photo taken from (Gibson SG Standard Electric Guitar Ebony | Guitar Center, n.d.)

Electric Guitar 101 - Part IV

HOLLOW BODY, SEMI-HOLLOW, SOLID BODY

Semi - Hollow Body

Semi-hollow body guitars feature two hollowed-out bouts on the electric guitar, often adorned with F-holes (types of sound holes to facilitate airflow). These guitars have a solid center block that runs through the body to help control feedback that is common to any guitars that have large cavities. They produce slightly less sustain and have a more nuanced low end compared to a solid body. They are favored by jazz, blues, and blues-rock musicians seeking the tightness and focus of a solid body electric guitar, coupled with the rounded, acoustic-like tones characteristic of hollow guitars.



Photo taken from (PRS CE 24 Semi-Hollow Electric Guitar Dark Cherry Sunburst | Guitar Center, n.d.)

Hollow Body

Hollow body guitars were the earliest style of electric guitars and resemble acoustic guitars. They have an entirely hollow inside and typically feature F-holes similar to semi-hollow guitars but lack a center block. They offer an even more pronounced acoustic tone than semi-hollow body guitars. These guitars boast the deepest low end and the shortest sustain, making them highly susceptible to uncontrollable feedback. Often referred to as "jazz box" guitars, they are beloved by jazz players for their warm, rounded tone, despite their propensity for feedback issues.



Photo taken from (Gretsch Guitars G5427TG Electromatic HollowBody Single-Cut Bigsby Limited-Edition Electric | Guitar Center, n.d.)

Section 3

Sound and Playability Factors



Sound & Playability Factors Part - I

GUITAR SIZE AND SCALE LENGTH

There are a few additional factors that are often overlooked, but important to consider when choosing the right guitar. These factors include Guitar Size, Scale Length, Types of Wood used, and Neck Profile. Let's explore these topics further.

Guitar Size

The length of the guitar is measured from the very bottom of the guitar to the top. Choosing the appropriate guitar size is essential for ensuring comfort and ease of play. Selecting a guitar that fits your physique and playing style is very important. While electric guitars typically stick to standard sizes suitable for most players, acoustic guitars offer a range of sizes tailored to accommodate diverse age groups and heights. When determining the appropriate guitar size take into consideration factors like the player's age, height, and hand size.

- For adult players and taller individuals, a full-size acoustic guitar is generally the best choice as it has standard dimensions suitable for most adults.
- Alternatively, individuals with smaller hands or a preference for compact instruments may find 3/4 size or 1/2 size guitars more suitable. These smaller options are also well-suited for teenagers and older children.
- Younger children benefit from specially crafted guitars featuring smaller bodies and necks, designed to deliver a comfortable playing experience. These child-sized guitars enable young learners to engage with the instrument without experiencing strain in their hands or bodies. It's important to select a size that allows the child to hold and play the guitar comfortably.

For more information on selecting the appropriate size guitar, click [Here](#)

Sound & Playability Factors Part - I

GUITAR SIZE AND SCALE LENGTH

Scale Length

Scale length is different than the length of a guitar described in the paragraph above, but both measurements affect how a guitar plays and feels. Scale length is measured (in inches) as the distance between the nut and bridge. Note that scale lengths are not always consistent or accurate and should be considered as a general guide due to the fact that some types of guitar bridges allow for the strings to be moved forward and backward. Scale length has an impact on the following elements on a guitar:

- **Fret Spacing** – a shorter scale guitar (e.g. Gibson Les Paul, 24.75") will have frets that are closer together than that of a longer scale guitar (e.g. Fender Stratocaster, 25.5"). The distance between frets increases as the scale length gets bigger. For players with smaller hands a shorter scale guitar may feel more comfortable to play.
- **String Tension** – Scale length significantly impacts string tension, and this is an important variable to consider when evaluating instruments with different scale lengths. It's essential to recognize that the longer a guitar's scale, the higher the tension required to correctly tune the guitar's strings. A guitar with a shorter scale requires less tension to achieve pitch-perfect strings.
- **String Gauge** – We will look at strings in a later section, however it is important to remember that scale length might also impact the feel of the guitar based on the string gauge you are using. A short scale guitar that has a thinner gauge string might feel "slinky" or too loose. Conversely a longer scale guitar with a thicker gauge string might feel tighter and more rigid to play.

Sound & Playability Factors Part - II


WOOD MATERIAL & GUITAR NECK PROFILES

Wood Material

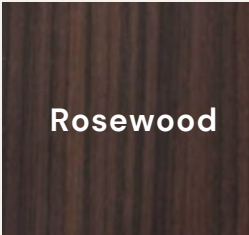
The wood that is used to build a guitar plays a significant role in shaping the instrument's tone, resonance, and overall character. In the table below you will find some common woods used in guitar construction and their effects on the sound.

Name of Wood	Where is it typically used?	Descriptive Characteristics
1. Spruce	Acoustic Guitar tops	Excellent strength – to –weight ratio and resonance, produces a bright articulate tone with clarity and projection.
2. Cedar	Acoustic Guitar tops	Warm rich tones, produces a darker sound with emphasis on midrange frequencies.
3. Mahogany	Acoustic Guitar backs, sides, and necks	Warm and balanced tone with strong midrange presence and a pronounced low end, punchy focused sound and excellent sustain.
4. Maple	Acoustic Guitar backs and sides, Electric Guitar necks and bodies	Bright clear sound and pronounced treble response, adds clarity and definition to the guitar's tone.
5. Rosewood	Acoustic Guitar backs and sides, Fingerboards	Rich and complex tone with deep bass, lush midrange, and sparkling treble, enhances sustain and resonance.
6. Ebony	Fingerboards on both Acoustic and Electric Guitars	Known for its density, durability, and smooth, articulate tone, adds brightness and clarity to the guitar's sound, with tight bass and crisp highs.
7. Alder	Electric Guitar bodies	Balanced and resonant tone with emphasis on the midrange.
8. Ash	Electric Guitar bodies	Bright and lively tone with pronounced sustain, clear and punchy sound with excellent note definition and articulation.


For more information on how wood impacts a guitars tone, click [Here](#)



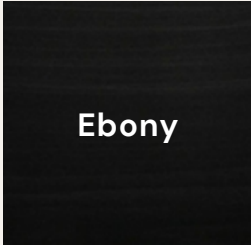
Maple



Rosewood



Mahogany



Ebony



Alder


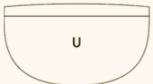


All images taken from (How to Choose an Electric Guitar (Pt 4): Woods I Soundsation Blog, n.d.)

Sound & Playability Factors Part - II

WOOD MATERIAL & GUITAR NECK PROFILES

Guitar neck profile

This refers to the shape and contour of the back of the guitar neck, which greatly affects the feel and playability of the instrument. Typically, this shape resembles a basic semi-circle on a standard guitar. Specifically, the term "profile" pertains to the cross-sectional views of the neck at the top (nut area) and bottom (heel area). Variations in the shape and dimensions of these cross sections can impart a distinct feel and alter the playability of the neck. These cross sections are important in both design and construction processes, serving as simplified 2-dimensional representations of a shape that may be very difficult to see when just looking at a guitar neck. The current system of neck profile nomenclature uses single letters to describe profile shapes. See the chart below for the most common neck profiles and their characteristics.

Cross Section Name & Image	Characteristics
 <p style="text-align: center;">c</p>	The standard semi-circle shape that can be found on most electric guitars.
 <p style="text-align: center;">u</p>	U profile is very similar to a C profile in general shape but much deeper, branded as fat or heavy. Great for players with larger hands.
 <p style="text-align: center;">d</p>	D profile is wider than a C-shaped neck, flatter on the bottom, making it feel thinner to hold which can help with playing faster at the higher frets.
 <p style="text-align: center;">Soft V Hard V</p>	Two versions of this profile a rounder "soft" V, and a more pointed "hard" V. These are preferred by players who hang their thumb over the edge of the fingerboard.

Images taken from (Bennett, 2020)

Guitar Buying Guide



Guitar Buying Guide - Part I

CREATING YOUR GUITAR BUYING PLAN

Create a plan

So far in the previous sections we have covered a great deal of information that that we can use in creating a plan for buying a guitar. Determine what genre(s) of music you want to try and play and decide if an acoustic or electric guitar will align best with playing your goals. Additionally, narrow your search down even further by considering items like guitar size, neck profile, and pickups that we covered earlier in this book.

Set a Budget

- After you have narrowed down an idea of the guitar you would like to play, the next step in your plan should be setting a budget. You know your personal financial situation, and setting a realistic budget will help focus your search and not get distracted by a large wall of guitars that you find at most stores. Guitars come in a wide range of prices so trying to find a balance between your budget and overall quality of the instrument is very important.

New vs. Used Guitars

- Many music retailers sell both used and new guitars, and each have their advantages and disadvantages. Consider that with a new guitar you will be getting a fresh and pristine instrument that comes equipped with the latest technology along with a manufactures warranty. However, most new guitars will be more expensive than a used guitar. Used guitars are generally more affordable, offer vintage aesthetics, and discontinued models that are no longer available. However, you must be careful with the condition, pay attention to signs of wear, damage, or any needed repairs.

Guitar Buying Guide - Part I

CREATING YOUR GUITAR BUYING PLAN

Research where you are going to buy from

- It is important to decide where you are going to buy your new (or used) guitar from. Examples include large chain retail stores (e.g., [Guitar Center](#)), smaller independent shops, or online retailers (e.g., [Sweetwater](#)). A quick google search will point you to a smaller independent music store, if that is your preference. Again, each has their own advantages and disadvantages including inventory, convenience, return policies, and customer service experience. Be sure to read reviews to make your best selection.

Take it for a “test drive”

- No matter where you decide to buy from, I can't recommend enough that you should go to a store (large retail or independent) and try out some guitars before buying. While all the information covered in this book will help inform your best decisions, there is no substitute for playing the real thing. Trying out guitars is 100% free and they even let you play the expensive ones! When testing out your guitar be sure to pay attention to the following:
 1. **Quality** – For a new guitar making sure there are no visible defects, signs of damage or poor craftsmanship. Make sure everything is working correctly like volume / tone knobs, switches, and pickups.
 2. **Playability** – Check to make sure the neck is comfortable to hold and that you can easily access all of the frets.
 3. **Sound** – Does the guitar match the sound you were hoping for? Is it too soft, dull, hot, or punchy for what you wanted?
 4. **Tuning Stability** – Does the guitar stay in tune even if you are just strumming?

Guitar Buying Guide - Part II

RECOMMENDED BRANDS

A Few Recommendations

Throughout this book we have seen different examples of both acoustic and electric guitars. Below you will find a list of different guitar manufacturers with examples of the guitars they make. While this is nowhere near a complete list, these will give you an idea of the popular shapes and model names. Click on the blue brand name to be taken directly to their website and view additional information and view other models of guitars.

Guitar Brands

- [Charvel](#)
- [Cordoba](#)
- [D'Angelico](#)
- [Godin](#)
- [Gretsch](#)
- [Ibanez](#)
- [PRS](#)
- [Washburn](#)
- [Yamaha](#)
- [Taylor](#)

[Fender](#)

Fender is one of the most iconic and influential companies in the history of electric guitars and amplifiers. They manufacture both acoustic and electric guitars along with many other stringed instruments. Fender is most known for the manufacturing the Fender Telecaster, Stratocaster, Jazzmaster, and Jaguar. Fender offers an affordable entry level brand of their guitars called [Squier](#).



(Fender American Vintage II 1951 Telecaster Electric Guitar Butterscotch Blonde | Guitar Center, n.d.)



(Fender American Vintage II 1961 Stratocaster Electric Guitar Olympic White | Guitar Center, n.d.)



(Fender American Ultra Jazzmaster Rosewood Fingerboard Electric Guitar Mocha Burst | Guitar Center, n.d.)



(Squier Classic Vibe '70s Jaguar Electric Guitar Surf Green | Guitar Center, n.d.)

Guitar Buying Guide - Part II

RECOMMENDED BRANDS

Gibson

Gibson is another iconic and influential company in the world of guitars, known for its high-quality craftsmanship and groundbreaking innovations in guitar design. Popular electric guitar models include the Les Paul, Flying V, and Semi Hollow ES-335. In addition, Gibson is also known for its acoustic guitar designs like the J-45 and Hummingbird. Gibson offers an affordable entry level brand of their guitars called [Epiphone](#).



(Gibson Limited-Edition Les Paul Classic Electric Guitar Chicago Blue | Guitar Center, n.d.)



(Platinum Gibson Custom M2M Flying V Custom Electric Guitar Silver Burst | Guitar Center, n.d.)



(Gibson Custom 1959 ES-335 Reissue VOS Semi-Hollow Electric Guitar Vintage Burst | Guitar Center, n.d.)



(Gibson J-45 Studio Walnut Acoustic-Electric Guitar Walnut Burst | Guitar Center, n.d.)

Martin & Co.

Martin is credited with several significant innovations in guitar design and construction techniques. One of their most notable contributions is the development of the X-bracing system, which enhances the strength, stability, and resonance of acoustic guitar tops. Martin is also known for the dreadnought body style, the OM, 000, and D series acoustic guitars.



(Platinum Martin Limited-Edition Eric Clapton D-28 Signature Acoustic Guitar Aged Toner | Guitar Center, n.d.)



(Martin OM-42 Standard Orchestra Model Acoustic Guitar Aged Toner | Guitar Center, n.d.)



(Martin D-35 Standard Dreadnought Acoustic Guitar Sunburst | Guitar Center, n.d.)



(Martin 000C12-16E Nylon Cutaway Acoustic-Electric Guitar Natural | Guitar Center, n.d.)

Guitar Buying Guide - Part III

GUITAR ACCESSORIES



"Colorful Guitar Picks on the Carpet Beside the Electric Guitar," Photo by ROMBO, Powered by Pexels



"Brown Wooden Chair Beside Guitar Case," Photo by Tima Miroshnichenka, Powered by Pexels



"Musician Playing Electric Guitar," Photo by Rattanaku

Whether you purchase an acoustic or electric guitar, you will need one or more (if not all) of the following accessories.

Common Guitar Accessories

- **Guitar Pick** – Guitar picks, also known as plectrums, are small flat tools used to pluck or strum the strings of a guitar. Guitar picks come in a variety of materials, that give a unique feel and sound. Common materials include plastic, metal, wood, or bone. They also come in a variety of thicknesses that are measured in millimeters. The various thicknesses offer different amounts of flexibility and precision when it comes to hitting strings. Try out different sizes and see what works best for you.
- **Guitar Strap** – A strap is recommended whether you are sitting down or playing standing up as it provides additional support from dropping (!) the guitar. They attach to the guitar through strap buttons / strap locks or with a piece of thick string on the neck of an acoustic guitar. Guitar straps are adjustable in size and come in a variety of materials from polyester to nylon and leather.
- **Guitar Tuner** – When you first start learning guitar it is important to learn how to tune it properly and keep it in tune. There are many different kinds of tuners including floor pedals, handheld, and ones that clip-on to the guitar's headstock. You can even download guitar tuner apps on your smartphone or tablet.

Guitar Buying Guide - Part III

GUITAR ACCESORIES

- **Hard Shell Case / Gig bag** – Hardshell cases are made of durable materials and feature a rigid exterior shell that provides maximum protection against drops. Hardshell cases offer the highest level of protection and are ideal for touring musicians. Soft gig bags are made of lightweight and flexible materials such as nylon, polyester, or canvas, and feature padded compartments and straps for carrying the guitar like a backpack. While they offer less protection than hardshell cases, they are more lightweight and portable, making them suitable for casual players or those who only travel short distances.
- **Guitar Cables** – (aka instrument cables or patch cables) are used for connecting your guitar to an amplifier, pedal, or other audio interface. Guitar cables typically consist of a length of insulated wire with a 1/4-inch mono jack connector on each end. Guitar cables come in various lengths, typically ranging from 6 feet to 25 feet or more.
- **Guitar Strings** – Please note that acoustic and electric guitars use different kinds of strings. Strings are typically made from metal alloys, with the most common materials being steel, nickel, bronze, and brass. The choice of material can significantly affect the tone, feel, and durability of the strings. Guitar strings are available in various gauges, referring to the thickness or diameter of the strings. Lighter gauge strings are thinner and produce a brighter, more responsive tone with less tension, making them easier to play and bend. Heavier gauge strings are thicker and produce a fuller, more robust tone with higher tension, providing greater sustain and projection.

To watch a video and learn more information about guitar strings click, [Here](#)

Guitar Buying Guide - Part IV

AMPS AND PEDALS



Image taken from (Bowcott, 2018)

Guitar Amps Overview

A guitar amplifier or amp is designed to amplify an electric guitar's (or acoustic guitar that has a pickup) signal so that it can be heard. The amplifier also plays an important role in shaping the tone and character of the guitar's sound. Guitar amps typically feature a variety of controls and settings that allow players to adjust their tone and volume. Common controls include gain (for adjusting the amount of distortion or overdrive), EQ (equalization) knobs for shaping the bass, midrange, and treble frequencies, volume controls, and reverb or effects knobs for adding ambiance and depth to the sound.

Amplifiers come in different shapes, sizes, and number of speakers. Amplifier watts refer to the amount of power that an amplifier can generate. The higher the wattage, the louder the sound. However, watts don't necessarily correlate to sound quality. A 100-watt amplifier isn't necessarily going to sound better than a 50-watt amplifier. There are many different brands of amps including ones made by guitar manufacturers like **Fender**. Some other brands to check out include **Mesa Boogie**, **Orange**, **Marshall**, **Vox**, **Friedman**, **Laney** and **Boss**.

Guitar Buying Guide - Part IV

AMPS AND PEDALS

Different Types of Guitar Amps

There are different kinds of amps that have unique characteristics and are better used in different situations. Lower wattage amps are best for practice or recording. Higher wattage amps are best for large stages.

Tube amps

Use vacuum tubes to amplify the guitar signal. They are known for their warm, organic tone and natural compression. Please note that they are usually very loud and heavy. Tubes can be expensive to replace when they burn out.

Solid-state amps

They use transistors to amplify the guitar signal, and when compared to tube amps they are generally lighter in weight, easier to control volume, and more affordable. Solid-state amps deliver clean, crisp tones but sonically not as rich as tube amps.

Modeling amps

Use digital technology to emulate the sounds of various amplifier types, speaker cabinets, and effects pedals. They offer versatility and flexibility, allowing players to access a wide range of tones and effects from a single amp. They are great for practicing, but some complain they do not sound as authentic when compared to solid state or tube amps.

Bundle and Save

A great option for a beginner is buying a bundle of all of the accessories mentioned in the page above along with a practice amp that will give you everything you need to start without breaking the bank. Click [Here](#) to explore bundle options.

Guitar Buying Guide - Part IV

AMPS AND PEDALS



Image taken from (Astley-Brown, 2021)

Guitar Pedals

Guitar Pedals, or stomp boxes are used to shape and enhance the sound of your electric guitar. When first starting off, guitar pedals might not be as important when you are learning to play. Most beginner amps have basic built in sound effects like distortion and reverb that you can use. However, once you become more familiar with your guitar you may be curious on how to change its sound completely. Here are a few different types of pedals that you can use.

- Overdrive / Distortion / Fuzz – gritty over saturated signal used in rock, blues and metal.
- Delay – adds depth and dimension to your signal by producing echos and repeats.
- Reverb – simulates sound in different physical spaces like a large cathedral or adds ambiance.
- Modulation – examples include chorus, flanger, and phaser that give different swirling sounds.
- Filters – Effects like wah-wah pedals sweep the frequency band creating funky tones.

Guitar pedals can be used in many different combinations to produce a variety of sounds.

There are countless resources available to research guitar pedals if you are interested. For example, click [Here](#) for a short video to learn even more about guitar pedals.

Beginning to Play



Getting Started with your Guitar - Part I

SOME TIPS FOR STARTING OUT

Now what?

Congratulations! if you have made it this far you have either purchased your guitar or are about to. This is a very exciting time, and I am sure there is nothing more that you want to do then start shredding on your new axe. However, there is no easy button to press, and the only tried and true method for becoming an excellent guitar player is by practicing. Let's review some resources that will help you on your way. First, we will look at guitar lessons, then we will talk about a basic introduction into music theory, and wrap up the book with practice habits and guitar maintenance.

Lessons

You have many options when it comes to learning the guitar. My recommendation is to start with an in-person lesson accompanied by a guitar teacher. This is important simply for someone to show you proper technique on holding a guitar, a pick, and introducing you to proper lesson books or other resources. Some large chain and small independent music shops also offer lessons to get you started. In person lessons are also helpful motivating factors to practice the material your teacher assigned.

On-line lessons are great for the fact that you can take the courses whenever and wherever you want. Below you will see a few resources that I recommend for getting started with online lessons. A word of caution relying on seemingly random internet sources to learn guitar. While they may promise amazing results fast and skipping anything related to technical theory or conventional methods, use your best judgement on the information they are providing you. It's true that you don't need to learn how to read music or understand theory to play guitar. I will say that these are "tools" in your arsenal to help you adapt and grow as a guitar player.

Getting Started with your Guitar - Part I

ONLINE LESSON RECOMMENDATIONS



Photo taken from (Fender Play Online Guitar Lessons - Learn How to Play Guitar, n.d.)

[Fender Play](#) is a guided subscription-based online learning program that specializes in micro sized guitar lessons for beginner and intermediate guitar players. They offer 1000s of instructional videos and hands on exercises and lets you create a learning path for your music goals. This can be accessed on a mobile device or personal computer via web browser.



Photo taken from (Free Online Guitar Lessons - Easy Step-by-Step Video Guitar Lessons, n.d.)

[Guitar Tricks](#) has been around for 25 years and has amassed a collection of over 11,000 lessons and song tutorials. Their subscription-based website offers courses geared to both beginner and intermediate players with a step-by-step program that allows you to go at your own pace. You can even get feedback from an instructor or hold a live 1 on 1 zoom lesson to help troubleshoot any issue you may have.



Photo taken from (Marty Music, n.d.)

[Marty Music](#) Marty Schwartz is one of the original YouTube guitar teachers who has become a premier destination for guitar instruction. His website offers multiple a la carte lesson packs for learning rock, blues, and acoustic guitar. Marty still operates a successful YouTube Channel where he gives free lessons on learning to play different popular songs. He even has his own signature Epiphone ES-335!

Getting Started with your Guitar - Part II

MUSIC THEORY, CHORDS, TABS

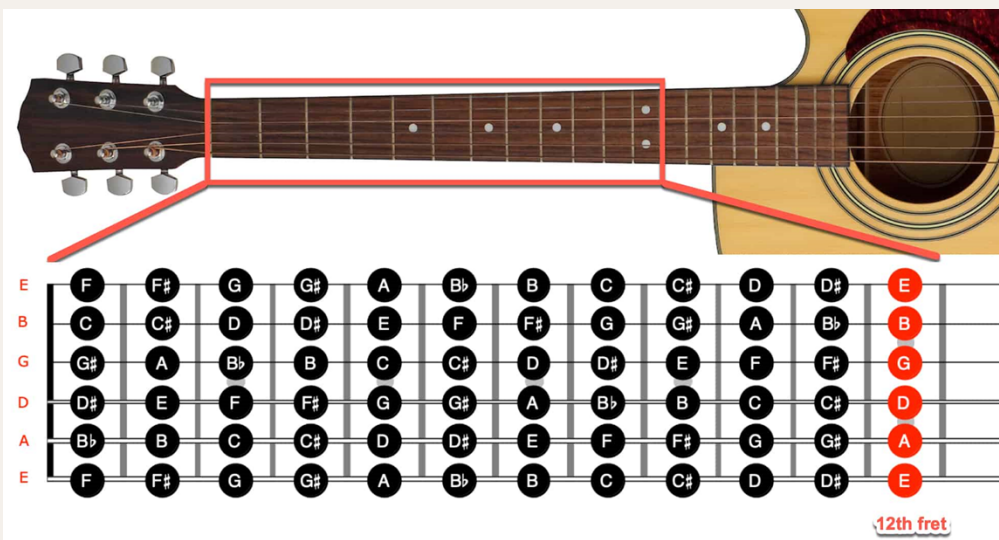
Music Theory

I wanted to touch on music theory very briefly in this book. Please click the links for two resources that do a great job of giving a general overview of [Music Theory: Basics and Fundamental Concepts](#) and [Learn Music Theory For Guitar](#). For guitar players, understanding music theory can greatly enhance their playing abilities and creativity. By mastering these foundational elements of music theory, guitar players can expand their musical vocabulary, improve their technique, and unlock new creative possibilities on the instrument.

Tuning your Guitar and Fretboard Layout

All of the music theory in the world will not help if your instrument is not properly tuned. Standard tuning for a guitar starting from the 6th string (thickest string at the top of the guitar) should be EADGBE. In the diagram below you can see how the notes of the fretboard are laid out.

To watch a video on how to Tune a Guitar for Beginners, click [Here](#).



Getting Started with your Guitar - Part II

MUSIC THEORY, CHORDS, TABS

Chord Diagrams

Using chord charts is an excellent beginner-friendly resource for mastering chord playing. These visual aids display finger placement on the fretboard to form specific chord shapes. When encountering unfamiliar chords, referring to a chord chart can help you learn the proper positioning of your hands.

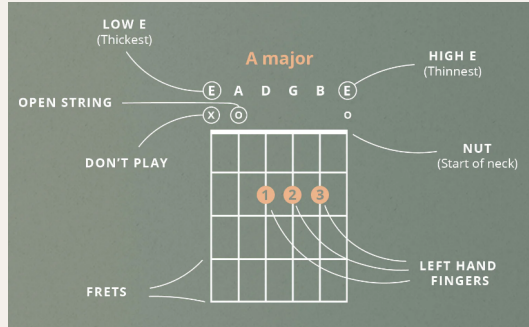


Image taken from (Writer, 2021)

Reading Tablature

Tablature, commonly known as "tabs," is a simplified form of sheet music made for guitarists. Tabs offer a visual depiction of the guitar neck, with horizontal lines denoting strings, arranged from the highest (high E) to the lowest (low E). The numbers on the lines tell what fret your finger should be placed.

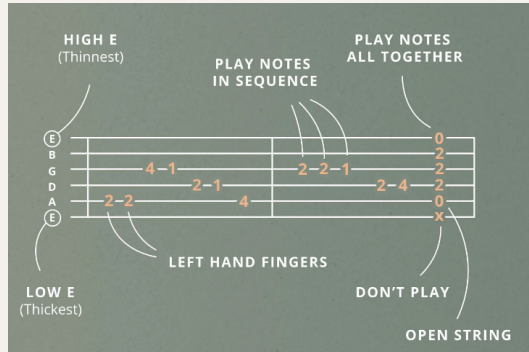


Image taken from (Writer, 2021)

For more information on chord diagrams and reading tablature, click [Here](#).

Getting Started with your Guitar - Part III

PRACTICE ROUTINE

Practice, Practice, Practice

As we alluded to earlier, there is no substitute for practicing. Even better is when you can practice on a consistent basis. This requires commitment, dedication, and discipline. Consistent daily practice helps develop your finger strength, improve muscle memory and improve your overall musicianship. Beyond improving your guitar skills is the therapeutic benefits that come with playing an instrument as it helps reduce stress and anxiety levels. You will also grow more confident in your ability as you improve towards a mastery level. Practicing daily will help create a routine so that it will be easier to meet your goals. Unfortunately, by not practicing regularly your skills will fade quickly or possibly deteriorate altogether.

The ultimate question you might be asking is how long should I practice for? Take the following into consideration.

- **Skill level and Experience** – As a beginner you need to build a strong foundation and develop basic skills. This will result in needing to practice longer than an intermediate player.
- **Personal Goals** – You know what you want to accomplish on the guitar. If you want to master more complex styles, playing difficult solos, or finger picking arrangements you will need more time than just wanting to strum a few chords.
- **Availability** – You know your busy schedule but even fitting in 10–15 minutes a day can be better than trying to cram in a longer session more sporadically through the week.
- **Suggested Practice Time** – It is recommended to practice 15–30 minutes per day with no distractions or interruptions. Focus on making your practice time effective, making sure you are doing everything correctly in developing the fundamental building blocks.

Getting Started with your Guitar - Part III

GUITAR MAINTENANCE

Taking care of your guitar

After all of the time, money, and resources you have dedicated to your new instrument you will want to make sure you can keep it safe and in excellent condition for years to come. See below for some basic maintenance and care for your guitar.

- **Where to Store Your Guitar** – The best way to ensure your guitar's safety is in its case. Refer back to the earlier section where we discussed the types of cases.
- **Temperature & Humidity** – Dramatic changes in temperature in a short period of time will damage or warp parts of the guitar. Don't leave a guitar in the direct cold or heat for too long. Additionally leaving a guitar in a humid environment can result in cracks, damaged frets and bridges. A humidification system will allow your guitar to be better protected.
- **Cleaning Your Guitar** – Cleaning your guitar daily will keep it looking shiny and new but also prolong the life of your strings and prevent the hardware from tarnishing prematurely. It is good practice to wash your hands before playing your guitar to remove excess dirt, oil, or sweat. You can also wipe down your guitar with a polishing cloth after you are done playing.
- **Guitar Polish & Fretboard Care** – You can buy guitar polish and fretboard conditioner for your guitar. **DO NOT USE** a household cleaning product, like Pledge, on your guitar.
- **Take it to a Professional** – For more advanced guitar maintenance I recommend taking your guitar to a luthier aka someone who works on or repairs guitars. They can show you how to replace a set of strings and do more advanced work like a [Set Up](#), or swap out pickups, or even repair cracks or other damage done to the guitar.

Getting Started with your Guitar - Part III

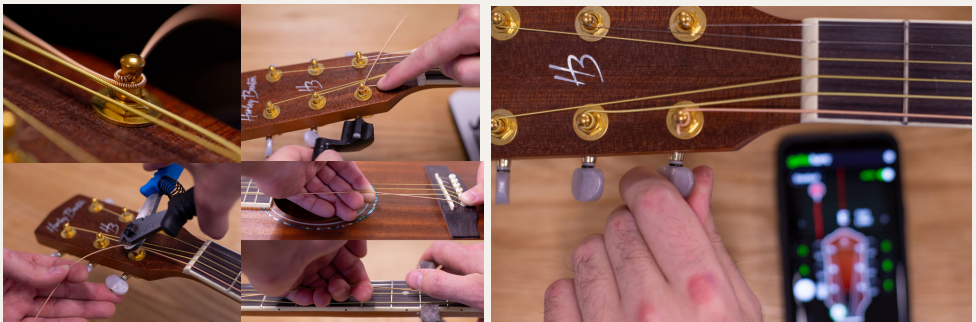
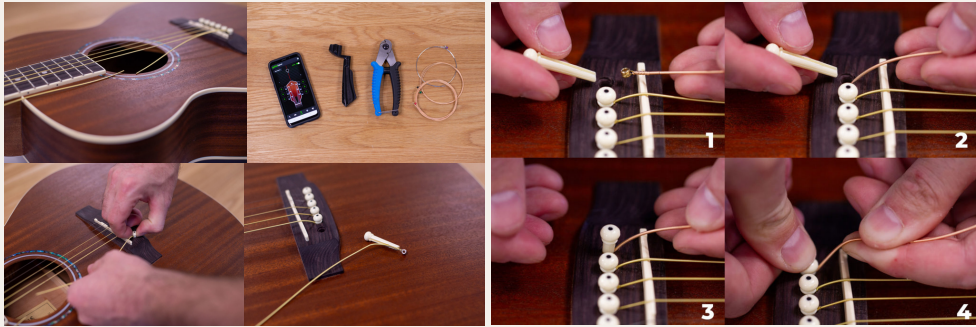
GUITAR MAINTENANCE

- **Changing Your Strings** – Changing strings is an essential skill for any guitarist as putting on a fresh set of strings can breathe new life into a guitar. The frequency of string changes varies depending on the guitar's usage and environment. The pictures below give a brief visual depiction of how to change an acoustic guitar string. Please take a look at the following links to see the difference in changing a steel string acoustic, nylon string acoustic, and electric guitar strings.

[How to change a Steel String Acoustic Guitar Strings](#)

[How to change a Nylon String Acoustic Guitar Strings](#)

[How to change Electric Guitar strings](#)



All Images above taken from (Guitar Maintenance: How to Change Strings on Your Guitar, 2023)

References

IMAGE SOURCES

Cover Page:

“A Brown Electrical Guitar,” Photo by Mateusz Taciak Powered by Pexels and retrieved from Canva.com.

Preface:

“A Close-up Shot of an Electric Guitar,” Photo by Andreu Marques and retrieved from Canva.com

Page 01:

“Different Types of Acoustic and Electric Guitars “- sourced from the following images.

Amazon.com: Ibanez Artcore AF55 Hollowbody Electric Guitar - Tobacco Flat : Musical Instruments. (n.d.).

<https://www.amazon.com/Ibanez-Artcore-Hollow-Body-Electric-Tobacco/dp/B007AH1SMK>

Gibson ES-335 Semi-Hollow Electric Guitar Vintage Burst | Guitar Center. (n.d.). Guitar Center.

<https://www.guitarcenter.com/Gibson/ES-335-Semi-Hollow-Electric-Guitar-Vintage-Burst-1500000317085.gc?irclickid=QNN2V0y5XxyPUQpVt13uqzXYUkH14g0N21ivQA0&irpid=1223901&irmpname=Pitchfork&source=4ACJWXX2&irgwc=1>

Ibanez GA3 Classical Guitar. (n.d.). zZounds. <https://www.zzounds.com/item-->

[IBAGA3?siid=344784&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiAloavBhBOEiwAbtAJ00anAvq3aRSw-oq40Uc51z8uVVMv8JUarupafsKoIxnBO4zIN5E9TRoCeW4QAvD_BwE](https://www.zzounds.com/item--IBAGA3?siid=344784&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiAloavBhBOEiwAbtAJ00anAvq3aRSw-oq40Uc51z8uVVMv8JUarupafsKoIxnBO4zIN5E9TRoCeW4QAvD_BwE)

Prestige Guitars Ltd. (2023, September 2). Legacy Auditorium Spruce / Pau Ferro Sunburst Acoustic Guitar.

<https://www.prestigeguitars.com/product/legacy-auditorium-spruce-pau-ferro/>

Vintera® II '60s Telecaster® | Electric Guitars. (n.d.). [https://www.fender.com/en-US/electric-](https://www.fender.com/en-US/electric-guitars/telecaster/vintera-ii-60s-telecaster/0149050340.html)

[guitars/telecaster/vintera-ii-60s-telecaster/0149050340.html](https://www.fender.com/en-US/electric-guitars/telecaster/vintera-ii-60s-telecaster/0149050340.html)

Page 03:

“Untitled” Photo by Bru-no from Pixabay, retrieved from Canva.com.

Page 04:

Ibanez GA3 Classical Guitar. (n.d.). zZounds. <https://www.zzounds.com/item-->

[IBAGA3?siid=344784&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiAloavBhBOEiwAbtAJ00anAvq3aRSw-oq40Uc51z8uVVMv8JUarupafsKoIxnBO4zIN5E9TRoCeW4QAvD_BwE](https://www.zzounds.com/item--IBAGA3?siid=344784&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiAloavBhBOEiwAbtAJ00anAvq3aRSw-oq40Uc51z8uVVMv8JUarupafsKoIxnBO4zIN5E9TRoCeW4QAvD_BwE)

References

IMAGE SOURCES

Page 05:

Martin 00018 Acoustic Guitar (with Case). (n.d.). [https://www.zzounds.com/item--](https://www.zzounds.com/item--MRT00018?siid=168135&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQiAxOauBhCaARIsAEBUSQSPWZY8FoPEDqhv2OVPIZbfVZIEZRf9QmepIO43CjQAww8OAT2P8jRcaAv5oEALw_wcB)

MRT00018?siid=168135&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQiAxOauBhCaARIsAEBUSQSPWZY8FoPEDqhv2OVPIZbfVZIEZRf9QmepIO43CjQAww8OAT2P8jRcaAv5oEALw_wcB

Page 06:

“Generating Sound” taken from –

Michael. (2013, December 28). *Infographic: How stuff works – The Acoustic Guitar*. Michael Sandberg’s Data

Visualization Blog. <https://datavizblog.com/2013/12/28/infographic-how-stuff-works-the-acoustic-guitar/>

Page 07:

“Hands Playing an Acoustic Guitar,” Photo by The Aris Leoven Collection and retrieved from Canva.com

Page 08:

“Brown Acoustic Guitar in Close Up Photography,” Photo by Brett Sayles, Powered by Pexels and retrieved from Canva.com

Page 09:

Howcast. (2013, July 13). *How to play Picado | Flamenco guitar* [Video]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSjUVnLsyJA>

Werner, B., & Werner, B. (2024, January 31). *Lesson: Sitting and Guitar Position for Classical Guitar | This is*

Classical Guitar. This Is Classical Guitar | Exploring Classical Guitar With Free Lessons, Sheet Music, Pro Videos, Reviews and More. <https://www.thisisclassicalguitar.com/basic-posture-and-sitting-position-guitar/>

Page 11:

Fender CP-60S Parlor Acoustic Guitar Sunburst | Guitar Center. (n.d.). Guitar Center.

[https://www.guitarcenter.com/Fender/CP-60S-Parlor-Acoustic-](https://www.guitarcenter.com/Fender/CP-60S-Parlor-Acoustic-Guitar.gc?pdtypeAheadSearchInput=parlor%20guitar&tNtt=parlor&tAt=item&tAv=Fender%20CP-60S%20Parlor%20Acoustic%20Guitar)

[Guitar.gc?pdtypeAheadSearchInput=parlor%20guitar&tNtt=parlor&tAt=item&tAv=Fender%20CP-60S%20Parlor%20Acoustic%20Guitar](https://www.guitarcenter.com/Fender/CP-60S-Parlor-Acoustic-Guitar.gc?pdtypeAheadSearchInput=parlor%20guitar&tNtt=parlor&tAt=item&tAv=Fender%20CP-60S%20Parlor%20Acoustic%20Guitar)

Martin J-40 Standard Jumbo Acoustic Guitar Aged Toner | Guitar Center. (n.d.). Guitar Center.

[https://www.guitarcenter.com/Martin/J-40-Standard-Jumbo-Acoustic-Guitar-Aged-Toner-](https://www.guitarcenter.com/Martin/J-40-Standard-Jumbo-Acoustic-Guitar-Aged-Toner-1500000205189.gc)

[1500000205189.gc](https://www.guitarcenter.com/Martin/J-40-Standard-Jumbo-Acoustic-Guitar-Aged-Toner-1500000205189.gc)

References

IMAGE SOURCES

Martin Special Dreadnought X1AE Style Acoustic-Electric Guitar Natural | *Guitar Center*. (n.d.). *Guitar Center*.

<https://www.guitarcenter.com/Martin/Special-Dreadnought-X1AE-Style-Acoustic-Electric-Guitar-Natural-1500000327700.gc>

Taylor 114e Grand Auditorium Acoustic-Electric Guitar Natural | *Guitar Center*. (n.d.). *Guitar Center*.

<https://www.guitarcenter.com/Taylor/114e-Grand-Auditorium-Acoustic-Electric-Guitar-Natural-1500000279170.gc>

Page 12:

“Close up Photo of a Red Electric Guitar” Photo by Vincent M.A. Janssen Powered by Pexels. Retrieved from [Canva.com](https://www.canva.com)

Page 14:

Fender American Vintage II 1961 Stratocaster Electric Guitar 3-Color Sunburst | *Guitar Center*. (n.d.). *Guitar Center*. <https://www.guitarcenter.com/Fender/American-Vintage-II-1961-Stratocaster-Electric-Guitar-3-Color-Sunburst-1500000377699.gc>

Page 17:

Houghtaling, A. B. (2023, February 6). *Decoding standard pickup arrangements*.

<https://www.fender.com/articles/instruments/decoding-standard-pickup-arrangements>

Page 18:

Gibson SG Standard Electric Guitar Ebony | *Guitar Center*. (n.d.). *Guitar Center*.

<https://www.guitarcenter.com/Gibson/SG-Standard-Electric-Guitar-Ebony-1500000274104.gc>

Page 19:

Gretsch Guitars G5427TG Electromatic HollowBody Single-Cut Bigsby Limited-Edition Electric Guitar Champagne White Gold | *Guitar Center*. (n.d.). *Guitar Center*. <https://www.guitarcenter.com/Gretsch-Guitars/G5427TG-Electromatic-Hollowbody-Single-Cut-Bigsby-Limited-Edition-Electric-Guitar-Champagne-White-Gold-1500000403345.gc>

PRS CE 24 Semi-Hollow Electric Guitar Dark Cherry Sunburst | *Guitar Center*. (n.d.). *Guitar Center*.

<https://www.guitarcenter.com/PRS/CE-24-Semi-Hollow-Electric-Guitar-Dark-Cherry-Sunburst-1500000256662.gc>

References

IMAGE SOURCES

Page 20:

“Acoustic and Electric Guitar,” Photo by Paramat Lundaphon, Powered by Pexels, retrieved from canva.com.

Page 23:

How to choose an electric guitar (pt 4): woods | *Soundsation blog*. (n.d.). Soundsation Music.

<https://www.soundsationmusic.com/en/blog/how-to-choose-an-electric-guitar-pt-4-woods>

Page 24:

Bennett, J. (2020, July 19). *Guitar Neck Profile Guide*. Electric Herald. <https://www.electricherald.com/guitar-neck-profile-guide/>

Page 25:

“Electric Guitar Hanging Near Wall,” Photo by Stephen Niemeier, Powered by Pexels, retrieved from Canva.com.

Page 28:

Fender American Vintage II 1951 Telecaster Electric Guitar Butterscotch Blonde | *Guitar Center*. (n.d.). Guitar Center. <https://www.guitarcenter.com/Fender/American-Vintage-II-1951-Telecaster-Electric-Guitar-Butterscotch-Blonde-1500000377711.gc>

Fender American Vintage II 1961 Stratocaster Electric Guitar Olympic White | *Guitar Center*. (n.d.). Guitar Center. <https://www.guitarcenter.com/Fender/American-Vintage-II-1961-Stratocaster-Electric-Guitar-Olympic-White-1500000377701.gc>

Fender American Ultra Jazzmaster Rosewood Fingerboard Electric Guitar Mocha Burst | *Guitar Center*. (n.d.). Guitar Center. <https://www.guitarcenter.com/Fender/American-Ultra-Jazzmaster-Rosewood-Fingerboard-Electric-Guitar-Mocha-Burst-1500000278953.gc>

Squier Classic Vibe '70s Jaguar Electric Guitar Surf Green | *Guitar Center*. (n.d.). Guitar Center. <https://www.guitarcenter.com/Squier/Classic-Vibe-70s-Jaguar-Electric-Guitar-Surf-Green-1500000264116.gc>

Page 29:

Platinum Martin Limited-Edition Eric Clapton D-28 Signature Acoustic Guitar Aged Toner | *Guitar Center*. (n.d.). Guitar Center. <https://www.guitarcenter.com/Martin/Limited-Edition-Eric-Clapton-D-28-Signature-Acoustic-Guitar-Aged-Toner-1500000401425.gc>

References

IMAGE SOURCES

Martin OM-42 Standard Orchestra Model Acoustic Guitar Aged Toner | *Guitar Center*. (n.d.). Guitar Center.

<https://www.guitarcenter.com/Martin/OM-42-Standard-Orchestra-Model-Acoustic-Guitar-Aged-Toner-1500000205042.gc>

Martin D-35 Standard Dreadnought Acoustic Guitar Sunburst | *Guitar Center*. (n.d.). Guitar Center.

<https://www.guitarcenter.com/Martin/D-35-Standard-Dreadnought-Acoustic-Guitar-Sunburst-1500000201326.gc>

Martin 000C12-16E Nylon Cutaway Acoustic-Electric Guitar Natural | *Guitar Center*. (n.d.). Guitar Center.

<https://www.guitarcenter.com/Martin/000C12-16E-Nylon-Cutaway-Acoustic-Electric-Guitar.gc?pdptypeAheadSearchInput=martin%20000c12-16e&tNtt=000C12&tAt=item&tAv=Martin%20000C12-16E%20Nylon%20Cutaway%20Acoustic-Electric%20Guitar>

Gibson Limited-Edition Les Paul Classic Electric Guitar Chicago Blue | *Guitar Center*. (n.d.). Guitar Center.

<https://www.guitarcenter.com/Gibson/Limited-Edition-Les-Paul-Classic-Electric-Guitar-Chicago-Blue-1500000373383.gc>

Platinum Gibson Custom M2M Flying V Custom Electric Guitar Silver Burst | *Guitar Center*. (n.d.). Guitar Center.

<https://www.guitarcenter.com/Gibson-Custom/M2M-Flying-V-Custom-Electric-Guitar-Silver-Burst-1500000340575.gc>

Gibson Custom 1959 ES-335 Reissue VOS Semi-Hollow Electric Guitar Vintage Burst | *Guitar Center*. (n.d.). Guitar

Center. <https://www.guitarcenter.com/Gibson-Custom/1959-ES-335-Reissue-VOS-Semi-Hollow-Body-Electric-Guitar-Vintage-Burst-1500000317849.gc>

Gibson J-45 Studio Walnut Acoustic-Electric Guitar Walnut Burst | *Guitar Center*. (n.d.). Guitar Center.

<https://www.guitarcenter.com/Gibson/J-45-Studio-Walnut-Acoustic-Electric-Guitar.gc?pdptypeAheadSearchInput=gibson%20j45&tNtt=j45&tAt=item&tAv=Gibson%20J-45%20Studio%20Walnut%20Acoustic-Electric%20Guitar>

Page 30:

“Brown Wooden Chair Beside Guitar Case,” Photo by Tima Miroshnichenka, Powered by Pexels, and retrieved from [Canva.com](https://www.canva.com)

Colorful Guitar Picks on the Carpet Beside the Electric Guitar,” Photo by ROMBO, Powered by Pexels and retrieved from [Canva.com](https://www.canva.com)

References

IMAGE SOURCES

Page 32:

Bowcott, N. (2018, April 5). *The Guitarist's Guide to Electric Guitar amps – Part 1: Basic Anatomy*. Sweetwater.

<https://www.sweetwater.com/insync/guitarists-guide-electric-guitar-amps-part-1/>

Page 34:

Astley-Brown, M. (2021, February 9). You can now buy AmazonBasics guitar pedals. *Guitarworld*.

<https://www.guitarworld.com/news/you-can-now-buy-amazonbasics-guitar-pedals>

Page 35:

“Woman in white shirt playing electric guitar,” Photo by Anna Shvets, Powered by Pexels, retrieved from Canva.com.

Page 37:

Fender Play online guitar lessons - Learn how to play guitar. (n.d.). <https://www.fender.com/play>

Free online guitar lessons - easy Step-by-Step video guitar lessons. (n.d.). <https://www.guitartricks.com/>

Marty Music. (n.d.). <https://www.martymusic.com/>

Page 38:

Guitar Excellence. (2023, March 27). *5 top tips to Mastering the fretboard | Guitar Tips | Guitar Excellence.*

<https://www.guitarexcellence.co.za/5-top-tips-to-mastering-the-fretboard/>

Page 39:

Writer, G. (2021, March 12). How to read chord charts and tabs. *Orangewood*.

<https://orangewoodguitars.com/blogs/news/how-to-read-chord-charts-and-tabs>

Page 42:

Guitar maintenance: How to change strings on your guitar. (2023, July 3). [Video]. Yousician.

<https://yousician.com/blog/how-to-change-guitar-strings>

References

CONTENT SOURCES

- Author, B. (2022, December 13). *Tips to maintain proper guitar posture and avoid common mistakes*. EnthuZiastic.
<https://enthu.com/blog/guitar/proper-guitar-posture/>
- Beattie, S. (2019, December 5). *Electric Guitar Tonewood Guide - Andertons blog*. Andertons Blog.
<https://blog.andertons.co.uk/learn/electric-guitar-tonewood-guide>
- Ben Woods Guitar. (2018, August 25). *Malagueña - Flamenco guitar - Ben Woods* [Video]. YouTube.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3jWsoQ8W8g>
- Bennett, J. (2020, July 19). *Guitar Neck Profile Guide*. Electric Herald. <https://www.electricherald.com/guitar-neck-profile-guide/>
- Brockie, G. (n.d.). *Beginner's guide to buying your first guitar | GMI - Guitar & Music Institute Online Guitar Lessons*. <https://www.guitarandmusicinstitute.com/beginners-guide-to-buying-your-first-guitar/>
- Center, S. L. (2020, September 22). *The invention of the electric guitar*. Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation. <https://invention.si.edu/invention-electric-guitar>
- Electric Guitar Bodies: The Sonic Differences Between Solid, Semi-hollow, and Hollow Bodies*. (2022, July 8). Sweetwater. Retrieved March 1, 2024, from <https://www.sweetwater.com/insync/electric-guitar-bodies-sonic-differences-solid-semi-hollow-hollow-bodies/>
- Glynn, L. (2023, October 11). *How many watts does my guitar amp need to be? - Laney*. Laney.
<https://www.laney.co.uk/blog/how-many-watts-does-my-guitar-amp-need-to-be/#:~:text=Amplifier%20watts%20refer%20to%20the,than%20a%2050%2Dwatt%20amplifier.>
- Google, R. O. (n.d.). *Parts of an electric guitar - What makes a electric guitar unique*. <https://www.guitar-skill-builder.com/parts-of-an-electric-guitar.html>
- Guitar Care and Maintenance Guide*. (2023, July 5). Sweetwater.
<https://www.sweetwater.com/sweetcare/articles/guitar-care-and-maintenance-guide/>
- Guitar Center: music instruments, accessories and equipment*. (n.d.). <https://guitarcenter.com/>
- GuitarZero2Hero. (2022, August 31). *Guitar pedals for beginners - in less than 10 minutes* [Video]. YouTube.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RttNJxF0eU0>
- Hignett, A. (2023, October 13). *9 guitar types every guitarist should know*. National Guitar Academy.
<https://nationalguitaracademy.com/types-of-guitar/>

References

CONTENT SOURCES

- How To Set Up Your Electric Guitar Part 1: Adjusting the Truss Rod.* (2023, June 19). Sweetwater.
<https://www.sweetwater.com/sweetcare/articles/guitar-setup-part-1-adjusting-the-truss-rod-2/>
- Keithboyd. (2023, June 2). *How long should I practice guitar each day?* Breakthrough Guitar | Online Guitar Lessons. <https://breakthroughguitar.com/how-long-should-i-practice-guitar-each-day/#:~:text=The%20recommended%20daily%20practice%20time,in%20order%20to%20keep%20progressing.>
- Knight, B. (2023, January 7). *The Ultimate guide to buying your first guitar (2024).* PianoDreamers.com.
<https://www.pianodreamers.com/guitar-buying-guide/>
- Learn Music Theory for guitar [5-step Roadmap].* (2023, November 28). StringKick.
<https://www.stringkick.com/blog-lessons/guitar-music-theory/>
- Marty Music. (2016, June 13). *How to tune your guitar for beginners* [Video]. YouTube.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jTsSvkBv60>
- Music Theory: Basics and Fundamental Concepts.* (2023, October 6). Avid. <https://www.avid.com/resource-center/music-theory>
- Premier Guitar. (2022, November 10). *DIY: How to string a classical guitar* [Video]. YouTube.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3im_3Bi8fQA
- Richard. (2023, November 27). *A complete guide to guitar sizes - Guitarist101.* *Guitarist101.*
<https://guitarist101.com/guitar-sizes/>
- Roberts, A. (2024, February 13). *Different parts of an acoustic guitar.* *Hello Music Theory: Learn Music Theory Online.* <https://hellomusictheory.com/learn/parts-of-the-acoustic-guitar/>
- Rogers, K. (2024a, January 19). *Steel guitar | Description, Types, & History.* Encyclopedia Britannica.
<https://www.britannica.com/art/steel-guitar>
- Rogers, K. (2024b, February 25). *Bass guitar | Description, Tuning, Sound Production, & History.* Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/art/bass-guitar>
- Schiebel, C. D. (2023, December 16). *Single Coil vs Humbucker vs P90 Pickups: Key Differences and How to Choose.* Guitar Lobby. <https://www.guitarlobby.com/single-coil-vs-humbucker-vs-p90-pickups/>
- The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. (1998a, July 20). *Banjo | Stringed, fretted, plucked.* Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/art/banjo-musical-instrument>

References

CONTENT SOURCES

- The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. (1998b, July 20). *Mandolin | Stringed, Fretted, Plucked*. Encyclopaedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/art/mandolin>
- Tuzcu, A. (2024, February 13). *How Classical Guitar Arrived in Spain and Then the Rest of the World – Berklee Online Take Note*. Berklee Online Take Note. <https://online.berklee.edu/takenote/how-classical-guitar-arrived-in-spain-and-then-the-rest-of-the-world/>
- Wikipedia contributors. (2023, November 12). *Steel-string acoustic guitar*. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steel-string_acoustic_guitar
- Writer, G. (2021, March 12). How to read chord charts and tabs. *Orangewood*. <https://orangewoodguitars.com/blogs/news/how-to-read-chord-charts-and-tabs>