

GUITAR VOCABULARY

Electric Guitars: Brands and Body Styles

Brands: Body Style and Qualities

- Gretsch: Hollow Body (warm dark tone for jazz and country)
- Gibson: Les Paul (darker for jazz or rock)
- Fender: Stratocaster (Brighter, great for bluesy music)

Acoustic Guitars:

Steel String Guitars:

Types of Bodies: Quality of Sound

- Dreadnaught: Larger body (darker, warmer sound)
- Concert: Smaller Body (brighter tone Cuts through band)
- Martin and Taylor are the main brands and build both body styles

Nylon String Guitars: Strings are nylon. Strings are softer and easier on the hands. Has a warmer sound which is great for classical. Also has a percussive sound that is great for flamenco and South American music.

Guitar String Material and Gauges

Size of String and Quality

Light Gauge Strings: Bend easily for bluesy, twangy music. Usually have a bright sound.

Heavy Gauge Strings: Warmer, darker sound. Less bend facilitates rapid scalar playing.

Material of Strings:

Nylon Strings (for nylon acoustic guitars): Softer on the hands, good for classical music because the strings produce a rich warm tone.

Steel String (for acoustic guitars): Percussive sound for strumming in a band or as a solo singer/guitarist. Has a bright sound that can be heard in a band and is easy to hear.

Electric Strings: Made of steel but lighter gauge than acoustic. Come in both heavy and light gauge.

Tuning

Types of Tuners:

Plug in: Uses the guitar cable to plug in to the tuner to hear/tune the guitar.

Clip on: Clips on to guitar body and detects vibrations to discern pitch and tune the guitar.

Aural: Tuners that can "hear" what note you are playing to determine pitch.

Capos: Capos are used to allow you to move open chord shapes to different areas of the neck. Clips on to the neck and changes the open string length. Essentially functions as a movable nut.

Types of Picks:

Normal Picks:

Heavy Picks: Stiff for rapid scalar playing

Light Picks: flexible for percussive sounding strumming.

Thumb picks: Great for solo guitar or guitar accompaniment with prominent bass line. Allow you to switch between finger style and normal pick style rapidly. Used frequently for country music and for finger style in other genres.

Parts of the guitar you should be able to identify (see page 4 hall Leonard)

Neck
Fingerboard
Frets
Nut
Tuning pegs/keys
Head

Body
Sound Hole
Pick Guard
Bridge

Pick Ups
Strap Button
Input Jack
Volume Control
Pick Up Selector Switch.