

Buying a Guitar!

Now that you have officially registered for private lessons, it's time to make sure that you have the most well-equipped guitar to ensure that you get the most out of your time with your instructor! To begin, the best thing to do is visit your local guitar or music shop to work with a professional to ensure your student is matched with the appropriately sized instrument.

When looking for the best acoustic guitar for a beginner, price is obviously an important consideration. While a cheaper option may seem like a good idea, they're actually often times not worth the cost. In fact, a cheaper guitar may actually cost you more in the long run! With that being said, purchasing a quality instrument doesn't mean you need to break the bank! Below, you will find all the information you need to find the guitar that best fits your personal needs & budget!

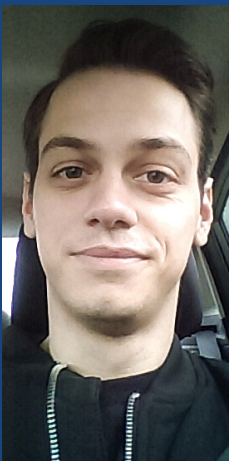
What to look for

Tonewood- Solid vs. HPL: One way manufacturers can cut costs and make guitars less expensive is through the use of HPL; but this isn't necessarily a bad thing! HPL is short of *High Pressure Laminate*. Essentially, this is a very solid and durable composite wood that is a cheaper alternative to solid wood. Manufacturers use this to keep costs down without sacrificing the quality of the instrument. HPL is also resistant to weather and climate changes, meaning that the instrument is less likely to crack or go out of tune when the seasons change. It also produces a generally brighter sound and is less prone to becoming "muddy" or "dampened".



Notable Brands : Cordoba, Epiphone, Fender, Ibanez, Martin, Taylor, or Yamaha

Tips from our Instructors!



"It is really important that, when you're looking into buying a guitar, you make the effort to go into a store to hold and play the instrument (even if you've never played one before) in order to get an idea of what to expect. It really depends on what you feel comfortable playing on and since guitars may be shaped/weigh/sound a bit different, sometimes it makes all the difference in your learning experience as a whole."

-Anthony Essenmacher, Instructor

"Keeping your guitar in good condition is important too. Make sure you're storing it in its case, away from extreme temperature changes, and change the strings every few months to keep it sounding and feeling great. You'd be surprised how amazing an 'inexpensive' guitar can feel and sound with the right care."



-Luke Frees, Instructor

Where and What to buy.

A specialty retailer like Guitar Center or Sam Ash are great options to visit because their sales staff are often times musicians themselves, and will be able to give you personal recommendations! A local music store would also be a great option for this same reason. Avoid big box retailers like Target or Walmart who may advertise a complete box set as a "starter kit", when in reality, these instruments are often ill-equipped and simply toys. We also recommend beginning with an acoustic guitar, and transitioning to a electric guitar as you progress! Note: be sure to ask for a left-handed instrument if you or your student happen to be left-handed!

Options We Recommend for Guitar Students



Ibanez PN15 Parlor Size Acoustic Guitar

[Guitar Center: \\$169.99](#)

[Amazon: \\$169.99](#)



Yamaha FG800 Acoustic Dreadnought

[Sweetwater: \\$219.99](#)

[Guitar Center: \\$219.99](#)



Epiphone DR-100 Acoustic Dreadnought

[Sweetwater: \\$169.99](#)

[Epiphone: \\$169](#)



Fender CD-602 Acoustic Dreadnought

[Amazon: \\$149.99](#)

[Guitar Center: \\$199.99](#)

Additional Equipment

Guitar tuners, cases, and capos are necessary tools and equipment you will need as you begin your lessons. Below are some great options our team of guitar instructors recommend!

TUNERS:

[🎵 Snark ST-8: \\$15.99](#)

[🎵 KORG TM60BK: \\$29.41](#)

CASES:

[🎵 Cahaya 41 Inch Soft Case: \\$29.99](#)

[🎵 Gearluck Hardshell Case: \\$79.99](#)

CAPOS:

[🎵 Tanmus 3in 1 Zinc: \\$7.99](#)

[🎵 Wingo Guitar Capo: \\$8.49](#)

**Pricing as of September 2022. All prices are subject to change.*

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