

Created by: Luke Hyatt

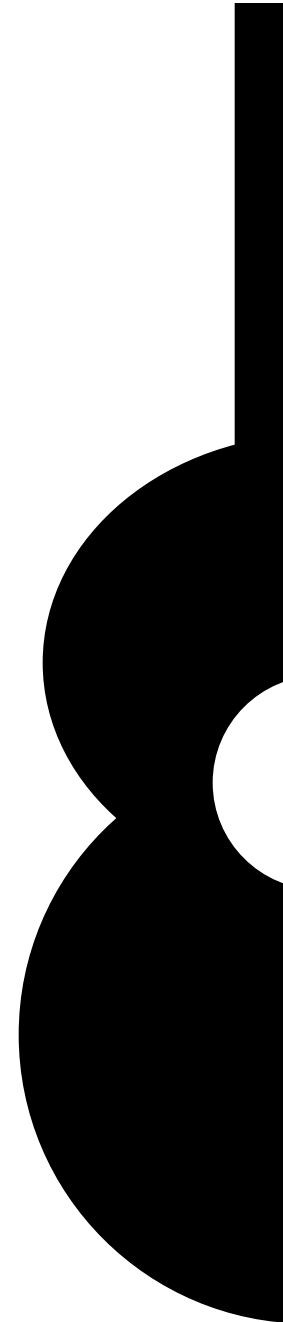
How to Purchase a Guitar

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	iii
Introduction	v
Chapter 1 – How to Select a Body Style/Shape	3
Step 1. Assess your Musical Style	3
Step 2. Select Acoustic or Electric	3
Step 3. Select Acoustic Shape	4
Step 4. Select Acoustic Tonewoods	4
Step 5. Proceed to Chapter 2	5
Step 6. Select Electric Body Style	5
Step 7. Select Electric Tonewoods	5
Step 8. Proceed to Chapter 2	5
Chapter 2 – How to Select Features	9
Step 1. Select Acoustic or Electric	9
Step 2. Select Acoustic Electronics	9
Step 3. Select Acoustic Neck	9
Step 4. Select Acoustic Aesthetics	10
Step 5. Proceed to Chapter 3	10
Step 6. Select Electric Pickups	10
Step 7. Select Electric Neck	10
Step 8. Select Electric Aesthetics	11
Chapter 3 – How to Select Accessories	15
Step 1. Select Amplifier	15
Step 2. Select Effect Pedals	15
Step 3. Select Strings	15
References	17
Index	19

Introduction

I have created this manual in order to provide you with a comprehensive guide to help you purchase a guitar. Purchasing a guitar can be a very overwhelming experience. You walk into a guitar shop and you have a seemingly endless number of choices. How do you decide? Which one is right for you? How are you sure that you will like it? This guide will answer all of those questions. Finally, when that guy in the guitar shop comes up to you and asks you, “What can I help you find today?” you will be able to answer him with confidence and you will leave the store with a smile and a guitar that is just right for you. This guide consists of three sections: How to Select a Body Style/Shape, How to Select Features, and How to Select Accessories.



Chapter 1

How to Select

a Body Style/Shape

Chapter 1 – How to Select a Body Style/Shape

Step 1. Assess your Musical Style

In order to assess your musical style spend time listening closely to your favorite music. Determine what style of music you like and what types of guitars they use. Use Figure 1.1 to help you make your decision.

Note: Make sure and spend adequate time assessing your musical style because if your guitar does not match your musical style it will be more difficult for you to enjoy it.

Type of Music	Type of Guitars
Rock	Electric w/Mild Distortion, Acoustic
Blues	Electric, Acoustic
Metal	Electric w/Heavy Distortion
Folk	Acoustic
Country	Acoustic

Figure 1.1

Step 2. Select Acoustic or Electric

The next step for you to take is to decide whether you want an acoustic or an electric guitar. Take into consideration your choice from Step 1. Also, consider whether you want your guitar to be portable. Electric guitars require a power source and acoustic guitars do not. If you choose an acoustic please follow Steps 3-5. If you choose an electric please skip to Steps 6-8.

Step 3. Select Acoustic Shape

Acoustic guitars come in three main shapes, dreadnaught, auditorium, and jumbo. Each is briefly describe below. Select whichever suits the tone you are looking for.

Dreadnaughts (Figure 1.2) provide the best bass response. This gives them a deeper, “boomier” sound.

Auditoriums (Figure 1.3) are smaller guitars that have a greater mid-range and treble response. This gives them a more “jangly” sound.

Jumbos (Figure 1.4) are the biggest of the three shapes. They have the most even response and put out the most volume.



Figure 1.2



Figure 1.3



Figure 1.4

Step 4. Select Acoustic Tonewoods

Acoustic guitars are primarily made out of four different tonewoods. Most acoustic guitars use different types of wood for the top and the back of the guitar. Please find the most common tonewoods described below. Select the tonewoods that provide the tone you are looking for.

Spruce - used for tops and provides thin, bright sound

Maple - used for tops and provides fuller, rich sound

Rosewood - used for backs and provides strong mid-range

Mahogany - used for backs and provides full bass response



Figure 1.5

Step 5. Proceed to Chapter 2

Congratulations. You have selected the body shape for your acoustic guitar.

Please proceed to Chapter 2.

Step 6. Select Electric Body Style

Unlike acoustic guitars, the shape of an electric guitar has little effect on its tone. When looking at different electric guitar body styles look for a style that is visually attractive to you. If you like the way your guitar looks you are more likely to be happy with your guitar.

Note: Some electric guitars, such as the ES-45 in the upper right hand corner of Figure 1.6, have hollow chambers in them that give them a more acoustic sound. These guitars serve as a hybrid between electric and acoustic guitars.



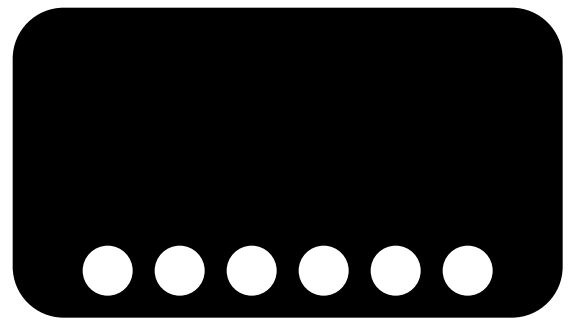
Figure 1.6

Step 7. Select Electric Tonewoods

Electric guitars have two main types of wood their bodies are made out of, alder and mahogany. Alder body guitars have a bright, thin sound with a high treble response. Mahogany body guitars, on the other hand, have a deep, warm sound with a better middle-range response.

Step 8. Proceed to Chapter 2

Congratulations. You have selected the body style and tonewood for your electric guitar.



Chapter 2

How to

Select features

Chapter 2 – How to Select Features

Step 1. Select Acoustic or Electric

If you selected the acoustic guitar in Chapter 1, please continue to Steps 2-5. If you selected the electric guitar in Chapter 1, please skip to Steps 6-8.

Step 2. Select Acoustic Electronics

You should consider whether or not you would like to amplify your acoustic guitar. You can achieve this in many ways. You can purchase a guitar with electronics already installed (Figure 2.1) or you can buy a removable acoustic guitar pickup that fits into the soundhole. (Figure 2.2) If you plan on amplifying your guitar regularly, you should buy a guitar with electronics already installed. If you only plan on amplifying your guitar occasionally, a removable pickup should meet your needs.

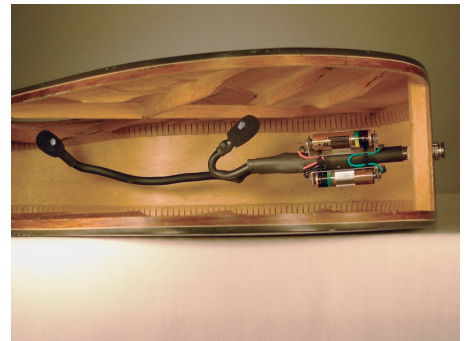


Figure 2.1



Figure 2.2

Step 3. Select Acoustic Neck

You should consider the size and shape of the neck when purchasing your guitar. If you find the neck that is right for you, it will be easier for you to play and therefore, more enjoyable. Acoustic guitars have many different sizes and shapes of necks. In order to determine what

type of neck is right for you, you may have to try out many different guitars and figure it out through trial and error.

Step 4. Select Acoustic Aesthetics

You should make sure that you select a guitar that is visually appealing to you. This step should be easy because it only requires you to look at a guitar and decide if you like how it looks. If you like how your guitar looks, you will be considerably more satisfied with your purchase.

Step 5. Proceed to Chapter 3

Congratulations. You have selected the features for your acoustic guitar. Please proceed to Chapter 3.

Step 6. Select Electric Pickups

Electric guitars come equipped with one of three types of pickups, single-coils (Figure 2.3), humbuckers (Figure 2.4), or EMG's (Figure 2.5). Single-coils provide a thin, crisp sound and humbuckers provide a thick, gritty sound. EMG's provide essentially the same sound as a humbucker but at a higher gain. You should select the type of pickups that fit your musical style.

Note: Single-coils and humbuckers can be used for just about any style of music that uses electric guitars. EMG's can only be used to play metal.

Step 7. Select Electric Neck

You should select an electric neck based upon how easy it is for you to play it and



Figure 2.3



Figure 2.4



Figure 2.5

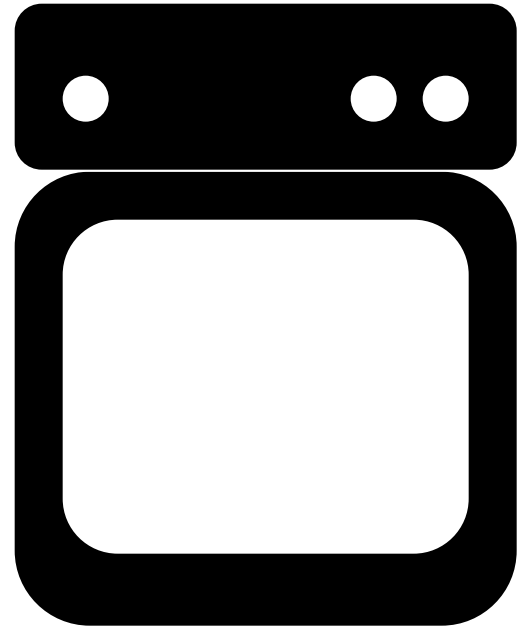
how fast you are able to move your hand up and down the neck.

Step 8. Select Electric Aesthetics

Electric guitars come in many colors and finishes. You should select one that is appealing to you. The more you enjoy how your guitar looks, the more you will enjoy your guitar.

Step 9. Proceed to Chapter 3

Congratulations. You have selected the features for your electric guitar. Please proceed to Chapter 3.



Chapter 3

How to

Select Accessories

Chapter 3 – How to Select Accessories

Step 1. Select Amplifier

You should consider the room you will be playing in if you decide to purchase an amplifier. In a small to medium sized room, a 5-10 watt amplifier should be sufficient. If you plan on playing gigs you should get a 50-100 watt amplifier.

Step 2. Select Effect Pedals

If you choose to buy an effect pedal there are two different types you should consider starting with, an overdrive pedal, or a distortion pedal. Overdrive pedals create a sound that fits best with rock or blues. Distortion pedals create a sound that is more consistent with hard rock or metal. You should select the pedal that best suits your musical style.

Step 3. Select Strings

Strings come in many different gauges and can significantly affect a guitar's tone. You should know that larger gauges give you a "heavier" sound and the smaller gauges give you a "brighter" sound. It may take a few trials and errors before you find the strings that are right for you. You should buy a variety when you buy your guitar so that you can test them out and find the tone that is right for you.

References

Figure 1.2

<http://www.musiciansfriend.com/guitars/martin-d-16rgt-dreadnought-guitar>

Figure 1.3

<http://www.musiciansfriend.com/guitars/taylor-2012-514ce-mahogany-cedar-grand-auditorium-acoustic-electric-guitar>

Figure 1.4

<http://www.musiciansfriend.com/guitars/guild-gad-jf30-acoustic-design-series-jumbo-guitar/512095000136000>

Figure 1.5

<http://www.americanmusical.com/Item--i-FEN-961000-LIST>

Figure 1.6

<http://guitar.wonderhowto.com/how-to/buy-electric-guitar-0123081/>

Figure 2.1

<http://www.acousticguitar.com/article/default.aspx?articleid=26793&page=3>

Figure 2.2

<http://www.harmonycentral.com/docs/DOC-1318>

Figure 2.3

<http://www.americanmusical.com/Item--i-DIM-DP415W-LIST>

Figure 2.4

<http://www.ukguitarstrings.co.uk/guitar-pickups/10001199-gold-humbucker-pickups.html>

Index

No index entries found.