

How to Purchase Your First Guitar

What type of Guitar do I buy? What about the pickups? What are pickups? Are there different sizes? Does the color matter? How much should I spend?

There are lots of questions that may be going through your head while buying your first guitar and that's okay. You should think about those things and get them answered; which is one reason why buying from a store is a better option than purchasing on the internet. The experts at Mozingo Music will be glad to assist you with any question you have about buying your first guitar.

There are three main types of guitars – Electric, Acoustic and Classical; each one designated for the style of music you want to play.

Electric: These are available in two main types depending on the kind of pickups; single coil and humbucker. The pickup is the object under the strings in the area where you strum the guitar. You may want to choose a guitar that has pickups that match the style of music you're going to play. A single coil pickup is the narrow shaped object tending to have a brighter tone, generally considered to be the best sounding pickup for clean (not distorted) sound. By design they are sort of noisy, especially if you are near a light fixture or very close to the guitar amplifier. Humbucker pickups are the dual narrow shaped objects which got their name because they "buck the hum" that single coil pickups are known for (the noisy sound). Humbuckers are great with distortion, so they are great if you're going to play heavier style of music and of course they are much quieter and produce a thicker sound.



Acoustic and Classical: These look very similar but sound different. Acoustic guitar strings are made of steel and produce a big, bright tone. Classical strings are nylon and have a softer sound, more mellow. If you want to play acoustic rock or sound like Bob Dylan or Neil Young, you want an acoustic guitar. Acoustic guitar necks are narrower and longer than classical guitar necks; meaning it's a little easier to finger pick on a classical guitar and easier to play chords on an acoustic guitar.

Buying a guitar is like shopping for a coat, you'll want to get the right size. Guitars that are too big feel awkward when you put your strumming/picking arm over the top of the body and guitars that are too small won't be comfortable either.

Looks are important to most people, especially with guitars. You'll want a guitar that calls out to you to play it. Kids are especially concerned with looks & that's OK. Guitars with bright paint jobs or bodies shaped like a flying V aren't necessarily more expensive. So if you're shopping for a child encourage them to pick a guitar that they think is cool, just make sure they like the sound too.

Guitars that are more expensive have better tone, better parts and better playability. A child's beginner guitar can be in the price range of \$99 to \$300. If you're shopping for yourself, follow your instincts. If you love that \$2,000 guitar on the wall and can afford it, heck, there are worse ways to spend your money. Playing a really nice guitar can be inspiring and take you to the next level. But if you're on a budget like most people, find a guitar in the \$250 to \$700 range that looks good and feels good.

If you're still confused or have questions, Mozingo Music's expert sales staff will be glad to help you find the "right" guitar for you. We offer Certified, Ready-to-Play guitars that have been fully inspected, intonated, adjusted, tuned and cleaned with a free check/adjustment within 90 days of purchase. Plus if you are not satisfied with your guitar purchase, return it within 30 days of the original purchase. comfortable spending and then try out several violins in good condition in that price range.