

Do you want to purchase a guitar?



You will need to decide if you want to purchase an electric or acoustic guitar. There are several factors in making this decision. Many times it matters what style of music you'd like to play. Do you eventually want to play rock music in a band? If so, you may want to purchase an electric guitar and a small amplifier. If you are looking to play by yourself for a while, you might want to purchase an acoustic guitar. You might like a certain guitar player. Maybe you want to play the music your guitar hero plays. Do they play acoustic or electric guitars?

What should I look for when purchasing a guitar?

Guitar size – When it comes to acoustic guitars, there are many sizes to choose from, so you will want to test out a few different sizes to determine what size is best for you. Smaller guitars have smaller necks and bodies and that is great to have if you have smaller hands. Smaller guitars have a different sound compared to a normal sized guitar. Many smaller guitars have a crisper sound which could be attractive to many players. Size isn't always about how small or big you are physically. Some people enjoy the sound they can get with a smaller guitar.

Action – A guitar's action is the distance between the strings and the fretboard. The farther the strings are away from the guitar the more difficult it will be to press the strings down to the fretboard. When a guitarist says "this guitar has great action" it means that it is easy to press the strings down and easier to play. This is important whether you are a beginner or an experienced guitar player. Bad action is caused by bad guitar neck alignment and unless you know how to repair guitars, I would move on or ask if they could fix the action on the guitar before you purchase it.

Buzz – So we know we want good action on the guitar, but there are some things you don't want. You don't want a buzzing sound when playing a guitar. Buzzing comes when you play a note and the string hits a higher fret that causes a buzzing sound. This could be caused from a fret being set too high or the guitar neck not being properly aligned. To test this you'll want to make sure you play every note on the fretboard. This is as easy as plucking each string while playing each fret on the fretboard. If you hear a buzzing sound, you can either ask for this to be fixed or move on to a different guitar.

Body Material - When trying out different guitars, you'll want to know what type of material the guitar is made of, especially with acoustic guitars. Guitar's can be made of alder, basswood, mahogany, swamp ash, walnut, koa, maple, rosewood, ebony, and wenge wood. Different types of wood can present different sounds. Try to play a few guitars with different types of wood to see what you prefer. You may also want to find a guitar that has a solid wood top for better aesthetics and richer resonance and a better sustain.

The best thing you can do when purchasing a guitar is to try a variety of types before you commit to one. It may take a few visits to your local music store. Don't rush your purchase, but when you find something you like, take note of it so you can purposefully purchase your guitar.

We can help you purchase a guitar. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.