

The guitar purchase

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The purchase of a guitar is almost a sacred act for a budding guitarist. After all, provided that you really intend to deal more intensively with playing the guitar, you will deal with the instrument very often and for a long time. Sometimes it can even happen that you build up a personal relationship with the instrument over time. In my experience, it is not insignificant for the motivation of the individual that one is satisfied with his instrument and subjectively seen one enjoys the sound, design and handling.

What should you pay attention to when buying an electric guitar?

Objectively speaking, this question is almost impossible to answer. Cheap brands such as Epiphone, Squire, Dean or whatever they are called have a very good quality. The difference in price is partly only reflected in the manufacturing quality, but not necessarily in the sound characteristics. For example I once had a semi - acoustic guitar from Epiphone (copy of Gibson ES-335) which sounded even better when tested compared to the original Gibson model. Only the workmanship was not quite perfect. The price difference of more than 2000 CHF was justified exactly by these defects. In the end I sold the guitar again, because the manufacturing defects had always spoiled my joy of playing.

My personal tip when buying a guitar is to make sure that when you see the guitar you want to pick it up and play it. With me it was always like this. I saw a guitar and knew already, I must buy it. I wouldn't necessarily let myself be influenced too much by the seller, because their thinking is more sales-oriented.

When testing the guitar I would try different guitar amps and see if you like the sound of the guitar. When testing the guitar, I would also make sure that the shape of the neck and body of the guitar suits you. The opinion that only a thin and narrow neck allows fast playing is wrong. Fast playing, wrongly desired at all, is made possible by an optimal interaction of playing technique, the movement sequences and the response of the guitar. The prerequisite for this is, of course, that you can already play fast.

The opinion that a guitar makes a better guitarist out of you is also wrong, even if the advertising would like to see it or is propagated by it. What is true, however, is that a good guitar can really bring out the subtleties of a good to very good guitarist.

Beside these rather philosophical points of view, there are a few things that can be judged objectively, which have to be observed or at least considered.

1. **Pickups:** All electric guitars are equipped either with single coils or with humbuckers. The difference between these 2 types of guitar pickups is the sound. The humbucker sounds fatter and richer and the single coil sounds more elegant, slightly nasal. On the other hand in the technical area, that a humbucker has no interspersed noise and the single coil can sometimes hum quite loud. The hum is normal for a single coil and is almost part of the sound. If you want to play in a distorted way, humbuckers are preferable, as the humming noises can get on your nerves over time. The sound is more defined and biting with humbuckers. Single Coils are more for the funk and blues guitarists among you. But listen to the difference and decide for yourself.

2. **Neck :** Control that the neck is straight when you test. It should not be completely straight. It should be slightly curved like a banana. If this is not the case, you should

insist that it is adjusted quickly. This is not such a thing after all, if you know how. Keyword: truss rod . There you can also adjust the curvature of the neck yourself.

3. **Fret purity:** With today's production quality, this should no longer be such a problem. Nevertheless I would check it. You have to play the strings one by one on the one hand empty and on the other hand in the 12th fret. If the tone is exactly one octave, the fret purity is ok. If you don't have the ear for it yet, you can also check it with a normal tuner. If the fret purity is not correct, it is actually an easy one to adjust, but actually this should also be adjusted when you buy the instrument.

4. **Tremolo system:** Here the tuning stability is the most important thing. You can check this by pushing the tremolo fully forward until the strings are completely slack. If after that the tuning is still intact, you can break the tremolo system. Otherwise, retune and try again. If the strings are still out of tune, you can forget the whole thing. In this case it is not advisable to buy the system.

TIP : If you have found a guitar that you really want, but find it too expensive. Try to buy this guitar anyway. Compromise solutions are more expensive, because you will replace the guitar later anyway.