

Fender Guitar History

Fender Guitar History: A Journey Through Six Strings and Sonic Innovation

Ever heard a twangy country lick, a bluesy bend, or a crisp, clean rock riff that just sounded right? Chances are, a Fender guitar played a part. This isn't just hype; Fender guitars have shaped the soundscape of modern music, from the birth of rock and roll to today's diverse genres. This in-depth exploration dives into the Fender guitar history, tracing the company's evolution, its iconic models, and its enduring legacy. We'll uncover the innovations, the personalities, and the cultural impact that cemented Fender's place as a legend in the world of music. Get ready to take a trip through time, exploring the rich tapestry of Fender guitar history.

The Birth of a Legend: Leo Fender and the Early Years (1940s-1950s)

The Fender story begins not with a guitar virtuoso, but with a radio repairman named Leo Fender. Unlike many guitar makers of the time who focused on intricate, handcrafted instruments, Leo had a different vision. He saw a need for a more affordable, mass-producible electric guitar that was durable and easy to play. This pragmatic approach, coupled with his innovative engineering, would revolutionize the guitar industry.

In the late 1940s, Leo Fender didn't start with guitars; he began with amplifiers and lap steels. His early amplifiers were revolutionary in their simplicity and reliability, providing the clean, powerful tone that became a Fender hallmark. This technological groundwork laid the foundation for his foray into electric guitars.

The first major breakthrough came with the Fender Esquire in 1950, a single-pickup guitar that quickly gained popularity. It was followed by the Broadcaster (later renamed Telecaster to avoid trademark issues) in 1951, featuring a second pickup and a solid-body construction that offered increased sustain and reduced feedback. These early Fenders were rugged, reliable, and sounded unlike anything previously heard. Their straightforward design and ease of playability opened up the world of electric guitar to a new generation of musicians.

The revolutionary Fender Stratocaster, introduced in 1954, cemented Fender's place in history. Its contoured body, three pickups offering a diverse range of tones, and the vibrato system (tremolo) offered unparalleled versatility. The Strat's sleek design and sonic flexibility quickly became iconic, influencing countless guitar designs that followed.

The Rise of the Fender Sound: Musical Impact and Cultural Phenomenon (1960s-1970s)

The 1960s saw Fender guitars become inextricably linked with the rise of rock and roll and other

genres. The Telecaster became a staple of country music, its twangy tone perfectly suited to the genre's distinctive sound. The Stratocaster's versatility made it a favorite among rock, blues, and jazz musicians alike, becoming the instrument of choice for guitar legends like Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, and Stevie Ray Vaughan. Each guitarist put their own unique spin on the Strat's sound, further solidifying its place in musical history.

The Precision Bass, introduced in 1951, and its close cousin the Jazz Bass (1960) had a similar impact on the bass guitar world. These instruments offered a solid, punchy tone that helped define the sound of rock and roll, soul, R&B, and jazz bass lines.

The 1970s brought about a shift in the market. The rise of heavier rock and metal led to a demand for higher output pickups and more aggressive tones, prompting competitors to innovate and challenge Fender's dominance. Despite this shift, Fender continued to produce its classic models, maintaining its reputation for quality and enduring style.

Fender Today: Innovation and Legacy (1980s-Present)

While the classic models remain highly sought after, Fender has continually adapted to changing musical tastes and technological advancements. The company has expanded its product line to include a wide range of guitars and basses, catering to diverse playing styles and budgets. They've also embraced innovative technologies, incorporating new materials, electronics, and manufacturing techniques to create instruments that push the boundaries of guitar design.

Fender's legacy extends far beyond its instruments. The company's influence on music, culture, and manufacturing is undeniable. Its commitment to quality and its enduring appeal continue to resonate with musicians around the world. The unmistakable sound of a Fender guitar remains a powerful force in music today, shaping the sounds of countless artists across genres.

Conclusion: A Timeless Sound

The Fender guitar history is more than just a timeline of product releases; it's a story of innovation, entrepreneurship, and cultural impact. From Leo Fender's humble beginnings to its position as a global icon, Fender has consistently pushed the boundaries of guitar design and production. Its instruments have not only shaped the sound of music but have also become cultural artifacts, coveted by musicians and collectors alike. The enduring legacy of Fender guitars ensures that their influence will continue to resonate in the music world for generations to come.

FAQs

1. What is the difference between a Telecaster and a Stratocaster? The Telecaster is known for its twangy, brighter tone and simple design, often favored by country and rockabilly players. The

Stratocaster offers more versatility with three pickups, a contoured body, and a vibrato system, making it adaptable to various genres.

2. Are Fender guitars expensive? Fender produces a wide range of guitars at different price points. While vintage models and high-end custom shop instruments can be very expensive, there are numerous affordable options available for beginner and intermediate players.

3. Where are Fender guitars made? Fender guitars are manufactured in several locations around the world, including the United States, Mexico, and other countries. The origin of manufacturing will often affect the price point of the instrument.

4. How do I choose the right Fender guitar? Consider your playing style, budget, and preferred tone. Try out different models in a store to get a feel for their feel and sound. Online resources and reviews can also help guide your decision.

5. What makes a Fender guitar so iconic? The combination of innovative design, consistent quality, and their association with legendary musicians has established Fender guitars as timeless classics that continue to define the sound of modern music.

fender guitar history: *The Fender Electric Guitar Book* Tony Bacon, 2007 Fender's guitars have long been the instruments of choice for artists such as Jeff Beck, Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix, and Stevie Ray Vaughan. This book tells the complete story of Fender guitars, detailing classics such as the Telecaster, Stratocaster, and Jazzmaster as well as lesser-known (and less successful) models. Dozens of photos reveal Fender's storied craftsmanship, while the text includes collector details for all models. The reference section lists all models and their statistics.

fender guitar history: Guitars Made by the Fender Company Donald Brosnac, 1986

fender guitar history: Fender 75 Years Dave Hunter, 2021-09-28 Gorgeously illustrated and authoritatively written, Fender 75 Years is the officially licensed celebration of the legendary brand's landmark anniversary, covering all of Fender's iconic guitars, amps, and basses.

fender guitar history: *The Fender Bass* J. W. Black, Albert Molinaro, 2001 (Book). When Leo Fender added a bass to his growing family of instruments 50 years ago, he created a new world for musicians and revolutionized an industry in the process. Using hundreds of photographs, this exciting release chronicles the evolution of that instrument from 1951 to 2001, providing background, history and highly researched facts vital to understanding everything about this remarkable member of the Fender family. A must for all music fans!

fender guitar history: The Birth of Loud Ian S. Port, 2019-01-15 "A hot-rod joy ride through mid-20th-century American history" (The New York Times Book Review), this one-of-a-kind narrative masterfully recreates the rivalry between the two men who innovated the electric guitar's amplified sound—Leo Fender and Les Paul—and their intense competition to convince rock stars like the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, and Eric Clapton to play the instruments they built. In the years after World War II, music was evolving from big-band jazz into rock 'n' roll—and these louder styles demanded revolutionary instruments. When Leo Fender's tiny firm marketed the first solid-body electric guitar, the Esquire, musicians immediately saw its appeal. Not to be out-maneuvered, Gibson, the largest guitar manufacturer, raced to build a competitive product. The company designed an "axe" that would make Fender's Esquire look cheap and convinced Les Paul—whose endorsement Leo Fender had sought—to put his name on it. Thus was born the guitar world's most heated rivalry: Gibson versus Fender, Les versus Leo. While Fender was a quiet, half-blind, self-taught radio repairman, Paul was a brilliant but headstrong pop star and guitarist who spent years toying with new musical technologies. Their contest turned into an arms race as the most inventive musicians of the 1950s and 1960s—including bluesman Muddy Waters, rocker Buddy Holly, the Beatles, Bob Dylan, and

Eric Clapton—adopted one maker's guitar or another. By 1969 it was clear that these new electric instruments had launched music into a radical new age, empowering artists with a vibrancy and volume never before attainable. In "an excellent dual portrait" (The Wall Street Journal), Ian S. Port tells the full story in *The Birth of Loud*, offering "spot-on human characterizations, and erotic paeans to the bodies of guitars" (The Atlantic). "The story of these instruments is the story of America in the postwar era: loud, cocky, brash, aggressively new" (The Washington Post).

fender guitar history: *Play It Loud* Brad Tolinski, Alan di Perna, 2016-10-25 The inspiration for the Play It Loud exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Every guitar player will want to read this book twice. And even the casual music fan will find a thrilling narrative that weaves together cultural history, musical history, race, politics, business case studies, advertising, and technological discovery. —Daniel Levitin, Wall Street Journal For generations the electric guitar has been an international symbol of freedom, danger, rebellion, and hedonism. In *Play It Loud*, veteran music journalists Brad Tolinski and Alan di Perna bring the history of this iconic instrument to roaring life. It's a story of inventors and iconoclasts, of scam artists, prodigies, and mythologizers as varied and original as the instruments they spawned. *Play It Loud* uses twelve landmark guitars—each of them artistic milestones in their own right—to illustrate the conflict and passion the instruments have inspired. It introduces Leo Fender, a man who couldn't play a note but whose innovations helped transform the guitar into the explosive sound machine it is today. Some of the most significant social movements of the twentieth century are indebted to the guitar: It was an essential element in the fight for racial equality in the entertainment industry; a mirror to the rise of the teenager as social force; a linchpin of punk's sound and ethos. And today the guitar has come full circle, with contemporary titans such as Jack White of The White Stripes, Annie Clark (aka St. Vincent), and Dan Auerbach of The Black Keys bringing some of the earliest electric guitar forms back to the limelight. Featuring interviews with Les Paul, Keith Richards, Carlos Santana, Eddie Van Halen, Steve Vai, and dozens more players and creators, *Play It Loud* is the story of how a band of innovators transformed an idea into a revolution.

fender guitar history: *The Fender Book* Tony Bacon, Paul Day, 1999-02 For Fender fans and collectors, guitar enthusiasts, and lovers of popular music--a complete guide to Fender electric guitars, from the 1950s to the present. This in-depth story is illustrated with large, high-quality photos of rare, outstanding and unusual Fender models, together with some choice selections of Fender memorabilia. Advertising in *Guitar Player* and *Bass Player* magazines.

fender guitar history: *The Stratocaster Guitar Book* Tony Bacon, 2010-10-01 Leo Fender's company changed the course of popular music in 1954 when they introduced the Stratocaster. Since then, the Strat has been played by countless guitarists, from Jimi Hendrix to Buddy Guy and Jeff Beck. In this book, interviews with important Strat players from every decade illustrate the instrument's versatility, playability, and continuing importance. This is the complete story of the Stratocaster and the Fender company, from the struggles of the 1950s to the new models, retro reissues, and luscious collectibles of the 21st century. *The Stratocaster Guitar Book* is a glorious compendium of beautiful pictures, a gripping history, and a detailed guide to all Strat models. A must for all guitar lovers!

fender guitar history: *The Stratocaster Chronicles* Tom Wheeler, 2004 (Book). The world's most famous guitar had a golden anniversary in 2004, and this official, authorized book/CD package offers the best photos, quotes, facts and sounds to properly celebrate this achievement. From Buddy Holly to Jimi Hendrix to today's hottest players, the Fender Stratocaster defines rock'n'roll for generations of fans and players. Special features include exclusive photos from the world's greatest guitar collection, as well as a CD with musical examples of famous Strat sounds and styles hilariously performed by Greg Koch even spoken excerpts from the author's interviews with the Strat's beloved inventor, Leo Fender. This book also recognizes that the Stratocaster's deeper significance lies in the music that guitarists have created with it. You'll hear what Strat players have to say about their instrument, their music and each other. The Fender Stratocaster both reflects and influences popular culture worldwide. *The Stratocaster Chronicles* focuses on the people who

brought it into the world, the designers and builders who refined it, and the players who have taken it from there.

fender guitar history: The Burns Book Paul Day, 1990

fender guitar history: Guitar Legends George Fullerton, 1993 The name Fender has become synonymous with guitars. The work of Leo Fender revolutionized the instrument and has influenced nearly every modern guitarist. This book by Leo's best friend and partner in GandL examines the life of the man behind these instruments. It features photos (including 16 pages of color!) never before published. You'll see the barn where Leo was born, the first Fender plant, the earliest instruments he created, and many other rare photos. 9 inch. x 12 inch..

fender guitar history: Amplified Paul Atkinson, 2020-10-14 For me, a truly compelling, fact-packed read all about how guitars are made, look, sound, and play. Atkinson admirably recounts a century of history, invention, and experimentation by experts and amateurs of a revolutionary instrument. Highly recommended for anyone who has a guitar, and for anyone who wants one.—KT Tunstall, singer-songwriter and guitarist Atkinson has put a fantastically exhaustive amount of work into this book for all of us global guitar nerds to enjoy. It's so much fun to dive into it full immersion, and glean everything from details on iconic artist guitars to strange inventions from creatives on the fringe!—Jennifer Batten, guitarist (Michael Jackson, Jeff Beck) "A great resource for all guitar players, tinkerers, and enthusiasts. Atkinson's well-researched book provides essential and fascinating facts of this unique instrument's development over the course of more than a century."—Paul Brett, rock guitarist, journalist, guitar designer "Atkinson has dug deep into the history of the electric guitar to create a detailed view of the ways in which makers and musicians have tried—and in many cases succeeded—to move its design forward. This engaging new book will be required reading for anyone interested in the development of one of the most popular and revolutionary instruments ever created."—Tony Bacon, guitar historian and author An in-depth look at the invention and development of the electric guitar, this book explores how the electric guitar's design has changed and what its design over the years has meant for its sound. A heavily illustrated history with amps turned up to eleven, *Amplified* celebrates this beloved instrument and reveals how it has evolved through the experiments of amateur makers and part-time tinkerers. Digging deep into archives and featuring new interviews with makers and players, it will find admirers in all shredders, luthiers, and fans of electric sound.

fender guitar history: The Fender Telecaster Dave Hunter, 2012-10-15 Fender's™ Telecaster is one of the icons of the guitar world. It's™ not just manufacturer's™ hype that this is the one of the most famous guitars of all time—it was the first production solid-body electric guitar, setting the style for everything that followed. To say this guitar changed the world of music is no over-the-top boast. This is the first history and giftbook devoted to the legendary Tele. It covers the development of the guitar and the famous players who made it their own, from the first 1949 prototype to the launch of the model in 1950 as the Esquire, through the Broadcaster, infamous "Nocaster," the Telecaster—and its numerous variations today.

fender guitar history: Fender Richard Rayhill Smith, 2009 book for musicians, instrument collectors, and fans of Fender. This, at last, is the complete Fender story. --Book Jacket.

fender guitar history: Fender Dave Hunter, 2023-11-21 Celebrate the legendary guitars and amps of Fender® with this authoritatively written, lavishly illustrated, and officially licensed history of the company and the culture it inspired. Originating in Leo Fender's modest radio and amplifier repair shop in Fullerton, California, Fender Musical Instrument Corporation went on to become the world's preeminent name in musical instruments. Today, Fender guitars and amplifiers are icons in popular culture, their shapes and sounds instantly recognizable even to those with only a casual interest in music. From Fender's first instrument—a 1946 lap steel guitar—to Leo Fender's groundbreaking early six-string guitar designs like the Esquire that set the standard for the electric guitar explosion to follow, *Fender: The Official Illustrated History* traces the company's entire history to the present. All the innovations and landmark models are here, as well as legendary players who became synonymous with Fender instruments across musical genres. Among the

instruments author Dave Hunter examines: The instantly recognizable Telecaster® and Stratocaster® Fender's legendary offset guitars like the Mustang®, Jazzmaster®, and Jaguar® Lesser-known models such as the Marauder, Coronado, and Bronco™ The Jazz Bass® and Precision Bass® Fender's acoustic guitars and workhorse amplifiers like the Bassman®, Twin Reverb®, and Princeton® Along the way, you'll get in-depth scoops on the relationships dozens of players have enjoyed with Fender: Rock 'n' roll pioneers like Hank Marvin and James Burton Classic-rock icons like Jimi Hendrix and Eric Clapton Blues legends Bonnie Raitt, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and Buddy Guy Alt-rock figureheads like J Mascis, Johnny Marr, and Kurt Cobain More recent guitar heroes like Courtney Barnett, beabadoobee, and H.E.R. ...the list goes on. In addition, Hunter explores the work of the award-winning Fender Custom Shop and the guitars produced there. Illustrated throughout with rare images from company archives, *Fender: The Official Illustrated History* treats readers to rare behind-the-scenes views of the shop floor throughout the years, studio imagery of the guitars, rare period advertising and brochures, and performance images of Fender players. It's the definitive look at the Fender's first three-quarters of a century and a must-have for every guitar enthusiast.

fender guitar history: The Ultimate Fender Book Paul Day, Dave Hunter, 2015-07-07 The Ultimate Fender Book provides an exciting new look at the history and importance of Fender electric guitars. Back in the 40s, Leo Fender and his team ran a small business in California making a handful of steel guitars and amplifiers. Using this expertise to produce the world's first commercial solidbody electric guitar, they made musical history. Everyone from Hendrix and Cobain to Clapton played a Fender, and millions of unknown guitarists drawn to them today ensure Fender is still the world's leading guitar maker. The Ultimate Fender Book provides an exciting new look at the history and importance of Fender guitars as well as the never-ending future of the brand. A lively and accessible guide to every Fender electric guitar made from 1950 to the present day, it is full of detailed information and colour illustrations of more than 300 instruments. On the DVD, author Dave Hunter and guitarist Carl Verheyen guide viewers through a remarkable collection of vintage Fender guitars and amps, showing why these are among the most highly rated guitars ever made. It's a Fender fan's dream come true, offering the history and specifications of every Fender electric guitar in one clearly presented and easily accessible volume.

fender guitar history: Squier Electrics Tony Bacon, 2011-12-01 In 1982, Fender revived an old guitar-string name for its new line of Japanese-made electric guitars. Millions of guitars later, and celebrating its 30th anniversary, Squier is almost as important to the company as the main Fender brand. Guitar pundit Tony Bacon reveals the stories behind the original (and collectible) Japanese-made Squier Series models, the way that Fender has often been more adventurous and experimental with Squier, away from its protected main brand, and the famous musicians who have chosen to play Squier instruments, from Courtney Love and her Venus model to blink-182's Tom DeLonge and his one-pickup/one-control signature Stratocaster. Full of the luscious pictures, absorbing narrative, and collector's data that characterize Bacon's best-selling instrument books, Squier Electrics is the only guide to one of the most popular guitar brands of recent times.

fender guitar history: Fender Telecaster and Stratocaster Dave Hunter, 2020-10-27 Celebrate of the history and significance of both the Fender Telecaster and Stratocaster for the company's 75th anniversary in this combined edition of Dave Hunter's two best-selling books! The Fender Telecaster, created in Les Fender's Fullerton, California, workshop and introduced in 1950, is a working-class hero and the ultimate blue-collar guitar. It wasn't meant to be elegant, pretty, or sophisticated. Designed to be a utilitarian musical instrument, it has lived up to that destiny. In the hands of players from Muddy Waters to James Burton, Bruce Springsteen to Joe Strummer, the Telecaster has made the music of working people—country, blues, punk, rock 'n' roll, and even jazz. Fender's Stratocaster is arguably the number-one instrument icon of the guitar world. When introduced in 1954, its offset space-age lines, contoured body, and three-pickup configuration set the music world on its ear—it was truly unlike any guitar that had come before. In the hands of the world's most beloved players, such as Buddy Holly, Eric Clapton, Ike Turner, and, yes, Jimi Hendrix, the Stratocaster has since become a popular instrument of choice among rock, blues, jazz, and

country players and, not coincidentally, is also one of the most copied electric guitars of all time. In this authoritatively written, painstakingly curated, and gloriously presented combined edition to celebrate Fender's 75th anniversary, author Dave Hunter covers both of the guitar's histories from concept, design, and model launch through its numerous variations and right up to the present. The story is richly illustrated with archival images, musicians in action, studio shots, memorabilia, and profiles of over 50 Tele and Strat slingers through the ages. With its unprecedented level of detail and stunning visuals, *Fender Telecaster and Stratocaster* is the only book tribute worthy of the world's two greatest guitars.

fender guitar history: *50 Years of Fender* Tony Bacon, 2000 Chronicles the history of the premier guitar maker and its Fender models from 1950 to 2000, profiling such instruments as the Telecaster, Stratocaster, and Precision Bass, while punctuating its timeline with musical highlights. Original.

fender guitar history: *Gizmos, Gadgets, and Guitars: The Story of Leo Fender* Michael Mahin, 2021-09-07 The picture book biography of ingenious American inventor Leo Fender, creator of the world's most iconic Fender electric guitars. For readers who love Iggy Peck, Architect. Leo Fender loved to think and tinker and take things apart and put them back together again. When he lost an eye in a childhood accident, he refused to think of himself as broken. With a new pair of magnifying glasses, Leo got back to doing what he loved, fixing machines big and small—even broken instruments. His inventions—which included the Telecaster and the Stratocaster—would inspire the rock 'n' roll generation and go on to amplify the talents of legendary guitarists Muddy Waters, Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, and Bonnie Raitt, among others. Fender's brilliant engineering vision connected science and art forever. Christy Ottaviano Books

fender guitar history: *50 Years of the Gibson Les Paul* Tony Bacon, 2002 In 1952 the first Gibson Les Paul solidbody electric guitar was made and 2002 will be the 50th anniversary of its creation. This book is a chronicle of the entire range of Gibson Les Paul guitars, the stories surrounding their creation and the artists (such as Jeff Beck, Jimmy Page and Eric Clapton) who played them. Made by the Gibson company, the Les Paul was the result of a collaboration with brilliant guitarist Les Paul, one half of the famous Les Paul and Mary Ford Duo. Every model is described and its different specifications unravelled, with colour photographs that reveal the complexity and beauty of these important guitars over the last 50 years.

fender guitar history: *Gruhn's Guide to Vintage Guitars* George Gruhn, Walter Carter, 1999 The original version of this guide has sold over 30,000 copies. This new edition has been expanded by 25% and promises to become an invaluable resource. For collectors, dealers and players, this completely updated field guide provides specifications, serial numbers, and more for determining the originality of vintage American acoustic and electric fretted instruments. Detailing thousands of models by every major manufacturer, the book now includes expanded coverage of Martin, Guild, Mosrite, Dobro, Gibson banjos, Fender amps, Gibson amps, plus updates on the latest models from Fender, Gibson, Rickenbacker, and others since 1990.

fender guitar history: *The Gibson Les Paul* Dave Hunter, 2014-06-15 The Gibson Les Paul is possibly the electric guitar most associated with rock 'n' roll. The result of a collaboration between Gibson's Ted McCarty and jazz guitarist Les Paul in response to the success of Fender's Telecaster, the Les Paul has gone on to become a prized instrument played by most of the greatest guitarists in rock history. This massive illustrated history of the guitar examines its prehistory and origins as well as its evolution in the 60-plus years since its 1952 introduction. In addition to the Standards and Customs guitarists admire so much, author Dave Hunter also gives ample coverage to variations like Les Paul Juniors, Melody Makers, and SGs. And to bring the music to life, there are profiles of players well known for using Les Pauls and their offspring through the years, including Hubert Sumlin, Carl Perkins, Eric Clapton, Mike Bloomfield, Peter Green, Paul Kossoff, Jimmy Page, Neil Young, Peter Dinklage, Keith Richards, Bill F Gibbons, Bob Marley, Mick Ronson, Steve Jones, Johnny Thunders, Angus Young, and more. Illustrated throughout with studio photography of the guitars, candid and performance photography of the artists, and relevant memorabilia, this book is

perfect for music lovers and guitar enthusiasts.

fender guitar history: Fender Amps John Teagle, John Sprung, 1995 Fender Amps is the first book to chronicle this company's amazing contribution to the amplifier, providing a complete overview of its history and operation. From the K & F amp of 1945 to the Custom Amp Shop line of today, you'll understand why musicians continue to collect, rely and relish the sound of a Fender amplifier.

fender guitar history: The Bass Book Tony Bacon, Barry Moorhouse, 1995 A complete illustrated history of bass guitars.

fender guitar history: Guitar Identification A. R. Duchossoir, 1999 Now thoroughly revised and expanded to include features and serial numbers from the 1990s, Guitar Identification is a reference workbook for dating the guitars made by Fender, Gibson, Gretsch and Martin. It provides the most comprehensive lists of serial numbers ever published on these legendary manufacturers, and covers typical features to help collectors assess the vintage of their electric or acoustic guitars. 56 pages, 9 inch.x 12 inch.

fender guitar history: Rickenbacker Richard Smith, 1987-09-01 (Reference). This book gives a complete and illustrated history of the development of Rickenbacker instruments from 1931 to the present. Rickenbacker is the only book of its kind to chronicle the history of the company who in 1931 introduced electric instruments to the world. The book provides information and full-color photos of the many artists who have used and are using Rickenbacker instruments. Rickenbacker collectors will find this book invaluable as it contains recently discovered accurate facts previously unavailable to researchers.

fender guitar history: The Fender Stratocaster Dave Hunter, 2013-11-16 Fender's Stratocaster is arguably the number-one instrument icon of the guitar world. When introduced in 1954, its offset space-age lines, contoured body, and three-pickup configuration set the music world on its ear—it was truly unlike any guitar that had come before. In the hands of the world's most beloved players, the Stratocaster has since become a popular weapon of choice among rock, blues, jazz, and country players and, not coincidentally, is also one of the most copied electric guitars of all time. In this authoritatively written, painstakingly curated, and gloriously presented tribute to the 60-year-old Fender Stratocaster, author Dave Hunter covers the guitar's history from concept, design, and model launch through its numerous variations and right up to the present. The story is illustrated with archival images of Stratocasters and their players in action, studio shots of Stratocasters of varied vintage and provenance, memorabilia associated with famous players, and profiles of over 30 noted Strat slingers through the ages. Influential rock'n' rollers like Buddy Holly, Hank Marvin, Ike Turner, and Dick Dale; blues players like Buddy Guy, Eric Clapton, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Robert Cray, Bonnie Raitt, and John Mayer; metal gods Richie Blackmore, Yngwie Malmsteen, and Dave Murray; esteemed rockers Jeff Beck, David Gilmour, Ronnie Wood, Robbie Robertson, Rory Gallagher, Mark Knopfler, and Wayne Kramer; and post-punk heroes The Edge, John Frusciante, and Billy Corgan are all included. And so, of course, is Jimi Hendrix. With its unprecedented level of detail and stunning visuals, The Fender Stratocaster is the only book tribute worthy of the world's greatest guitar.

fender guitar history: Flying V, Explorer, Firebird Tony Bacon, 2011-06-01 (Guitar Reference). Until the launch of the Flying V and Explorer in 1958, electric guitars were supposed to look like...guitars. Suddenly, Gibson turned conventional design upside down, almost literally, by using straight lines and angular body shapes, changing the way electrics could look and, in the process, creating a set of rare future collectables. Flying V, Explorer, Firebird tells the story of those first peculiar instruments and goes on to describe Gibson's second attempt at nonstandard designs with the Firebird of the early '60s. The book shows how most of these were a commercial failure at first and goes on to detail the influence of the designs on guitar-makers such as Hamer, Jackson, Dean, Ibanez, and BC Rich, all of whom embraced Gibson's original weird-is-good design ethic. In parallel with the story of the makers is an absorbing account of the players who discovered these odd-shaped instruments, including Zakk Wylde (Black Label Society), the Edge (U2), and Rick

Nielsen (Cheap Trick). Interviews with players and makers illuminate the story of this fascinating assortment of electric guitar innovations, alongside specially commissioned images of every key model and brand and an enviable collection of guitar memorabilia, plus a gallery of leading guitarists photographed in action with their instruments. If it's weird and has strings, it's in Flying V, Explorer, Firebird .

fender guitar history: Blue Book of Acoustic Guitars Zachary R. Fjestad, 2011-11 13 is your lucky number! The 13th Edition Blue Book of Acoustic Guitars is now expanded to 832 pages including a new 16-page color Photo Grading System. It also has guitar reference information and values on over 900 guitar manufacturers/distributors including Gibson, Martin, Ovation, Taylor, Alvarez, Epiphone, Takamine, Washburn, Gretsch, and Guild as well as many independent luthiers and custom builders. Other features include a database of over 3,500 acoustic guitar images available on our website, a detailed serialization section, and contact information for all current manufacturers. With over 7,000 acoustic guitars listed in the 13th Edition Blue Book of Acoustic Guitars, 13 will be your lucky number!

fender guitar history: The Ultimate Steve Matthes, Joe Moffett, 2013 Hamer Guitars is often regarded as the first boutique guitar builder. From its humble beginnings in founder Paul Hamer's Northern Prairie Music Shop to its acquisition by the Fender Musical Instrument Corporation in 2008, the Hamer story is traced through nearly 400 images and dozens of interviews with those involved with the company. See how Hamer rose to compete with the giants of American guitar-making. Learn the inspiration for the making of its ultimate guitar, the Standard. Containing pieces by two of the company's principal architects - Hamer and Jol Dantzig - and told in lavishly illustrated text with many never before published photos and drawings, this history of Hamer Guitars is a treasured keepsake and resource for every lover of the electric guitar. With a foreword by Hamer's most prominent Standard bearer, Cheap Trick's Rick Nielsen.

fender guitar history: Fender Telecaster and Stratocaster Dave Hunter, 2020-10-27 Celebrate the history and significance of both the Fender Telecaster and Stratocaster for the company's 75th anniversary in this combined edition of Dave Hunter's two best-selling books! The Fender Telecaster, created in Les Fender's Fullerton, California, workshop and introduced in 1950, is a working-class hero and the ultimate blue-collar guitar. It wasn't meant to be elegant, pretty, or sophisticated. Designed to be a utilitarian musical instrument, it has lived up to that destiny. In the hands of players from Muddy Waters to James Burton, Bruce Springsteen to Joe Strummer, the Telecaster has made the music of working people—country, blues, punk, rock 'n' roll, and even jazz. Fender's Stratocaster is arguably the number-one instrument icon of the guitar world. When introduced in 1954, its offset space-age lines, contoured body, and three-pickup configuration set the music world on its ear—it was truly unlike any guitar that had come before. In the hands of the world's most beloved players, such as Buddy Holly, Eric Clapton, Ike Turner, and, yes, Jimi Hendrix, the Stratocaster has since become a popular instrument of choice among rock, blues, jazz, and country players and, not coincidentally, is also one of the most copied electric guitars of all time. In this authoritatively written, painstakingly curated, and gloriously presented combined edition to celebrate Fender's 75th anniversary, author Dave Hunter covers both of the guitar's histories from concept, design, and model launch through its numerous variations and right up to the present. The story is richly illustrated with archival images, musicians in action, studio shots, memorabilia, and profiles of over 50 Tele and Strat slingers through the ages. With its unprecedented level of detail and stunning visuals, Fender Telecaster and Stratocaster is the only book tribute worthy of the world's two greatest guitars.

fender guitar history: Beatles Gear Andy Babiuk, 2001 Chronicles the Beatles' use of instruments from 1956 through 1970, including photographs and discussion about Paul's 1963 Hofner 500/1 violin bass, John's Rickenbacker 325 12-string, and George's Gibson Les Paul.

fender guitar history: 60 Years of Fender Tony Bacon, 2010-05-01 (Book). 60 Years of Fender gives a year-by-year history of the most successful electric guitar maker. In 1950, Leo Fender introduced to the world the solidbody electric guitar the instrument known as the Telecaster. He

soon added two more classics: the Precision Bass (1951) and the Stratocaster (1954). Fender's sleek, adaptable guitars have since fueled modern music from country to rock and have been heard in the hands of virtually every guitarist of note, from Buddy Holly to Kurt Cobain, from Eric Clapton to John Mayer. Illustrated with an unrivaled gallery of color photographs of instruments, players, and memorabilia, this revised and updated edition expands upon 50 Years of Fender , covering nine more years of the Fender story.

fender guitar history: How the Fender Bass Changed the World Jim Roberts, James H. Roberts, 2001 Introduced in 1951, the Fender Precision Bass completely transformed the sound of popular music by the early '60s. This is the first book to show you how and why. This richly illustrated history reveals the true colors of the Fender electric bass - as a powerful agent of change in popular music and popular culture. It tells the story of technological and artistic evolution, of basses and players--and of their profound influence on the world around them. Celebrating the instrument's 50th anniversary, this book salutes the revolutionary impact of the bass in the hands of James Jamerson, Jack Bruce, Paul McCartney, Carol Kaye, John Entwistle, Jaco Pastorius, Sting, and other bass visionaries and virtuosos past and present.

fender guitar history: Guitar Amps & Effects For Dummies Dave Hunter, 2014-09-02 Learn the secrets to achieving your ultimate sound Whether amateur or pro, guitarists live for the ultimate sound. Guitar Amps & Effects For Dummies provides the information and instruction you need to discover that sound and make it your own! Written in the characteristically easy-to-read Dummies style, this book is ideal for beginners and experienced musicians alike, and can help all players expand their skill set with effects. Guitarists tend to be gearheads when it comes to sound, and this book provides guidance on topics ranging from the guitar itself to amps, pedals, and other sound technology. Amps and effects are the unsung heroes of guitar music. While most people recognize the more psychedelic effects, many don't realize that effects are often responsible for the unique quality of tone that can become a musician's trademark. Certain effects work on the volume or signal level, others work on the environment, and still others work on the bass and treble content. Guitar Amps & Effects For Dummies covers them all, and shows how effects can not only add something extra, but also fix problematic areas. Topics include: Gain-based effects, like distortion, compression, volume pedals, and gates Tone-based effects, including graphic and parametric EQ, and the wah-wah pedal Modulation effects, like the flanger, phase shifter, and tremolo Ambience effects, including reverb and delay The journey to incredible guitar music never ends. No matter how experienced you are with a guitar, there is always room for improvement to your tone and sound. Whether you're looking for the sound of angels or thunder, Guitar Amps & Effects For Dummies will help you achieve the music you hear in your dreams.

fender guitar history: The Bass Book Tony Bacon, Barry Moorhouse, 2008 The first full-color, comprehensive history, tracing the entire development of one of the 20th century's most important musical instruments. Based on firsthand interviews with primary inventors and makers of past and present bass guitars, this new book examines the birth of the instrument, its popularization during the 1960s and 1970s, and modern variations of the instrument.

fender guitar history: Electric Guitars Teja Gerken, Dave Hunter, Mikael Jasson, Richard Johnston, John Morrish, Michael Simmons, 2018-02-13 Electric Guitars: The Illustrated Encyclopedia is a tour through pop-music's most celebrated musical instrument. Covering several decades of iconic pieces, this guide describes electric guitars produced by every significant manufacturer from Alembic to Zemaitis. Alongside every model is detailed information and a host of action pictures of key players, from Chet Atkins to Joey Z. 1,200 photographs really bring each guitar to life. With 800 classic, rare and unusual instruments from all major manufacturers in studio-quality photographs, plus illustrations of key players, original ads, and memorabilia, it's easy to get lost within these pages. Comprehensive and informative text with a unique A-to-Z guitar directory covers makers' histories, great guitarists, and musical trends. This is the definitive guide to the electric guitar, written and researched by the world's leading authorities on the instrument that has shaped over 50 years of popular music. In words and pictures, detailed descriptions of just why the electric guitar is

the most exciting icon of modern pop music.

fender guitar history: *The Soul of Tone* Tom Wheeler, 2007 Revered as much as one's guitar, the Fender amplifier gets its due in this full-color, richly illustrated book. It will be highly desired by the millions who have plugged into one of these indispensable components, and were delighted at its sound. An accompanying CD features more than 50 tracks that make terms and topics come alive.

fender guitar history: Sekret Machines Book 1: Chasing Shadows Tom DeLonge, AJ Hartley, 2016-04-05 For those who know... that something is going on... The witnesses are legion, scattered across the world and dotted through history, people who looked up and saw something impossible lighting up the night sky. What those objects were, where they came from, and who—or what—might be inside them is the subject of fierce debate and equally fierce mockery, so that most who glimpsed them came to wish they hadn't. Most, but not everyone. Among those who know what they've seen, and—like the toll of a bell that can't be unrung—are forever changed by it, are a pilot, an heiress, a journalist, and a prisoner of war. From the waning days of the 20th century's final great war to the fraught fields of Afghanistan to the otherworldly secrets hidden amid Nevada's dusty neverlands—the truth that is out there will propel each of them into a labyrinth of otherworldly technology and the competing aims of those who might seek to prevent—or harness—these beings of unfathomable power. Because, as it turns out, we are not the only ones who can invent and build...and destroy. Featuring actual events and other truths drawn from sources within the military and intelligence community, Tom DeLonge and A.J. Hartley offer a tale at once terrifying, fantastical, and perhaps all too real. Though it is, of course, a work of... fiction?

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