

We all know that guitars are by far the best looking instruments and best sounding, too! Why do they look so cool? I don't know. They don't resemble anything in nature that's admirable. Not nature as we know it, anyway. Maybe if a child was born in the shape of a guitar, it would end up being the next super model??? Certainly very famous, anyway. Moving on, are all guitars equal? Of course not, nothing in the world is equal. A world of almost universal variety, yet guitars are all the same quality? Why? Bad enough for you and me, but what about the manufacturers? They'd be like 'No matter what we do, these things keep on ending up the same. I just can't get my head around it.' Genuinely frightening. Let's go!

### Gibson Les Paul

Not 'ley' Paul as I used to think. That made little sense as there is nothing French about the things. But how would I know? Everyone has to start somewhere, at least I didn't think they were called 'Yibson Ley Pows'. (Actually I might have done). A very embarrassing thing to say in a guitar store. 'I believe Slush from Buns and Roses plays a Ley Pow, right?' Eternal shame.

### Gibson Flying V

Not as pointy as other Vs but still, pretty wild for the time. Notorious for being next to impossible to balance on your knee. It's not at all cool playing such instruments sitting down however, so does it matter? I've never seen a rock band perform sitting down, certainly not in an arm chair. :S Also, I wonder where the things got their name from? Maybe those who did sit down with the things threw them at walls in frustration??

### Gibson SG

Surprisingly evil looking for the time. They came out around the time of the hippie era. Peace, love and Satanism? Black Sabbath's Tony Iommi (pretty much the anti-hippie) used one to great effect. Also, apparently SG stands for solid guitar. In contrast to those gas and liquid guitars.

### Gibson Explorer

The only things Gibson Explorers explore are funny shapes. This one could be used as a very effective axe, but all guitars are known as 'axes'. Maybe that's the reason Explorer was chosen way back in 1958. It's far less aggressive sounding, too. An aggressive (proto) hippie? Not as bad as an evil hippie, sure, but still an uncomfortable thought to have in one's head.

### Jackson Randy Rhoads RR5

You know when I said it doesn't matter you can't balance Vs on your knee? I've changed my mind. When practicing on my Rhoads V, I feel an almost constant sense of mild annoyance. I've never thrown my instrument though, but then again, it's not a flying V, it's an RR5. Nice looking instrument too, famous for playing like butter. :O

### Ibanez Jem

The only guitar I know of with a 'monkey grip'. The Jem range of guitars is actually one of the most successful, so it seems designer Steve Vai was onto something. I'm not sure EXACTLY what, do he and likeminded individuals have fantasies of monkey roadies/butlers? As I don't have a Jem for myself, I can only speculate. If I do get such an instrument on the other hand, it's straight to jail on an animal exploitation charge. Rumour has it, that's the power Gems have over people. (A rumour started by me for the sake of coming up with material. Was it good material? Not sure).

### 7 String Ibanez

If Steve Vai is expecting monkeys to PLAY his guitars, surely six strings are enough?? Why have monkey grips on 7 string guitars? Then again, a member of the seven-string-loving-nu metal band 'Korn' calls himself 'Munky', so there you go.

### 8 String Ibanez

Monkeys like Djent? Is that what Ibanez are saying? Ah. Actually, I'm not sure if there is a Steve Vai 8 stringer. You definitely get plain Ibanez 8-ers, though. Personally, I don't see the point of tuning all the way down to F# or lower. No need, that's what bass guitars are for. Unless bassists are to be rounded up by Djent bands and thrown in a dump. :S

### Fender Stratocaster

The only two people I can think of that are mad enough to use a Fender's single coils in the world of heavy metal are Yngwie Malmsteen and his biggest fan ever, Joe Stump. And you know what? The former is known for his great tone! Keep it up Yng, you musical abnormality.

### Jimi Hendrix Strat

Apparently these are made with a special kind of wood so they burn quicker. No, only joking.

### Superstrat

Wow, my spell checker recognised the word 'Superstrat'. Well not just then, but it was accepted above. Not sure what's going on there. An indecisive spell checker? Anyway, the word 'Superstrat' (spell checker picked up on it again) is a vague word apparently, but one example of such a guitar is fitted with humbuckers, not single coils. A fantastic move.

### Fender Telecaster

Slipknot of all bands play a Telecaster SHAPED guitar, not a traditional Tele, though. THANK GOD. Otherwise the ultra heavy musicians would sound like hateful jangly pop. I'm still not sure why the shape was chosen though. Personally, I think BC Rich guitars would be more fitting. Flipping things around, how would you feel if The Beatles played a BC Rich? Google the guitars. It would make little sense, though it

could explain the well hidden F bomb found in Hey Jude.

#### Fender Jazzmaster

There's looking unusual and there's plain malformed. Jazzmasters look like Strats that have melted. On the plus side - humbuckers!

#### Fender Kurt Cobain Signature

If Kurt's sound was supposed to be as raw as possible, why the flip is his signature guitar so expensive? Still, not as strange as the Jimi Hendrix signature Strat. If guitars had feelings, it would be the saddest thing on Earth ever. They're going to get MESSED UP on stage.

#### Squier Stratocaster

I used to have a Squier, it was my first guitar. It wasn't very good. Not bad, but not good either. Even so, did it meet a fiery and brutal death on stage? Even if it went out of tune over and over again, I don't think I'd ever be so annoyed I'd brutalise it in front of everyone. Most people don't share how rageful they are to the world. I'm assuming people who SHOW OFF how angry they are are particularly upset. It's just a guitar, Jimi. It's done nothing wrong.

#### Washburn Steve Stevens

My first proper guitar, and with gold plating too! Sure it wore off, but at the time it looked so cool. I wonder how much gold is used in all of the world's guitars. It's just that all the gold in the world would cover just 314,000 cubic feet. Maybe 10 feet get stuck to people's palms and get washed off in the sink. That would annoy the queen.

#### BC Rich (Any model)

Surely the most evil looking guitars in the world. And because the company are so successful, they are very rich. BC Rich rich, if you will. Or 'Rich BC Rich rich, rich', but that can't catch on surely.

#### ESP F-400

These guitars look SO cool and I own one. They play very well, too. The trade off is that the marketing department put no effort into naming the thing. Brand names are expensive things. I mean, think how much money Pepsi put into their new logo even though it looked the same. Marketers may consequently seem like they're exploiting companies, but in their defence, I think Stratocaster is catchy. F-400 is even less catchy than a PIN number, technically speaking.

#### Peavey EVH Wolfgang

Like the Jem, these guitars are supposed to be among the best in the world, especially if you have annoyingly small hands like Eddie Van Halen. (I think). This is an extremely wild theory, but maybe EVH chose to work with Peavey because

subconsciously he was constantly peeved?? No? It's just that some of his songs (e.g. House of Pain) do sound peeved, confirming my suspicions. Similarly, I have a Washburn and I have washed a burn. I've never had ESP, though. (Extrasensory Perception). Other than that brief period where I had schizophrenia.

#### PRS Custom 24

Another badly named instrument, but these are far more expensive implying if they had a proper name like 'Stratocaster' they would cost a fortune. I hate to say this PRS, but Stratocaster is a made up word. All you have to do is look at someone's numberplate to make your own. 'But the numbers! You can't make a word with numbers!' Oh yes you can. 1 looks like I, 2 looks like Z, 3 looks like E, etc.

Ok! There are just a few guitars for you. Obviously I didn't mention all of them, I can't remember all their names (actually showing the importance of good marketing), but I have described a lot of the main ones. That's it then! Bye!