

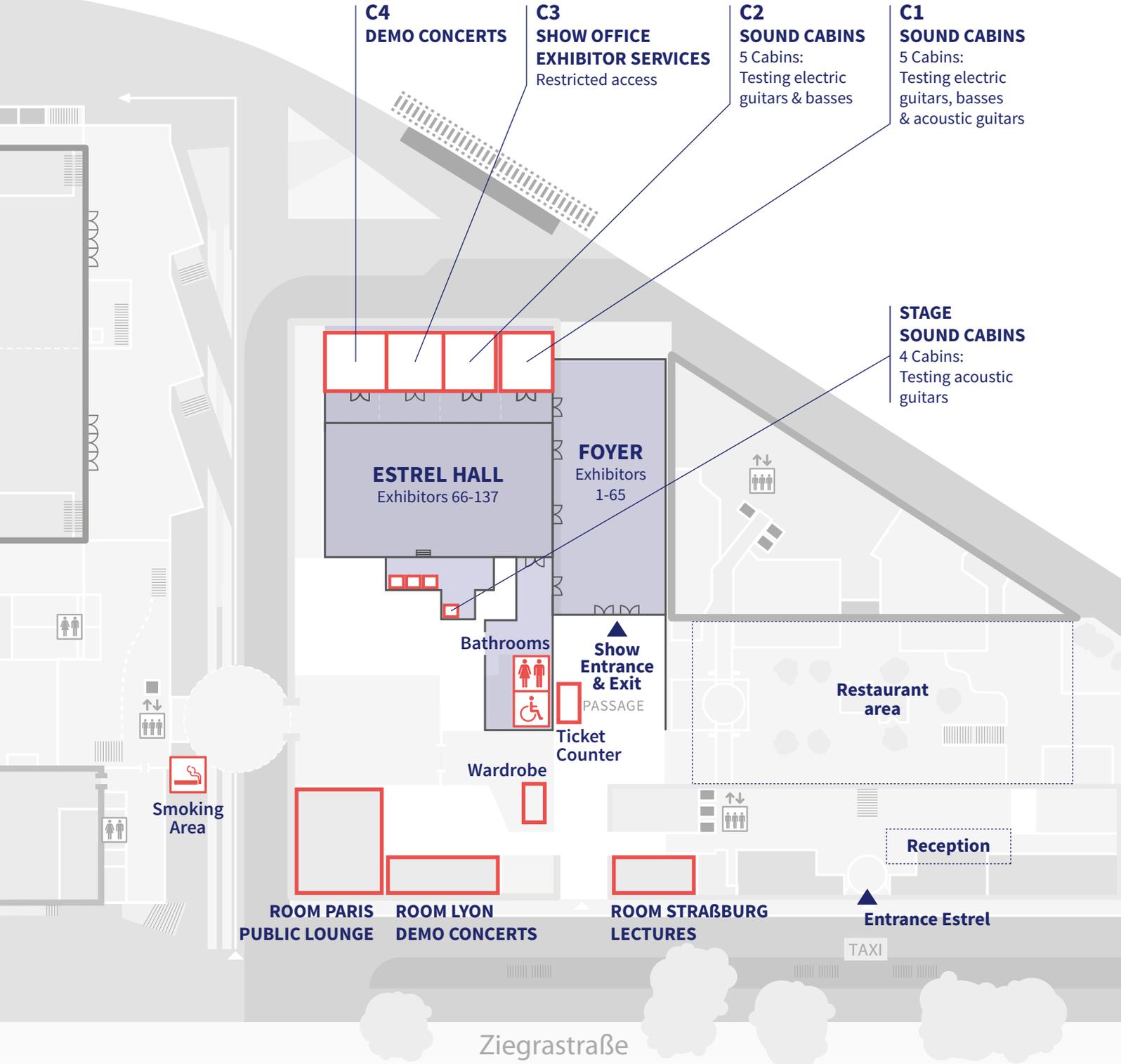
EG3 PRESENTS

THE HOLY & GRAIL GUITAR SHOW

Live
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Guitars

BERLIN OCT 8+9 2016





THE HOLY GRAIL GUITAR SHOW 2016

October 8 & 9, 2016

Estrel Berlin

Sonnenallee 225
12057 Berlin

▶ **PUBLIC HOURS:**

Saturday, October 8, 2016 • 10:00 - 18:00
Sunday, October 9, 2016 • 10:00 - 17:00

▶ **TICKETS*:**

1-day ticket € 20
Weekend ticket € 30

▶ **DISCOUNTED 1-DAY TICKETS*:**

Disabled persons, seniors (65 and older), students € 12
Child (ages 6-14) free

* All prices include 19 % VAT

▶ **DEMO CONCERTS & LECTURES:**

First-come, first-served; once all seats are taken doors will close.
Doors will remain closed during concerts and lectures.
The schedule is subject to change without notice.
FREE OF CHARGE FOR TICKET HOLDERS

**The Holy Grail Guitar Show is organized by the European Guitar Builders e.V. (EGB).
An important part of the EGB's mission is the promotion of the luthier-built guitar
among the guitar playing public.**

EGB

WELCOME TO

In today's connected world we can browse the internet and find out about builders all

across the globe, check out their work, we can order a guitar or buy it directly and have it sent to us. So you might think that in this day and age traveling to Berlin to visit a guitar show is superfluous. Nothing could be further from the truth. Touching, experiencing the instrument in person is paramount – nothing can replace that. In this catalogue an article by Andrea Ballarin (Manne Guitars), illustrates the point very well - the guitar is not just about how it sounds, or looks. It is about how it feels when you hold it, its response to your fingers and what it can entice you to play - a good guitar will expand your capabilities, it will lead you down roads you have not yet imagined traveling. It will take you places. It can be congenial or leave you cold. In its expressiveness and with its capacity to project your personality it is a truly intimate instrument. But to find out about all that you have to hold it and play it - feel the tension of the strings, the vibration, the weight and the volume of the body and the shape of the neck.

THE THIRD EDITION OF

But - after all, you are here - in Berlin, at the Show - so you already know that!

When we started to plan for the first **The Holy Grail Guitar Show** back in 2012, we did not know how it would turn out. We had faith that our concept was a good one, culled from our combined experience of hundreds of all kinds of guitar shows. But being luthiers and not professional event managers, we had no idea if we could actually pull it off. We tried to get everything right. We wanted to create the best setting for the presentation of our instruments and we put a lot of thought into how to achieve that. In its brief life **The Holy Grail Guitar Show** has already changed the paradigm of guitar shows and it has had quite an impact on the luthier scene in Europe. As a gathering of luthiers it is a testament to the camaraderie among colleagues, and as an exhibition of our work it is a congenial presentation of the pinnacles of craft and art embodied in the instruments on display.

So today we are proud to open the doors to the Third Edition and want to extend a warm welcome and Thank You to all of you, luthiers and visitors who have made this possible and who have contributed to the Show's success!

A question we often get asked is: What makes **The Holy Grail Guitar Show** so special? There are many answers to that - but maybe one thing sticks out: I've recently come across a term that struck me: "mimetic desire" - roughly it means desire which arises not authentically from within a person, but desire that has been taken from someone or somewhere else. Of course that's what advertising is all about - to engender desires you may not ever have had otherwise. Much of our world's commercial gears are being constantly lubricated that way. Nothing much seems to happen without advertising - the louder and flashier, the better. It is all around us. Well, as small builders we do not

have large budgets to advertise widely, or pay endorsers to create this 'mimetic desire' that drives most of the market. On the face of it we are at a distinct disadvantage compared to the large companies, which are able to generate it in spades. It is something we cannot compete with.

But in the end, is this really what we want anyway? As we worked on the first Show we realized that this project entailed a philosophy, a general concept about the meaning of what it is we do as guitar makers, and about what we want our guitars to mean to their owners and players: we want a different paradigm entirely, one based on authenticity. We are looking for the 'authentic desire' our instruments will spark in you.

The life of the luthier is sustained by an authentic passion for the instrument, honed and chiseled in the crosswinds of perennial financial hardship and a sometime precarious existence. Our craft exists in a tenuous space, dependent on the state of the economy and the disposable income players can dedicate to their passion. Well, that's okay - making a lot of money with our instruments isn't really what drives us (and sadly it rarely happens). It is the authentic appreciation you give our instruments that is the true value we receive for our work, and that is the reason we persevere and strive to become even better, make better guitars - it is what leads us on the quest for the Holy Grail.

That's why we wanted to go in a different direction with The Holy Grail Guitar Show, we wanted to quiet things down, create a space so that you could **listen**, and **hear**. We wanted to lessen the chatter and noise of the market, to bring it back again to a personal encounter between you, the instrument, and the luthier. So that we could answer your questions, receive your comments, and consider them. Because for the luthier, the one who plays his instrument is as important a reason for making it as the money that changes hands, in truth even more so. To us, meeting visitors from all over the world who come to see what we have made for them reaffirms the knowledge that what we do has value and is valued. What happens at the HGGS is that we want to meet your 'authentic desire'.

THE HOLY GRAIL GUITAR SHOW!

This year we have also issued a challenge to our exhibitors - fashion an instrument out of woods indigenous to your region. As tropical woods are increasingly becoming endangered, we wanted to encourage luthiers and players to explore alternative materials. Take a look and see for yourself - Local Wood Challenge participants are marked in red in the catalogue. Discover the possibilities of alternative woods!



Michael Spalt - EGB president

So come in and enjoy the Show and meet the makers and their children. You might even feel compelled to adopt one!

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THANK YOU ALL!

The Holy Grail Guitar Show and the EGB Symposium are a community effort, born and realized out of the dedication and contributions of many people. We would like to express our gratitude and THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US AND HAVE HELPED MAKE THIS SPECIAL EVENT POSSIBLE!

Amps, cables, guitar stands and other materials are being generously supplied by THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES:



GLOCKENKLING



This Show and Symposium would not have been possible without the help of numerous people who have generously contributed their time, knowledge, and effort over the past year to make this the best possible experience for visitors and exhibitors alike. Thank you all! This event is truly a labor of love, and we hope you will appreciate and enjoy it thoroughly! Special Thanks also to all the volunteers who have come from all over to help during the EGB Symposium and The Holy Grail Guitar Show.

There are MANY OF YOU and more are being added daily, so regretfully we cannot mention you all here in the catalogue, but we have created a *Thank You Page on the Holy Grail Guitar Show website* where we continuously update a complete listing:
www.holygrailguitarshow.com/credits

THANK YOU ALL! HAVE A GREAT SHOW!





The Local Wood Challenge

THE HOLY GRAIL GUITAR SHOW 2016 CHALLENGE

The Holy Grail Guitar Show is aiming to be more than just another guitar show - the very name symbolizes our continuous quest for excellence in making guitars. As an annual gathering of luthiers from all over the world, showcasing some of their best and most inventive work, it has quickly become the place to find out about the state of the art. This offers us a singular opportunity: to further stimulate the art and to enhance the event character of the Show, we have decided to introduce the concept of a **Challenge**.

Each year a theme will be proposed as Challenge, around which luthiers who wish to do so can join in and engage in a friendly tournament of ideas and craft. It is not a competition among the luthiers, but rather the opportunity for each of them to challenge themselves, to do something outside the normal confines and expectations and explore new and different aspects of their work. The task is to build one (or more) instruments for exhibit at the Show that can be labeled as part of the Challenge. The aim is to create focused media and public attention for the luthiers participating, and for the concepts behind the Challenge theme. The instruments created as part of the Challenge will then be on exhibit at the Show.

For 2016 we issued “The Local Wood Challenge”

We all love our exotic and tropical tonewoods, and we have indeed loved them almost to death. At a time where many of the species now commonly used in making guitars are endangered and as a consequence becoming scarce and highly regulated, we have to look around and ask ourselves, what are the alternatives? What can we do differently? How can we build guitars in a sustainable, ecologically responsible way?

One of the EGB's missions is to draw attention to the environmental problems associated with the use of tropical and endangered woods, and to educate the public (and luthiers as well) that in fact instruments built using abundant local regional woods can be just as good sounding and looking as instruments built using tropical woods.

This leads us to this year's Challenge: Make an instrument exclusively out of woods indigenous to your region. Find out what grows in your backyard and how to use it to make a great guitar!

Join us in exploring these alternatives to the traditional wood species, and experience the results of the *Local Wood Challenge* (LWC), as the participating exhibitors present the instruments

they made from local woods for your enjoyment! Participating luthiers are specially marked in the catalogue and *Local Wood Challenge* instruments exhibited at the respective luthiers' tables are identified with signs listing the specific woods used. Discover how successfully these exhibitors have met the Challenge! And find out about how LWC instruments sound and look, and talk to the luthier about his experiences in procuring and using local woods. There will also be a *special presentation & photo op* for members of the press and the public on **Sunday at 09:30** in the Estrel Passage.

In addition to the Challenge, The Leonardo Guitar Research Project will once again present their study of using non-tropical, sustainable wood species in making acoustic guitars. You are warmly invited to “*Take Your Very Own Listening Challenge*” on **Saturday at 16:00** (Room Strassburg).

There are further useful resources on their website www.leonardo-guitar-research.com, where they are creating a database of suitable European woods, sawmills and wood suppliers who can provide these, and luthiers who are using non-tropical woods.

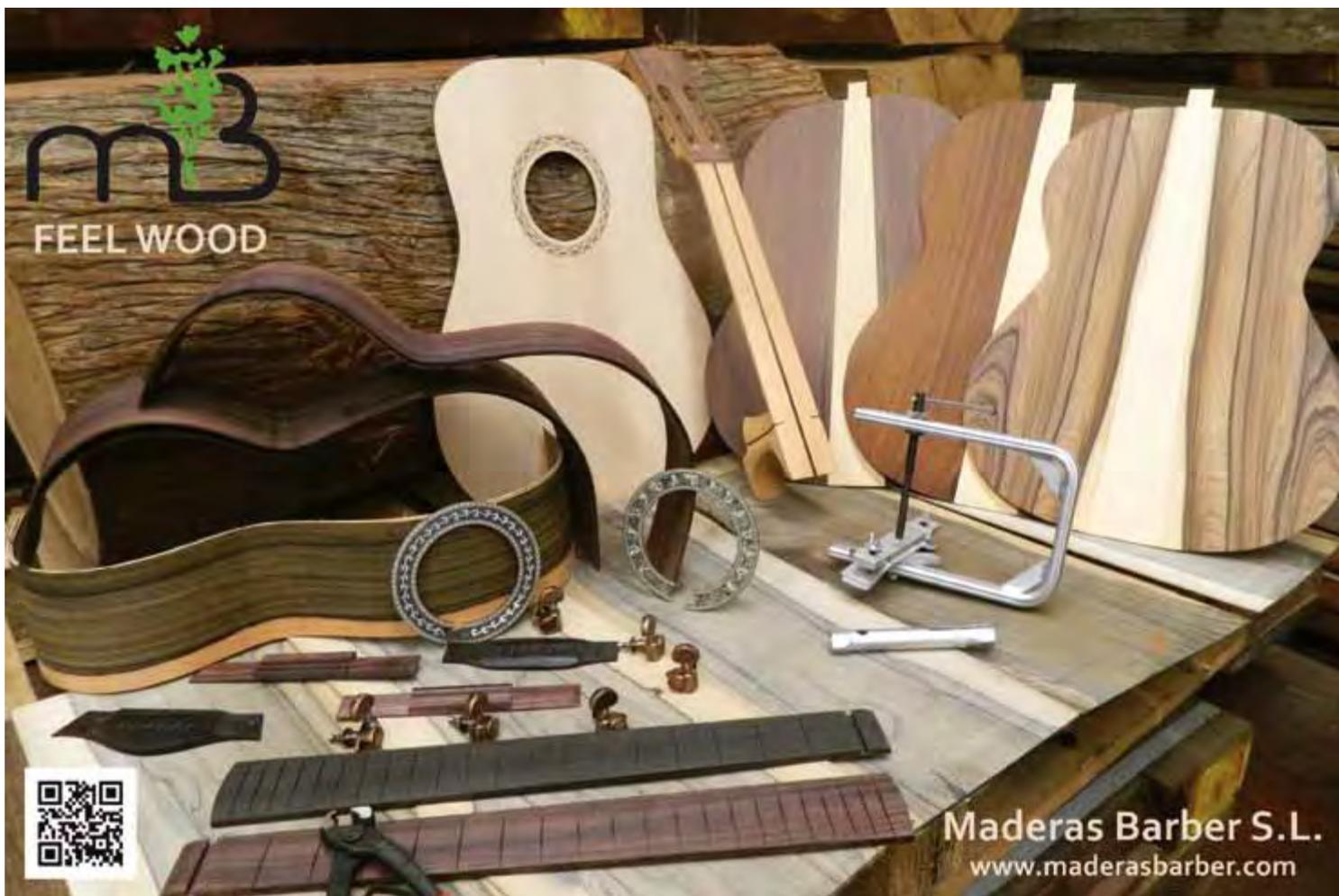
More information can also be found on our website: www.holygrailguitarshow.com/local-wood-challenge/



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LECTURES • **SATURDAY 8** • ROOM STRASSBURG

TIME	DURATION	LECTURER	TITLE
11:00	45 min.	CEM ÖCEK	Invisible Power of a Guitar – Guitar Pickups and how their tones are shaped
12:00	90 min.	DR. STEFAN HACKL	Stauffer & Co. – The Viennese Guitar and its music in the early 19 th century
14:00	45 min.	JENS WALTER	How to setup an electric guitar
15:00	45 min.	ULRICH TEUFFEL	Out of the box guitar design
16:00	60 min.	LEONARDO GUITAR RESEARCH PROJECT	Take the listening challenge - The Leonardo Guitar Research Project

LECTURES • **SUNDAY 9** • ROOM STRASSBURG

TIME	DURATION	LECTURER	TITLE
11:00	45 min.	GEORGE LOWDEN	Guitar Design History
12:00	45 min. + SIGNING	GRIT LASKIN	Grand Complications – Inlay Art vs. Decoration
14:00	45 min.	GARY SOUTHWELL	Stauffer and The Viennese School
15:00	45 min.	JUHA RUOKANGAS	Mythology of Tone

Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.
Please do not enter or exit once doors have closed and the lecture has begun.
Schedule may be subject to change without notice.

LECTURES

SATURDAY



INVISIBLE POWER OF A GUITAR - GUITAR PICKUPS AND HOW THEIR TONES ARE SHAPED

BY CEM ÖCEK SAT 11:00

We all know about how magnetic pickups work. But what about the impact of different components used in pickups on their tones?

In this lecture, Cem Öcek will talk about how guitar strings, magnets and coils used in a pickup affect the overall tone of a guitar and will go on to explain pickup specs (resistance, impedance, capacitance) which identify the characteristic of a pickup. He will also tell us how to select the most suitable pickups for one's guitar and how to match them.

Cem Öcek, computer engineer and an amateur electric guitar & bass maker, is author of two books in Turkish "Electric Guitars" and "Amplifiers and Effect Devices of Electric Guitars" in addition to many articles on music technologies, unusual musical instruments and sound-art & sound-sculptures published in Sound (Turkish Magazine on Music Technologies) and Sustain (Magazine published in Germany on Lutherie).



STAUFFER & CO. - THE VIENNESE GUITAR AND ITS MUSIC IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY

BY DR. STEFAN HACKL SAT 12:00

In the first decades of the 19th century Vienna was not only the world capital of music in general, but also a metropolis of the guitar. Johann Georg Stauffer (1778-1853) was the key figure of the Viennese school of guitar making and one of the most innovative and influential luthiers in history.

The lecture traces the cultural and social context of Stauffer's life and work, the emergence of the Viennese guitar, technical developments and different models and the role of his pupils and competitors.

Dr. Stefan Hackl, Austrian guitarist, teacher and researcher, is the author of numerous publications on guitar history and editions of guitar music.

► <http://stauffer-and-co.com>
► www.gitarre-archiv.at



HOW TO SETUP AN ELECTRIC GUITAR

BY JENS WALTER SAT 14:00

For nearly 10 years now Jens Walter has given guitar building courses in his workshop at "Saitenreiter" in Berlin-Kreuzberg. In this lecture Jens illustrates the main stages for a perfect guitar setup: truss rod adjustment, playing action, intonation and pickup height. He will talk about different types of construction and how to set them up to get a better instrument which plays comfortably and easily. Guitar setup is an individual thing. That's why this lecture works without rules or templates. Only some tools and the individual feel for your instrument are necessary.



OUT OF THE BOX GUITAR DESIGN

BY ULRICH TEUFFEL SAT 15:00

The traditional electric guitar design is reduced to only 2 or 3 archetypes of guitars. Some of the the electric and acoustic sound basics can't evolve in these guitars because of the constraint to their very shapes. A side effect of that is that replacement parts such as pickups, bridges or tremos seem to conform to the standard sizes which were unknowingly determined in the 1950s. Ulrich Teuffel will talk about the tonal potential which emerges outside of these standards. By reflecting what happens when a string is plucked we try to approach the idea of the human voice as the benchmark of musical expression.

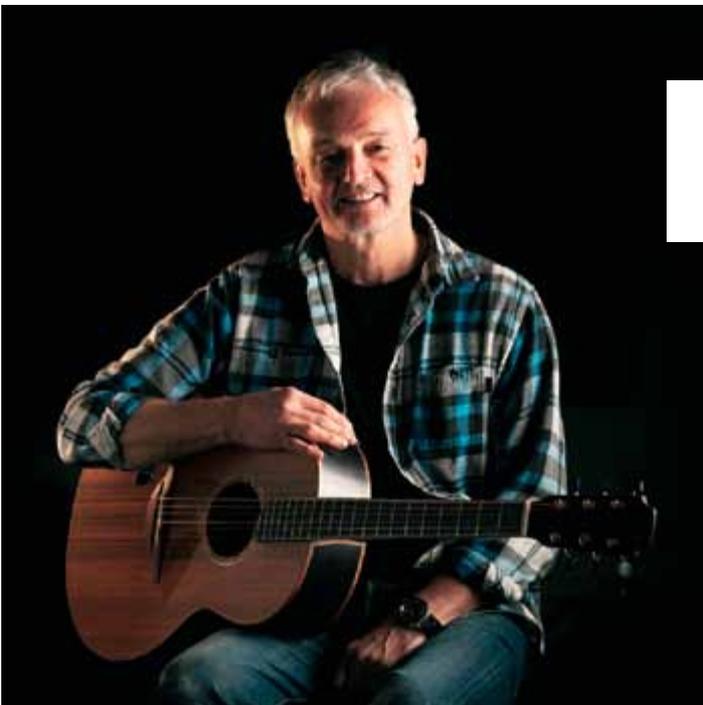


TAKE THE LISTENING CHALLENGE THE LEONARDO GUITAR RESEARCH PROJECT

BY THE LEONARDO GUITAR RESEARCH PROJECT SAT 16:00

The Leonardo Guitar Research Project has been leading the search for local sustainable woods in classical and acoustic guitar making. Tropical woods, traditionally used in guitar making, are becoming increasingly rare and ever more expensive, and the tropical rain forests where these woods are sourced are being destroyed at alarming rates. Many of these tropical woods are now protected and their trade restricted under CITES legislation, and despite efforts from the Forest Stewardship Council and environmental action groups much of the tropical wood on the market today has been illegally harvested. The Leonardo Guitar Research Project has, since 2012, been researching the opportunities for using local sustainable woods in guitar lutherie. Hear a short introductory lecture on the project and check out some of the project guitars for yourself. Take our listening challenge and tell us what you think.

SUNDAY



GUITAR DESIGN HISTORY

BY GEORGE LOWDEN SUN 11:00

George Lowden has been designing and making his renowned acoustic guitars in Ireland since 1974, selling them worldwide through specialist dealers since 1981. Today a team of craftspersons work under his direct supervision building Lowden guitars by hand in atelier-style workshops in Downpatrick, Ireland. In 2014 he celebrated 40 years of guitar making and in this lecture shares his insights on "40 Years of Design".

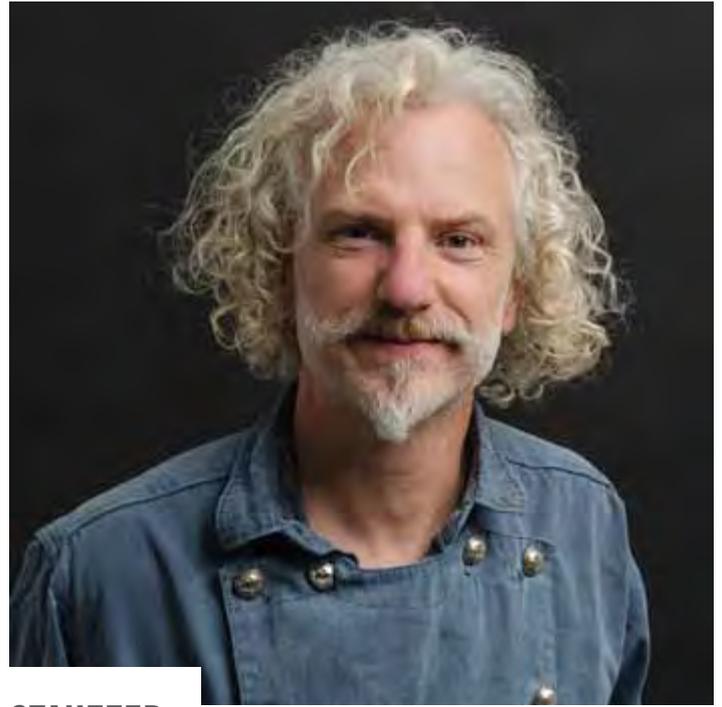


GRAND COMPLICATIONS INLAY ART VS. DECORATION

BY GRIT LASKIN **SUN 12:00**

Grit Laskin will present a 45 minute lecture/slide show of selected Inlay Art from among the 50 projects depicted in his new book, and talk about the stories behind them and the technical issues involved in their execution.

William 'Grit' Laskin has built concert-level steel-string, flamenco and classical guitars since 1971. He originated the Armrest bevel on acoustic guitars, co-originated the Sideport Soundhole, and his groundbreaking Inlay Art is recognized around the world. He has received numerous awards, including the Order Of Canada, his country's highest civilian honour.



STAUFFER AND THE VIENNESE SCHOOL

BY GARY SOUTHWELL **SUN 14:00**

An introduction to the work of Stauffer and the school of making he inspired, with a look at how this has influenced the modern guitar.



MYTHOLOGY OF TONE

BY JUHA RUOKANGAS **SUN 15:00**

A solid body electric guitar is a rather simple musical instrument, consisting generally of a few pieces of wood and metal, strung up and powered by magnetic pickups of some sort. At the same time, the world of electric guitar is saturated with myths and beliefs about tone, wood species, lacquers, pickups and other details. In this lecture Juha Ruokangas shares his thoughts on what makes the electric guitar really tick.

DEMO CONCERTS • SATURDAY 8

PLACE	TIME	ARTIST	EXHIBITOR
ROOM LYON	11:00	MICHAEL WATTS	KOSTAL GUITARS
	11:30	JEFFREY YONG	JEFFREY YONG GUITARS
	12:00	JAMES GILLESPIE	ROZAWOOD
	12:30	FRANK SCHREIBER	STOLL GUITARS
	13:00	CHARIS KARANTZAS	HAHL MEISTERGITARREN
	13:30	MICHAËL COTNOIR & MATHIEU LANGLOIS	DONTCHO IVANOV LUTHIER
	14:00	COR MUTSERS	POLJAKOFF GITARREN
	14:30	CAMILLA CONTI & MICHAEL WATTS	LAME HORSE INSTRUMENTS
	15:00	FLORIAN OBRECHT	ANDRÉ INSTRUMENTS
	15:30	ADAM MILLER	ISAAC JANG GUITARS
ROOM C4	11:00	EMIL PETROV	TAUSCH ELECTRIC GUITARS
	11:30	RAPOLAS GRAŽYS & ADAS TITOVAS	LAVA GUITARS
	12:00	RALF GAUCK	FRANZ BASSGUITARS
	12:30	SEBASTIAN SCHMALZ	KD
	13:00	AXE HESSEL	JHG GUITARS
	13:30	ADRIAN RÖBISCH & RICHARD ZURKE	STEINBRECHER GUITARS
	14:00	ALESSANDRO USAI	M.O.V.GUITARS
	14:30	ARNULF BALLHORN	KRISTALL
	15:00	BRICE DELAGE	SAUVAGE GUITARS
	15:30	ANDREAS ŠALA	WRECK GUITARS
	16:00	MARTIN LILLICH	MARCO GUITARS & BASS
	16:30	MIKE CAHEN	GREYHOUND GUITARS
	17:00	MARTIN LILLICH & BRICE DELAGE	DEIMEL GUITARWORKS

Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.
Please do not enter or exit once doors have closed and the concert has begun.
Schedule may be subject to change without notice.

DEMO CONCERTS • SUNDAY 9

PLACE	TIME	ARTIST	EXHIBITOR
ROOM LYON	11:00	ULRICH UHLAND WARNECKE	HEINER DREIZEHNTER GITARRENBAU
	11:30	SHAÏ SEBBAG	TSOPELAS HANDMADE GUITARS
	12:00	MARIO STRESOW	LIMBO GUITARS
	12:30	SHAÏ SEBBAG	LOWDEN GUITARS
	13:00	JOACHIM CSAIKL	DANIEL ZUCALI
	13:30	SHAÏ SEBBAG	CHATELIER FRÈRES
	14:00	ROGER VALERIOTI & ROBIN CELSE	GUITARES & CIE "STEPINHUT"
	14:30	SHAÏ SEBBAG	TURNSTONE GUITAR COMPANY
	15:00	MANITH BERTZ	CUNTZ GUITARS

ROOM C4	11:00	RON SPIELMAN	O3 GUITAR & BASS
	11:30	THOMAS KLANG & ARNE UEKERT	BEAST OF THE EAST
	12:00	RICARDO PINHEIRO	ERGON GUITARS
	12:30	RONNY VALDORF	SANKEY GUITARS
	13:00	LUKAS PAMMINGER & ALVIS REID	TULI BASSES
	13:30	NIKLAS SENIOR	BASSART GUITARS
	14:00	MICHAEL WATTS	SPALT INSTRUMENTS
	14:30	SÖREN JORDAN	TONFUCHS GUITARS
	15:00	ADAM MILLER	NIK HUBER GUITARS
	15:30	BENJAMIN SCHWENEN & TOM GELDSCHLÄGER	SOULTOOL CUSTOMIZED GUITARS SWITZERLAND

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Schedule may be subject to change without notice.

DEMO CONCERTS

WITH ISAAC JANG GUITARS • SAT 15:30

NIK HUBER GUITARS • SUN 15:00



ADAM MILLER

“It takes an impossibly gifted player to improvise independent melodies, harmonies, and bass lines all at the same time - while maintaining an impeccable groove. Australia’s Adam Miller is one such rare phenomenon.” – Premier Guitar Magazine

“Not only does he own the groove, he takes polyphonic playing - with independent bass lines, melody, harmony, and even improvised solos - to incredible heights.”

– Guitar Player Magazine

“Approaching his guitar as if each of its six strings were a separate instrument, fingerstyle guitarist Adam Miller is a groove machine, creating a sound that invites comparisons to Tuck Andress and Charlie Hunter.” – Acoustic Guitar Magazine

It’s this talent that has seen him play with Les Paul, Tommy Emmanuel, and more.

- ▶ www.adammiller.com.au
- ▶ www.facebook.com/adammillermusic
- ▶ www.instagram.com/adammillerguitar
- ▶ twitter.com/adammillergtr

WITH STEINBRECHER GUITARS • SAT 13:30



© Sandi Wermes

ADRIAN RÖBISCH (WITH RICHARD ZURKE)

Adrian Röbisch is a Dresden and Blues based guitarist. He currently works with Texan Blues troubadour Keegan McInroe and German singer/ songwriter Ansa.

Adrian initiated and curated the album In The Curved Air – A Tribute To Chris Whitley, a record on which more than 30 artists from three continents interpret the songs of the late Whitley.

- ▶ www.inthecurvedair.com/wordpress
- ▶ www.instagram.com/inthecurvedair
- ▶ www.ansamusic.de

WITH M.O.V. GUITARS • SAT 14:00



ALESSANDRO USAI

Born in Milan, class of '83, he started to learn at 6 with his father. He graduated at the Municipal Jazz School in Milan in 2003. He collaborated with many international Artist like Franco Cerri, Rossano Sportiello, Sugar Blue Band. He also joined the Founda(c)tion Band and played with Maceo Parker, opened concerts of Tower Of Power, Chaka Khan and Dee Dee Bridgewater. He won many different competitions including Young Talent Jazz (2010), the most important and prestigious Premio Massimo Urbani (2010), the Chicco Bettinardi competition (2011) and Eddie Lang Contest (2014). He introduced his new album Blues Tale at Blue Note Milano on March 2014, where he came back with Franco Cerri on September 2015 and Pepe Ragonese in 2016. He plays Marco.O.Viola guitars as of 2007.

- ▶ www.facebook.com/Alex-Usai-514642518600554/

WITH TULI BASSES • SUN 13:00



© Lucija Novak

© Patrick Langwallner

ALVIS REID + LUKAS PAMMINGER

Alvis and Lukas met in early 2015. It didn't take long for them to realize that they had similar interests in not only music, but also in other aspects of life in general. Upon establishing this strong connection, the two realized it was inevitable that at some point they would have to make music together. Since then they have jammed on numerous occasions, but still anticipate an official performance with original music. The two feel comfortable in their role as support bass-players; as a result, they often seek to make music instead of showcasing technical skills.

- ▶ <http://alvisreid.com>
- ▶ www.facebook.com/Alvis-Reid-1146595085357177/
- ▶ www.instagram.com/lukipamminger/

WITH WRECK GUITARS • SAT 15:30



ANDREAS ŠALA

Andreas Šala is a 25-year-old guitarist and producer from Croatia. He's been playing guitar for over 15 years. He has been classically trained in classical guitar and currently plays in two bands – The Ralph and Subscale. He's produced a dozen metal bands, worked with some of the best musicians in Croatia and scored a bunch of videos and made soundtracks for games.

- ▶ www.facebook.com/theralphband

WITH BEAST OF THE EAST • SUN 11:30



© Natalia Kempin (Natalia Dieckze Photography)

ARNE UEKERT

Arne Uekert has been playing rhythm guitar and bass in the German black metal band Ctulu since 2008. He is the first endorser of the Beast of the East and built the prototype called Moonbeast himself in 2013 at Schloff Guitars & Basses. With Ctulu, he played around 100 concerts in 15 different countries. "I haven't studied the guitar, I've never visited any school of music, I cannot read music and I hardly know the theory behind what I'm doing, but I think I can make up for all this with true dedication and stubbornness. Don't expect any technically brilliant virtuoso who plays scales as fast as possible. I am just trying to switch the surroundings in my head by evoking certain atmospheres: nothing more, nothing less."

- ▶ www.ctulu.de
- ▶ facebook.com/ctulumetal

WITH KRISTALL • SAT 14:30



ARNULF BALLHORN

Arnulf Ballhorn, bass player from Berlin studied classical double bass and plays in the Orchestra of Komische Oper Berlin since 15 years. His music includes classic, opera, contemporary music, jazz, tango, and world music. "I tried so many bass guitars, but only the concept of the model ROOM from Andreas Kristall combines electric and acoustic bass-sounds in one instrument which is working perfect if I demand a special acoustic voice. I use Kristall basses in all different groups and bands, from jazz and tango to classical chamber music, and even in the symphony orchestra."

- ▶ www.arnulfballhorn.de
- ▶ www.facebook.com/arnulfballhorn

WITH JHG GUITARS • SAT 13:00



AXE HESSEL

Axe is a very active Amsterdam-based session player, songwriter and educator. His perspective on guitars shifted after playing, feeling and hearing the magic of so many excellently crafted instruments at previous editions of the HGGS. Axe supports numerous artists in performing and writing. With firm roots in funk, rock, blues and hip-hop Axe's focus is on mainstream Contemporary Hit Radio. He must be able to quickly adapt to different circumstances and musical genres. His instrument must be both outstandingly reliable and comfortable, a trusted safe haven that inspires in whatever musical chaos he ends up in.

For Axe, JHG Guitars was the discovery of the show at HGGS 2015, because they offer just that! You will see him playing a JHG Jasha. But don't believe everything you'll hear. Drop by the JHG Guitars table and try one yourself.

WITH SOULTOOL CUSTOMIZED GUITARS SWITZERLAND • SUN 15:30



BENJAMIN SCHWENEN

Guitarist Benjamin Schwenen has studied classical guitar in Hannover. He lives and works in Berlin as a guitar player in Musical-Shows and bands since 2003 and produces for a variety of bands such as Eisbrecher, Xandria and Tanzwut. Beside that he is making records and plays live with his experimental Jazz-Metal band Counter-World Experience (the new album Pulsar was released on march 2016.) He plays and loves Soultool customized guitars since 2004.

- ▶ www.counterworldexperience.net
- ▶ www.facebook.com/Counter-World-Experience-156721834364955/

WITH SAUVAGE GUITARS • SAT 15:00 | DEIMEL GUITARWORKS • SAT 17:00



BRICE DELAGE

Brice Delage is a self-taught guitar player who first followed the sonic paths of Billy Gibbons, Tom Morello and the Young brothers. He later became interested in many different kinds of music, from classical (check his guitar rendition of Stravinsky's Rite Of Spring) to electro, and included in his playing various components of traditional music genres. He plays and sings in the French rock'n'roll trio WHAT ABOUT YOUR MOM and was part of the iconoclastic jazz/prog band CLASSICAL ANIMALS. Beside W.A.Y.M, he is also constantly touring with cover bands DOGTOWN, EZ TOP, and as a sideman with cameroonian blues artist Roland Tchakounte.

- ▶ www.whataboutyourmom.com

WITH LAME HORSE INSTRUMENTS • SAT 14:30



CAMILLA CONTI

Italian singer-songwriter Camilla Conti has always felt a connection to Anglo-American folk music. As a solo performer, she sings in English, accompanying herself on steel string acoustic guitar. She is an accomplished guitarist, whose music makes mesmerizing use of open tunings. She is also a member of the roots music acoustic trio, Harvest Home, who released a self-titled album in 2014. As a member of Harvest Home, she performs as a vocalist and multi-instrumentalist on guitar, banjo, mandolin, and bouzouki. Camilla also won the New Sounds of Acoustic Music songwriting contest during the Acoustic Guitar Meeting of Sarzana, Italy.

- ▶ www.facebook.com/Harvest-Home-1422328698021365/

WITH HAHL MEISTERGITARREN • SAT 13:00



CHARIS KARANTZAS

Charis Karantzas was born in 1988 in Athens, Greece. In 2007 he moved to Amsterdam where he studied Jazz Guitar with Martijn Van Iterson and Martien Oster at the CvA and in 2009 moved to Berlin to continue his studies with master Jazz guitarist Kurt Rosenwinkel and legendary bassist Greg Cohen at the Jazz Institute Berlin.

Charis is currently living in Berlin where he works as a guitarist and producer collaborating with many international artists. His collaborations include Greg Cohen, John Hollenbeck, Nils Wogram, Kurt Rosenwinkel, David Friedman, Kristin Korb, Les Filles Du Calvaire, Bujazzo Big Band, Lili Dahab and many others. He is touring all over the world as a sideman or as a producer in some of the great recording studios in Berlin.

► www.chariskarantzas.com

WITH POLJAKOFF GITARREN • SAT 14:00



COR MUTSERS

Cor Mutzers is a guitar player from the Netherlands mostly known for his work as a sideman for several national and international artists. He recorded many albums, including two solo albums, Fingerprints and Messe Zesse, with his own arrangements from beautiful classical pieces and several compositions of his own.

After having played and owned almost every guitar brand in the world, he pretty much found what he was looking for all those years in the guitars handcrafted by Jakob Poljakoff. Cor will be performing on a Poljakoff steel string that he likes very much because of the tone and playability. Apart from that he uses a loop station to give a few songs a little extra colour.

► www.cormutzers.nl
► www.facebook.com/c.mutzers

WITH TAUSCH ELECTRIC GUITARS • SAT 11:00



EMIL PETROV

Emil Petrov is a native Bulgarian guitarist located in Leipzig, Germany. He performs as a soloist and with the guitar quintet Epika, the trio Emile, the Wolkentamper society, the world music band Annuluk throughout Europe and Asia.

► www.emilpetrov.com
► www.facebook.com/emil.petrov.735

WITH ANDRÉ INSTRUMENTS • SAT 15:00



FLORIAN OBRECHT

Acoustic guitar player Florian Obrecht thinks of guitar playing as storytelling. For his second time at the Holy Grail he will perform on the unique instruments of Thierry André, each a story on its own. It will be interesting to listen when they meet.

WITH STOLL GUITARS • SAT 12:30



FRANK SCHREIBER

For more than three decades Frank has been a member of the Berlin music scene. He began to play his instrument at the age of 9 by learning classical guitar. A few years later he developed his fingerpicking-style inspired by famous guitarists of the late 70's. In those days he started performing in the clubs of the Berlin folk scene and was founder, guitarist and arranger of the Folk-Trio Castell. Since he began to play, Frank was fascinated by acoustic guitars, always looking for the best sound. He constantly tried to develop his style by picking up new influences and techniques. Today his solo-guitar music is powerful and melodic, ranging from folk to blues and jazz.

► guitar-groove.de

WITH ROZAWOOD • SAT 12:00



© Deniz Karagülle

JAMES GILLESPIE

James Gillespie, Scottish singer and songwriter, is excited to be performing at this year's Berlin Guitar Show. James has just finished a UK tour with Newton Faulkner and is busy in the studio finishing his debut album. James plays a ROZAWOOD Twenty-Eight dreadnought, signature James Gillespie model, and uses a saddle split L.R. Bags pickup. Over the years his influences have changed but John Mayer, Jason Mraz and Citizen Cope have all played a part in his unique style.

- www.jamesgillespiemusic.com
- www.facebook.com/jamesgillespiemusic
- www.twitter.com/jamesgillespie
- www.instagram.com/jgillespieinsta

WITH JEFFREY YONG GUITARS • SAT 11:30



JEFFREY YONG

Jeffrey Yong, a self-taught Guitar Maker, has crafted himself a well-known name in the guitar world for his unconventional approach to the guitar making world by using the most exotic wood and construction design. Besides making great instruments Jeffrey has introduced many new woods into the guitar making community.

► www.jeffreyyong.com

WITH DANIEL ZUCALI • SUN 13:00



JOACHIM CSAIKL

The Austrian guitarist, singer and songwriter Joachim Csaikl (1972) is as versatile in style as in strings. His music is a tasty melting pot of different techniques. He plays classical, steel string, and electric guitars as well as harp guitars with up to 17 strings by using the guitar body virtuously like a whole drum set.

"... his music is impressive Guitar technique carried by his pleasant deep voice..."

– Concerto Music Magazine

"... complex arranged Fingerstyle tunes..." – Acoustic Guitar Magazine

Csaikl studied classical and jazz guitar, has taught music since 1993 and has played in a wide range of projects. His first CD release was in 1997. In 2010 and 2011 he was part of 2 Harp Guitar Samplers (USA). From 2013 until 2015 he released 2 solo CDs.

► www.joachim-csaikl.com

WITH CUNTZ GUITARS • SUN 15:00



MANITH BERTZ

Manith Bertz is the hot tip of the acoustic scene in Germany, studying guitar at the University of Music in Dresden with the focus on jazz, rock, pop and world music. His extraordinary abilities and his versatility as a busy live, studio and session guitarist gives Manith solid grounding as the live guitarist of rapper TEESY, his solo-project MANITH and others. In 2014 the band performed at the Federal Vision Song Contest. In 2015 TEESY cooperated with the successful newcomer Namika ("Lieblingsmensch") as part of the MTV live sessions, for which also plucked the strings.

To implement his musical versatility, also his percussive style, Manith plays his CUNTZ-GUITARS "CWG23 Oveng Custom Special", equipped with 6 different pickups/sensors.

- ▶ <http://manith.de/>
- ▶ www.facebook.com/ManithMusic

WITH LIMBO GUITARS • SUN 12:00



MARIO STRESOW

Mario Stresow worked in studios and as an on-tour guitarist for around 30 years. 2014 he decided to develop a solo program. It contains compositions of his own as well as tunes written by David Qualey or Joerg Pusak. Furthermore you'll hear beautiful tunes that are seldom heard, like Steve Hackett's Horizons. Beside of doing his solo program Mario Stresow is performing with Bun-Jon & The Big Jive (Swing & Jive Band) throughout Europe.

- ▶ only english: <http://mariostresow.com/>
- ▶ german and english: www.mariostresow.de/en/news
- ▶ www.facebook.com/guitarist.mario.stresow/
- ▶ <http://plus.google.com/10498394707673867219>
- ▶ www.cdbaby.com/Artist/MarioStresow

WITH MARCO GUITARS & BASS • SAT 16:00 | DEIMEL GUITARWORKS • SAT 17:00



MARTIN LILLICH

Martin Lillich is equally at home on acoustic and electric basses. As an educator he was the head of the Bass program at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler in Berlin from 1995 to 2005. He teaches at the Global Music Campus in Africa bass and harmony. He is a musical polyglot having performed in the theatre, variety, radio, new oriental music, Jazz, Greek, Jewish, African, Afro-American, Afro-Cuban, Afro-Brazilian, and Iberian music. He has performed and recorded with many top artists. Martin speaks fluent English, French, Turkish and Polish.

- ▶ <http://sites.google.com/site/martinlillich/>

WITH DONTCHO IVANOV LUTHIER • SAT 13:30



MATHIEU LANGLOIS

Mathieu Langlois began his musical studies in classical guitar at College St-Laurent where he also studied jazz composition and arrangement. An accomplished musician, composer and arranger, he plays saxophone in big band, hard bop and modern jazz ensembles, as well as in Kutsi Merki, a traditional Bulgarian music group. Since the birth of their guitar duo, he has performed weekly alongside Michael Cotnoir (both of them playing on Dontcho Ivanov's guitars), delighting audiences with an eclectic mix of flamenco, Balkan and South American music. At this festival, they are pleased to perform their repertoire on the newest Ivanov guitars.

- ▶ www.facebook.com/mathieu.langlois.90

WITH DONTCHO IVANOV LUTHIER • SAT 13:30



© Enzo Cotnoir-Vargas

MICHAËL COTNOIR

Montreal professional guitar player, Michaël performs in a vast variety of musical styles. He first started studying jazz music, arrangement and composition before travelling for several years to soak up the musical culture of Latin America and Eastern Europe. Through all his experiences, he developed expertise in the world of acoustic guitar, creating his own identity. He currently performs with several formations such as Big Band, Gypsy Orchestra, Jazz Manouche, and also works with different rock bands and song writers.

► www.facebook.com/michael.cotnoir.98

WITH KOSTAL GUITARS • SAT 11:00 | LAME HORSE INSTRUMENTS • SAT 14:30

SPALT INSTRUMENTS • SUN 14:00



MICHAEL WATTS

A previous UK Acoustic Guitarist of the Year, Michael Watts is known worldwide for his onstage charisma, exquisite touch and the depth of feel and colour in his playing and writing. An acknowledged expert in the field of the luthier-built guitar Michael is regularly invited to give lectures, masterclasses, and demonstrate the work of the world's greatest guitar builders at festivals around the world. Together with singer-songwriter Ben Montague, Michael runs The North American Guitar - The UK home of the finest custom guitars.

► <http://thenorthamericanguitar.com>
► www.facebook.com/TheNorthAmericanGuitar
► <http://twitter.com/TNAGuitar>

WITH GREYHOUND GUITARS • SAT 16:30



MIKE CAHEN

Guitarist Mike Cahen was born in London, England. Initially self-taught he later attended the Guitar Institute of Technology in Los Angeles. First inspired by the British Blues Boom guitarists, his current musical interests cover a wide range of styles. His session and touring work has included legendary singer Elkie Brooks, Benjamin Zephaniah, Suzi Quatro and Lionel Ritchie. Solo and band projects with the Indian sarangi virtuoso Sabir Sultan Khan, RogMikEnzo with bassist Roger Inniss and drummer Enzo Todesco. Mike also plays the Mohan Veena, an Indian classical instrument.

► www.mikecahen.com
► www.facebook.com/officialmikecahen

WITH BASSART GUITARS • SUN 13:30



© Niklas Senior

NIKLAS SENIOR

Nik Senior is a guitarist, songwriter and singer from Germany. Aged 24, he has covered most musical genres in various projects, while his solo-releases focus on self-penned Rock and Blues. Handmade, old-school, with unexpected twists. The Holy Grail Guitar Show, he says, is essential as a unique celebration of awe-inspiring lutherie, art and craft. It's an enormous joy to be part of it.

► www.nikseniorandfamouslastwords.bandcamp.com
► www.facebook.com/Nik-Senior-Famous-Last-Words-164547826984197/

WITH FRANZ BASSGUITARS • SAT 12:00



RALF GAUCK

RALF GAUCK - the master of the tranquil sounds.

Polyphonic tones, rhythmic sounds, only on a 4-strings fretless bass? The renowned German musician Ralf Gauck surprised the international press and even Sting with his mix of ballads, folk, jazz to classical music. His playing is handmade with no devices like loopers or delays used by other bass players. Gauck plays his music directly to the heart of the listeners.

- ▶ www.ralf-gauck.de
- ▶ www.facebook.com/RalfGauck

WITH LAVA GUITARS • SAT 11:30



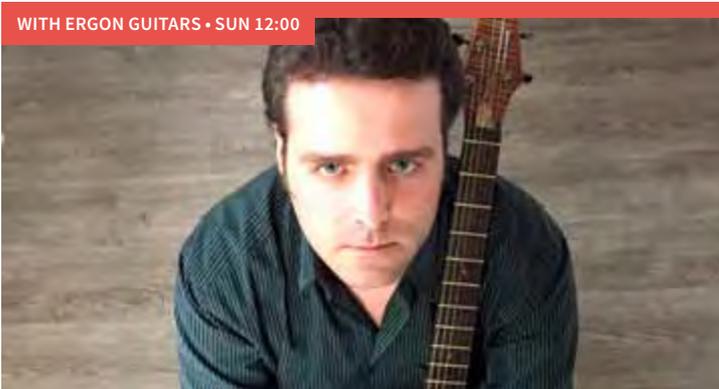
RAPOLAS GRAŽYS

Lava guitars are created by Lithuanian industrial designer and musician Rapolas Gražys. Rapolas Gražys established the premium class trademark called LAVA which connects sound and design collaboration and creates innovative instruments to increase musical playability.

All LAVA handcrafted instruments are created to feel more comfortable and relaxed while playing. Shaped as an actual drop which gives ergonomic benefit, these guitars are made through an exclusive technological process, using one piece of wood which makes a big difference for unique tone and long sustain. LAVA guitars are lightweight and have a very slim body.

- ▶ www.lavaguitars.com
- ▶ www.facebook.com/lavadrops/
- ▶ www.instagram.com/lavaguitars/

WITH ERGON GUITARS • SUN 12:00



RICARDO PINHEIRO

Ricardo Pinheiro completed a Degree in Music at Berklee College of Music.

He teaches at the Universidade Lusíada de Lisboa where he is the Director of the Jazz and Contemporary Music Program. He received several scholarships and Awards such as: Berklee College of Music; Fundação Luso-Americana Para o Desenvolvimento; Centro Nacional de Cultura; Rutgers University; FCT. As a musician, he performed/recorded with Peter Erskine, David Liebman, Eric Ineke, Chris Cheek, Matt Renzi, Perico Sambeat, Jon Irabagon, Dave Carpenter, and Mário Laginha. As a leader he recorded: "Open Letter" Fresh Sound New Talent, 2010; "Song Form" TOAP, 2013; "Cinema & Dintorny" Fresh Sound Records, 2015; "Triology" Sintoma Records (2014); Liebman/Laginha/Ineke/Cavalli Pinheiro "IS Seeing Believing?" Challenge/Daybreak Records (2016). He is also the author of two books on Jazz.

- ▶ www.ricardopinheiro.com
- ▶ www.facebook.com/ricardo.pinheiro.3994

WITH GUITARES & CIE "STEPINHUT" • SUN 14:00



ROBIN CELSE

Musician, composer and writer. At the age of six Robin Celse discovered his passion for playing the guitar. Due to a varied musical upbringing and education he has been able to learn and incorporate all the different styles he has experienced. His passion for sound has led him to work for a number of years as a sound technician, as well as creating music for short films, adverts and software.

At the moment Robin continues to play in numerous projects with styles including world music (Joulik, Ainsi Danse) and in more contemporary styles such as Jazz, electro and rock (Gari Greu du Massila Sound System, Qaistar, ex-De la Colline, ex-Fluer Sana). He is also collaborating with the World of Theater by playing music, acting, dancing and putting on circus workshops.

By using both the electric and acoustic guitar as well as the oud, the bouzouki, the bass and his voice, Robin is able to feed from his experience and express his joy and varied tastes.

- ▶ www.joulik.fr

WITH GUITARES & CIE "STEPINHUT" • SUN 14:00



ROGER VALERIOTI

Professional French musician. Bassist, Composer, Arranger, Producer. Specialized in world music, audio recordings of bass guitar. Always available for a music event, concert, creative project of any kind, musical cultural exchange, or festival.

► <http://rogervalerioti.com>

WITH O3 GUITAR & BASS • SUN 11:00



RON SPIELMAN

The extraordinary guitarist, songwriter and singer Ron Spielman is one of the pearls of the German music scene.

Spielman was born in 1964 in Schweinfurt, Franken as the son of a German Mother and an American Father. After receiving his first guitar at the age of 14, he taught himself his first chords and riffs by listening to records. He formed his first band in the 80's. He has since lived in New York and Boston, and toured with The Little River Band, the late Steve Marriott, Dave Stewart, The Chick Corea Electric Band, Bob Geldorf, The Climax Blues Band, Johnny Guitar Watson, and many others. He has released 12 CDs under his own name.

► www.ronspielman.de

► www.facebook.com/ron.spielman.50

WITH SANKEY GUITARS • SUN 12:30



RONNY VALDORF

The philosopher and theologian Ronny Valdorf lives and works in Leipzig, Germany. Born in 1981 he is an amateur musician in the original sense of the word: he is deeply in love with music and does not know walls between genres. He is an active part of his local music scene and plays in many bands and projects around Leipzig such as Traumkolloquium, The unattended Bird and Mantiquttair. At the HGGs he will perform on "Midilicious", a guitar by Canadian luthier Mike Sankey, and will talk about his mystical approach to music, his philosophy of using custom guitars and the inspiration that flies from hand-made guitars.

► www.mantiquttair.de

► www.facebook.com/mantiquttair

WITH KD • SAT 12:30



SEBASTIAN SCHMALZ

Sebastian Schmalz, guitar player from Jever/Germany, has been infected with the guitar virus shortly after his birth in 1979. Growing up in a musical family, the starting shot for his musical career has been when he found an old electric guitar in his father's bureau at the age of 10. Playing live since 1996, he is celebrating 20 years of live performances in various bands, musicals and studio jobs.

► www.soul-hand.de

WITH TSOPELAS HANDMADE GUITARS • SUN 11:30
LOWDEN GUITARS • SUN 12:30 | CHATELIER FRÈRES • SUN 13:30
TURNSTONE GUITAR COMPANY • SUN 14:30



© Deyan Parouchev

SHAÏ SEBBAG

New star of the guitar, Shaï Sebbag travels the world, far beyond our borders, and “initiates our ears to the art of travel, or rather, his journey” (Acoustic Guitar Mag). He is an artist with many influences - East Slavic music to modern fingerstyle. Shaï has become a major guitarist in France, following the release of his third album *In Balance*, acclaimed by the biggest names in acoustic guitar (Muriel Anderson, Michel Haumont) and the press (Acoustic Guitarist, Guitar Mag, The Guitar Channel). Over many tours he has performed in prestigious venues such as the All Star Guitar Night in Los Angeles (Second French guitarist in 21 years), the International Jazz Festival in Koktebel Crimea and closer to home the festival *The Sensitive String* in Bordeaux, alongside Juan Carmona and Biréli Lagrène.

- ▶ www.shai-sebbag.com
- ▶ www.facebook.com/shai.sebbag

WITH TONFUCHS GUITARS • SUN 14:30



SØREN JORDAN

Søren Jordan, a professional guitar player since 1992 from southwest Germany, has played with various artists as sideman. Among them are famous names like Paul Young, Alannah Myles, Tony Headley, Nik Kershaw and many more. Søren has released 2 solo CDs with his own instrumental music, a bluesy mixture of tunes that go from Latin rock to trashy surf sounds, from Hendrix inspired fuzz sounds to jazzy harmonies. His CDs got very good reviews in magazines like *Grand Guitars*, *Guitar* and *Gitarre & Bass*. “I’m trying to make music, that is not only interesting for guitar players, I mostly get compliments for my tone and my melodies, less for my shredding or my virtuosity, so I guess, I did some things right” Søren states.

- ▶ www.soerenjordan.de
- ▶ www.soeren-jordan-bluesconglomerate.de
- ▶ www.facebook.com/SoerenJordansBluesConglomerate

WITH BEAST OF THE EAST • SUN 11:30



THOMAS KLANG (DRLICK)

Having grown up in tone-deaf surroundings, DrLick stubbornly made his way with rock and classical music through his folksy hometown. At 14 years old he started to dedicate himself to all kinds of electric and acoustic guitars. Bands like Mr. Crowley, Das Ding, Rockworx & Metal Worx enabled him to gain experience in the studio and on stage, both at home and abroad. Since 2010 he’s been teaching guitar, bass, cubase and cajon in his own “Studio DrLick”. That’s also home to his project *Black Magic Pearls*. During his co-operation with Schloff Guitars & Basses, the T-Paul came up as a completely new guitar concept that DrLick owns in two different versions. Holy Grail visitors, are you ready?

- ▶ drlick.de

WITH SOULTOOL CUSTOMIZED GUITARS SWITZERLAND • SUN 15:30



© Tom Geldschläger 2016

TOM GELDSCHLÄGER

Fountainhead is the alter-ego of guitar player / composer / producer Tom Geldschläger. Currently operating from his studio in Berlin “the Steve Vai of the new millennium” has appeared on dozens of records as a guitar player, producer & mixing engineer. He’s recorded and toured with artists like Obscura, Ray Riendeau, Marco Minnemann, Nader Sadek and has been featured in various music magazines around the globe. His predominant use of fretless guitars earned him the status of a “modern day guitar legend” in the metal and progressive rock scene. He’s currently endorsed by Steinberg Software, Engl Amps, Loxx Products, Soultool Guitars and GoodTone Pickups and has two solo albums released.

- ▶ www.thefountainhead.de
- ▶ www.facebook.com/fountainheadmusician

WITH HEINER DREIZEHNTER GITARRENBAU • SUN 11:00



ULRICH UHLAND WARNECKE

Imagine! A classically-trained guitarist rediscovers his long-lost passion for the steel string! Here is the result – don't miss it! Unpredictable modern acoustic guitar at its best! Ulrich Uhland Warnecke uses his steel string guitar to sketch out melodies and sound tableaux of great lightness and touching perceptivity. With Schattenspiele, he has created an album filled with wonderful melodies, music that invites us to immerse, or even drown, ourselves in its sheer beauty.

- ▶ www.warneckemusic.com
- ▶ www.facebook.com/ulrichuhland.warnecke



4/2016 Juli/August

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BASSPLAYER'S MAGAZINE

US \$7.50 A € 5.20 LUK € 6.20 CH 13.50 SFR



SPECIALS

IM VERGLEICH

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Bässe im Test

MUSICMAN Caprice/Cutlass
NS DESIGN WAV4 Radius
HOT WIRE Chambers

Interviews

Michael League
Georg Breinschmid
Eivind Opsvik

Amps

MESA/BOOGIE Subway D-800
PEAVEY Headliner 1000

Cort

Artisan A5 & A4 Plus

bass

Innovativ



Pyramid-Saiten

60th Anniversary



Höfner Violin Bass

Leistungsfähig



Markbass 121 Ninja

One-Man-Show



Adam Ben Ezra



„We haven't a clue about these...”



„but we ARE true specialists in pickups for bass and guitar.”

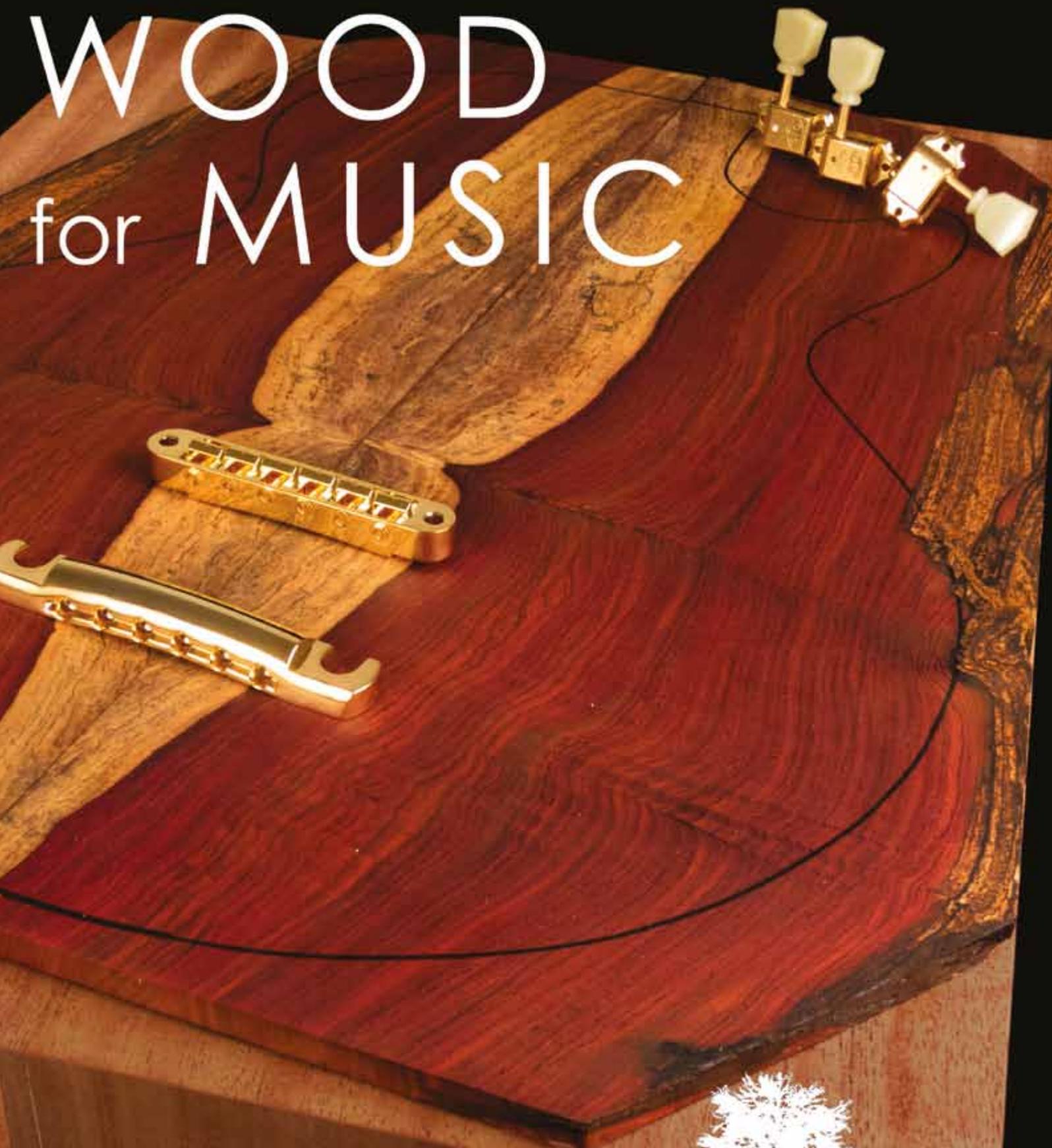


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EXHIBITORS



SPAIN

AASH BASS MANDIONE CISSE

Aash bass is the bass guitar brand founded by Elash Cisse. He was born in Pate doie Builders (Dakar) and now lives in northern Spain. Influenced by classic guitar and violin luthiers that he has known in Madrid, he hand-crafts each one of his bass guitars, the instrument that he has played since he was 14 years old, to be unique. All Aash basses are characterized by their easy playability, deep versatile sound, and beauty. All Aash basses are hand made, custom built and unique works.

► www.aashbass.com



UNITED KINGDOM

AC GUITARS ALAN CRINGEAN

AC Guitars is a one-man operation that came in to being in June 2006 when the first commissioned order was received. Working on his own designs and developing proprietary electronics, pickups, hardware and the use of new materials, the goal has always been to produce the best instruments possible. This continues to be the driving force behind AC Guitars.

► www.acguitars.co.uk



NETHERLANDS

ADAMOVIC BASSES NIKOLA ADAMOVIC

Adamovic Basses was founded in 2001 and is located in Haarlem, The Netherlands. With a small team of 2 dedicated luthiers they are producing approximately 55 hand-crafted instruments per year. Each bass is custom tailored and built with the best woods and the best components available. Their specialty is ergonomics, which results in lightweight, perfectly balanced basses shaped to your body with superior playability.

► www.adamovic.nl





CANADA

ANDRÉ INSTRUMENTS
THIERRY ANDRÉ



The unique works created by Thierry André combine the expression of a traditional and impeccable craftsmanship with the freer approach of artistic work. A specialist of the steel string acoustic guitar, his body of work also reflects his love for the electric and archtop instruments. This experience enables him to use a broad spectrum of data to deliver the sound quality sought by the musician. This form of miscegenation of acoustic function is thus often cleverly transposed in terms of ergonomics and aesthetics. A one-man operation, he produces six to eight unique pieces each year out his order book.

► www.thierryandre.com



©Jean Fitzgerald



FINLAND

AP PAASONEN GUITARS
AND MANDOLINS
ARI-PEKKA PAASONEN

Ari-Pekka Paasonen is the Master Luthier of a lutherie shop Jasesoi Musical Instruments in Jyväskylä, a small but lively city in the middle of Finland. A-P builds 10-12 new instruments annually. He concentrates on small/medium bodied steel string fingerstyle guitars and makes occasional classicals, mandolins and kanteles. A-P has been making acoustic instruments since 1991. He has graduated from the Ikaalinen Guitar making school in 1993 and got his Master degree in 2009. A-P works hard to make his guitars light, delicate and with an interesting, inspiring tone.

► www.jasesoi.fi



UNITED KINGDOM

ATKIN GUITARS
ALISTER ATKIN

Atkin Guitars builds a range of individually handcrafted guitars designed to bring the player a unique experience, delivering fantastic playability, tone and aesthetics. We have built guitars of many styles for some of the world's finest musicians, including Paul McCartney, Elvis Costello, Dolly Parton, Squeeze, Eddi Reader, Boo Hewerdine, Richard Hawley, Graham Coxon and many others.

► www.atkinguitars.com



SPAIN

BACCE CUSTOM GUITARS & BASSES
DANIEL CABEZAS

Bacce Guitars build instruments using a flexible process, which conveys their slogan "We make it possible". They offer the option to deviate from the norm to express individuality. They take a non-typical, lighthearted approach to hand building each instrument. The result is always an exclusive, custom, and unique work for each musician that reflects their passion.

► www.bacceguitars.com





ITALY

BACHMANN GUITARS & TONEWOOD RUDOLF BACHMANN

Bachmann-Guitars & Tonewood are a company from South Tyrol (Italy). They have been building guitars for many years with the finest handiwork. Where handicraft skills have not been replaced by calculable and commercial-oriented computer work, you will find Bachmann guitars have soul. Made piece by piece, with great accuracy and always hand made, every single instrument guarantees the highest quality production and material as well as uniqueness. The individual production of each product makes it possible to address the individual needs of customers in sound and design. Thus, even the most unusual wishes and expectations can be realized.

► www.bachmann-guitars.com



GERMANY

BASSART GUITARS MATTHIAS MEYER



Master luthier Matthias Meyer founded "Bassart Guitars" in 1996, building custom order and model line electric guitars and basses. His workshop in Braunschweig Germany is also renowned for fine PU and nitro-cellulose finishing, authentic restoration of vintage instruments, professional ageing, high quality mods and repairs. For these services, numerous illustrious companies and luthiers have employed Meyer's skills in the past. Every instrument, custom or series model, from raw, straightforward rock 'n roll workhorses to artistic masterpieces, is created with meticulous handwork in Germany.

► www.bassartguitars.de



GERMANY

BEAST OF THE EAST MICHAEL SCHILLHOF

What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, men would die from great loneliness of spirit, for whatever happens to the beasts also happens to the man. Following your beast is the ultimate shortcut to freedom and expression of your inner will. With this premise, the Beast of the East was called to life as a division of Schloff Guitars & Basses. The aim was to combine aggressive shapes with all the knowledge that Michael Schillhof accumulated in years of repairing and building guitars with Schloff Guitars & Basses as well as his experience as Warwick's foreman of the preproduction and custom shop head.

► www.schloffguitars.de



CANADA

BENOIT LAVOIE LUTHIER BENOIT LAVOIE



Benoit builds almost all kinds of stringed instruments like the guitar, the violin, the cello and the double bass. His approach is a mix of art and science. He has developed an acoustic measurement method to optimize the performance of his instruments. This approach allows him to obtain powerful instruments with a good consistency from one instrument to another. Benoit always tries to push his art to the next level and his passion is obvious when you see his instruments.

► www.benoitlavoie.com





GERMANY

BEUTLING GUITARS HOLGER BEUTLING

Holger Beutling built his first guitar at the age of 17 in 1979. After an apprenticeship as an engraver he worked in several crafts - doing jobs with noble metal and wood, but always making and repairing guitars alongside that. In 2011 he decided to make guitar building his main profession, doing repair jobs, inlay work and building fine, handcrafted electric guitars and basses in his workshop near the city of Bremen.

► www.beutling-guitars.de



INDIA

BIGFOOT GUITARS KARAN SINGH



The dream is to give Indian musicians the opportunity to get their hands on world class hand crafted stringed instruments - locally. Bigfoot Guitars offers musicians a chance to experience some of the most unusual guitars in the world. Karan Singh (Founder and Luthier) believes in creating exceptional sounding instruments using tonewoods indigenous to India, where he lives. He has successfully been working with species like Tamarind, Jackfruit, Mango, Teak, Rain Tree, Indian White Cedar, Indian Ebony and Indian Laurel, apart from the regulars. Highly responsive guitars with exceptional sustain and dynamic range are his focus.

► www.bigfootguitars.com



GERMANY

BOERJES BASS&GUITAR DESIGN RALF BOERJES



Ralf Boerjes started his business as a custom and repair shop and gained a lot of experience, which led him to develop his own designs in co-operation with ambitious musicians. All instruments are handmade from selected tonewoods and the finest materials with the focus on sound, handling and aesthetics. Currently he is preparing a new series called "Homegrown" which is completely made from regional woods which he has collected over the years. BOERJES basses and guitars are built for the same reason they are played - for passion!

► www.bass-guitars.de



UNITED STATES

CARDINAL INSTRUMENTS SAM EVANS

Cardinal Instruments is not beholden to tradition, but it does stand on its shoulders. So for players that strive to be themselves, these instruments will serve you well along your path.

► www.cardinalinstruments.com





FRANCE

CHATELIER FRÈRES GÉRARD CHATELIER + PHILIPPE CHATELIER

For a long time, we thought that it would be great to have a small-to-medium sized acoustic guitar adapted to both flat picking and finger picking.

So the challenge was to create a model combining the advantages of the OM and dreadnought that had the following features: a full tone allowing guitarists to use the whole neck without compromising expression, nuance or sustain. Tight mid ranges that are warm and not aggressive. Warm and sweet high tones, with clear pitch especially on the B note which has a tendency to blur. Full, rounded and resonating bass.

► www.chatelierfreres.com



IRELAND

CHRIS LARKIN CUSTOM GUITARS CHRIS LARKIN



For almost 40 years Chris Larkin has been hand making guitar family instruments on the west coast of Ireland. Today there are more than 700 of his creations dispersed around the world, many of them custom instruments.

Initially Chris made solid bodied instruments (guitars and basses) but soon diversified to include acoustic guitars (steel and nylon string), archtop jazzers, semi acoustic, EUBs, mandolins and almost anything else you can think of.

Whenever possible he uses Irish woods and is one of the 4 luthier partners in The Leonardo Guitar Research Project.

► www.chrislarkinguitars.com



AUSTRIA

CHRISTINA KOBLER GUITARS CHRISTINA KOBLER

Christina Kobler is a luthier based in Austria and specializes in custom steel-string and nylon-string guitars. In 2008, after achieving her master degree, she set up her own guitar-building workshop.

Christina is a "one woman shop" by choice and is currently creating 8-10 guitars annually.

Each instrument is unique, produced by using both age-old craftsmanship and modern technology. Optical and aesthetic details, in addition to diverse measurements and settings, are fashioned according to the customer's individual preferences. Her sincere aim is that the musician is inspired by the guitar.

► www.koblerguitars.com



GERMANY

CLAAS GUITARS ALEXANDER CLAAS

Claas Guitars was founded in 2012 by Alexander Claas. Being a professional cabinet maker, he decided to turn his hobby into a career and now builds electric guitars and basses by hand in Germany. These are sold all over the world, from America to Japan.

In 2009 he developed his main model "Moby Dick", which he enhances constantly.

Claas Guitars is now part of a new wave of avant-garde guitar builders. He is trying to construct the electric guitar of the future, using new design concepts, materials and building techniques. The instruments produced combine exclusive woods with modern engineering.

► www.claasguitars.de





ITALY

CLOE GUITARS - CESARONI LUCA CESARONI

Luca Cesaroni became a luthier in 1991 at the age of 15 in Rome (Italy). His company, Cloe Guitars, was founded in 2002 with the aim of creating outstanding custom guitars and providing high tech services to his clients.

In 2008, the Plek machine was purchased in order to reach the micrometric precision in setup and fret dressing jobs. During the last four years his work has focused on the building of archtop guitars after a stint in Canada with Mario Beauregard. Luca Cesaroni and his Cloe Guitars shop is a reference point in the centre of Italy for professional musicians and demanding collectors.

► www.cloeguitars.it



GERMANY

CUNTZ GUITARS ANDREAS CUNTZ

In 1994, Andreas Cuntz started his Master Luthier studies, focusing on stringed instrument design and construction at the State University in Mittenwald in Germany. He showed a strong aptitude for his chosen career, even surprising his tutors with a CWG 23 steel string model incorporating a straight string line during the first days of the course! His boundless talent was rewarded in 1996, when the German Chamber of Handicrafts awarded him a nationwide first prize for his CWG 23 guitar, followed by the proud title of "Master Luthier" in 1999. Since then he has lived for his chosen calling, producing customized labors of stringed triumphs for clients in his master's workshop... and the mix of sheer professionalism, care and love he puts into each and every instrument is there for all to see.

► www.cuntz-guitars.de



GERMANY

DANIEL STARK GITARRATENELIER DANIEL STARK



In 2016, Daniel Stark celebrates 10 years as owner of his own workshop Gitarrenatelier Daniel Stark. During that time, he has honed his craft of creating custom-built classical and crossover guitars of exceptional quality. His purpose has been to create guitars which fulfill the unique requirements of the individual musician.

Daniel has built a reputation for the development of his own distinctive double top construction, currently played by leading professionals. He is dedicated to traditional craftsmanship, but is always open to new concepts and collaborations with devoted musicians. The annual production is limited to about 12 exclusive instruments per year.

► www.stark-guitars.de



AUSTRIA

DANIEL ZUCALI DANIEL ZUCALI

Since successfully graduating as a string instrument maker in 1995 Daniel Zucali's focus is on manufacturing, repairing and restoring classical guitars. After being certified as a master plucked instrument luthier in 2003, classical guitars are the only thing he builds.

However, this includes multi-string guitars with up to 18 strings as well as instruments of various sizes and tunings all the way from the octave guitar to the octave bass guitar.

Seeing the customers' joy when receiving their unique handcrafted instruments is his motivation to keep building ever more instruments.

► www.zucali.com





FRANCE

DARIUS GUITARZ ALEX DMYTRIW

Darius Guitarz is a 100% handmade guitar brand based near Paris. Alex the luthier is inspired by 90's metal guitars, 50's rock n' roll guitars and old American cars. Each guitar is carefully handmade one by one by order with French or exotic wood to build one-of-a-kind guitars, righty or lefty. Darius Guitarz makes his own models but also builds custom shapes with specific instructions.

► www.dariusguitarz.com



NETHERLANDS

DE WIT GUITARS GIJS DE WIT

For over 30 years Gijs de Wit has been designing and building world class electric guitars and basses, and he was one of the first builders to use chambered semi-hollow bodies. Driven by a constant urge to improve, de Wit began to realize that a chambered block of wood could never produce the true tone he was searching for, which resulted in the line of acoustic guitars he's building today: flat top/steel string, archtop/jazz and classical. Gijs de Wit worked with renowned Jazz player Jesse van Ruller on a thinline archtop travelling guitar designed to fit in the overhead compartment of a plane.

► www.dewitguitars.com



GERMANY

DEIMEL GUITARWORKS FRANK DEIMEL + KORA JÜNGER

Deimel Guitarworks is an expert in uniting vintage design cues of well-known classic electric guitars with exacting quality and contemporary features. When playing a Deimel guitar, you'll see that looking back never felt so futuristic! The goal of Deimel Guitarworks is to provide an impeccable tool to each musician that perfectly suits their unique style. Frank Deimel has been building guitars since his early adolescence and started his professional business in 1998. In 2007 the artist Kora Jünger expanded the company's profile with her creative design and aesthetic expertise. Customers are, among others, Lee Ranaldo, Tocotronic, Klaxons.

► www.deimelguitarworks.de



ITALY

DI DONATO GUITARS ENRICO DI DONATO

Di Donato Guitars was established many years ago as a workshop of bowed instruments near Venice, Italy. With great passion for the legendary guitarists and the strictness of the "Ancient Myth" of classical lutherie, Di Donato Guitars has embraced the concept of restriction-free instrument design; they are not limited by shape or materials, often coupling wood and aluminium, which is known for its tonal properties. Every single guitar is one-of-a-kind in which every part fits with others, from pickups to knobs, and is crafted to satisfy the personal desires and needs of each guitarist.

► www.didonatoguitars.it





MEXICO

DISTORTED BRANCH CUSTOM GUITARS LIZET ALBOR + PAUL ORTIZ MURCIO

Lizet Albor, a luthier with 9 years of experience, with a background in architecture and electronic engineering, and Paul Ortiz, a luthier with 12 years of experience and a background in arts and crafts, met in the heart of Mexico City and founded Distorted Branch in 2011.

Combining aesthetics, ergonomics and functionality along with their cultural heritage, they work together with musicians to fulfill their every need and design one-of-a-kind pieces of art.

Distorted Branch mostly builds guitars and basses, but loves new challenging instruments, taking musicians' concepts and going from design to high quality final product.

► www.distortedbranch.com



CANADA

DONTCHO IVANOV LUTHIER DONTCHO IVANOV

Dontcho Ivanov is a professional Montreal-based luthier and guitarist for the Balkan gypsy band, Soleil Tzigane. In his cozy home workshop, he builds primarily Classical, Flamenco, Steel string Parlor, Gypsy & Nylon Jazz guitars. They are handcrafted with meticulous precision and care from the finest quality wood.

► www.ivanovluthier.com



© Cindy Boyce



BRAZIL

DREAMER GUITARWORKS CELSO FREIRE



Brazilian luthier Celso Freire conceived Dreamer Guitarworks twenty-five years ago when he was looking for the ultimate guitar of his dreams.

High quality musical instruments were hard to find in South America in those days. Prices were obscene, which made the product just not worth it. That's when Celso decided to start making his own top-notch "Dreamer" guitars.

Dreamer guitars are crafted with the best woods in the world to provide awesome sustain and rich tones. Full attention is given to every detail of every instrument.

Each Dreamer is tailor-made to fit the needs of even the most demanding musician.

► www.dreamerguitars.com



DENMARK

DUBRÉ GUITARS PIERRE DUBRÉ + SUSANNE DUBRÉ

Dubré Guitars was founded in 1997. With a passion for wood and an ideology about what you see is what you hear, they want to preserve the legacy of good old craftsmanship, which typically will be recognized by the finest hand built instruments.

► www.dubre.dk



UNITED STATES



ELRICK BASS GUITARS ROBERT ELRICK

Founded in 1992, Elrick Bass Guitars, Ltd. began as a specialty manufacturer. Addressing what was, at that time, an under-served segment of the bass guitar market, Elrick exclusively produced thru-neck 6-string bass guitars. Since their broad market debut at the 1993 NAMM Summer Session, Elrick Bass Guitars has expanded its offerings to include instruments of many configurations and construction in an effort to meet evolving artist demands.

► www.elrick.com



PORTUGAL



ERGON GUITARS ADRIANO SERGIO

Ergon is dedicated to creating handmade unique custom guitars. The brain child of Adriano Sergio, he believes that each musician's artistic identity, as well as the piece of wood to be carved, are an opportunity to create a new and groundbreaking guitar design. His building ethos rests on his experience as a player and his many years both on the road and in the workshop as a guitar technician. Handcrafted and passionately made, every Ergon instrument has tone and comfort as its main objectives and embodies the fusion between builder and player.

► www.ergon.guitars



© Gennaro Serra

GERMANY



EYB GUITARS GÜNTER EYB + TILMANN FUCHS

Eyb Guitars has been building handmade custom electric guitars and basses since 1984. In 2014 they started the new design project called Elyra Guitars, which is a modular semi acoustic guitar designed by Tilly Fuchs, a well-known guitar player and industrial designer in Stuttgart.

► www.eyb-guitars.eu



GERMANY



EYESTONE GUITARS LEONHARD AUGENSTEIN



Leonhard Augenstein built his first guitar in 1998 driven by the desire to make better guitars than the ones he had purchased from guitar makers, which in the end did not really satisfy his expectations. Being trained as an industrial designer and being used to questioning everything he decided to make better and more unique guitars without leaving the traditional look of guitars too far behind. His second-built guitar showed a new shape, bridge, and details like special bracings, which make today's eyestone-guitars look and sound different and unique.

► www.eyestone-guitars.com





HUNGARY

FIBENARE GUITARS CO. CSABA BENEDEK

Fibenare Guitars Co. is a 19-year-old Hungarian guitar manufacture. It builds classic designs and its own models of guitars and basses. They build instruments from scratch, not only crafting wood by hand, but also building hardware, pickups, electronics and even the hardshell cases for the instruments. They use only traditional tools, and the best materials available.

► www.fibenare-guitars.com



SPAIN

FRANFRET HANDMADE GUITARS FRANCISCO JOSÉ RODRÍGUEZ TORRÓN

Franfret Handmade Guitars epitomizes high quality electric guitars, where the most important thing is to offer instruments that fit the guitarist's style, where they share their knowledge and experience with you to create unique instruments. Since his childhood he was surrounded by music and especially guitars. The passion of designing, developing and building these instruments since 2009 has led him to constantly evolve, improve, and develop new ways to achieve the best results. The many models you can choose from range from the most vintage and retro style of the Oregon Pine Series to the modern models as the AXE.

► www.franfret.net



GERMANY

FRANZ BASSGUITARS XAVER TREMEL

In his young luthier's workshop Franz Bassguitars creates premium quality bass guitars, 100% hand-crafted to individual client requests. Xaver Tremel puts great emphasis on the choice of woods and their origins from sustainable and preferably regional forestry. His careful selection of materials and components, paired with expert manufacture, guarantees a strong and unique sound.

► www.franz-bassguitars.de



GERMANY

GAMBLE GUITARS SASCHA PROSKE + ROBBY RYBOL

Gamble Guitars was founded in 2011 by best friends Sascha Proske and Robby Rybol and really started to take off after the first "Messe" 2013. Although newcomers, both always had a love for Rock'n Roll, which is reflected in their guitars. They build instruments which are meant to rock a stage. Since then, the cheeky charm of their guitars has found many national and international fans. Sascha and Robby put a lot of passion into their work and pay close attention to using high quality materials.

► www.gambleguitars.com



SWITZERLAND

GIULIO NEGRINI GUITARS GIULIO NEGRINI

Giulio of Negrini Guitars is a modern guitar maker and player, his skills as a hard-rock guitarist have allowed him to improve the comfort and playability of the electric guitar. Understanding the needs of players, he designs smooth necks and fretboards. Giulio is focused on high-end, high quality guitars; multistrings, extended range, fanned fretting and hi-gloss finishes are common options in his models. Entirely hand made in his workshop at the specific request of the customer, these guitars incorporate a wide selection of rare and high-grade tonewoods, premium hardware and his own hand wound, guitar-by-guitar related pickups.

► www.negriniguitars.com



SPAIN

GREYHOUND GUITARS SALVADOR SORIANO

GreyHound Guitars is the outcome of its founder's quest in search of the best guitar for himself. Having owned many well-known guitars on the market, none satisfied all the requirements: playability, sound, beauty and uniqueness. Their philosophy is an open invitation to all musicians, pro and amateurs, to escape from me-too paths to new unexplored places to satisfy their deepest musical needs. GHGuitars' manufacturing methods are the result of a balanced mix between old-fashioned workmanship and the newest technology. Combine this with the nicest tonewoods, best hardware and electronic components available and you'll have a unique instrument customized for you.

► www.greyhoundguitars.com



FRANCE

GUITARES & CIE - "STEPINHUT" NICO DAYET

Nicolas is a modern guitar maker whose traditional skills serve his constant search for new sounds. His workshop is located in Montferrat, South of France. His years of experience enable him to fabricate many types of stringed instruments, both electric and acoustic. Form, colours, raw materials and the feel of different types of wood contribute to create innovative projects each with a unique personal sound and feel. "The luthier creates the instruments; the musicians finish them."

► www.lutherie-guitare.fr



GERMANY

HAHL MEISTERGITARREN STEFAN HAHL

For Stefan Hahl, lutherie is much more than just a craft or a job, it is his passion, a passion fed by his love of music and guitar playing. The name Hahl is synonymous with superbly handcrafted and beautiful instruments. Stefan Hahl personally hand builds every guitar that bears his name. Each Hahl guitar is endowed with its own distinct tonal qualities, unique aesthetic personality and superb playability, all of which inspire the musician to new creative heights. Stefan Hahl exclusively uses carefully seasoned and aged 60-70 year-old tone woods to create instruments with timbres that are usually only possible with older instruments.

► www.hahl-guitars.com





SLOVAKIA

HALABICA GUITARS OTTO HALABICA

The style is unique, and the goal is singular: originality. Halabica is not just an instrument; it is a manifestation of uniqueness, taste and style. Each guitar stands out with an aesthetic balance and master build quality. These guitars allow the player to transform sound into a tangible form; the acoustic sound rises with an elegant shape, showcasing the passion and perfection with which it is made. Halabica guitars are a reflection of the highest craftsmanship and experience.

► www.halabicaguitars.com



GERMANY

HANS GUITARS THORSTEN HANS

Hans Guitars was established in 2011 in the beautiful historic city of Tübingen. Thorsten Hans counsels guitar players to develop their own unique sound and improves their instrument's playability by tailoring each instrument to each individual's needs.

His advanced guitar models do not only reflect the deep knowledge of sixty years of electric guitar history and building techniques, but also the guitar's cultural meaning today. This leads to unique instruments like the Paperworks, that while based on a traditional outline, its newspaper surface immediately creates an extraordinary visual experience.

► www.hansguitars.com



GERMANY

HEINER DREIZEHNTER GITARRENBAU HEINER DREIZEHNTER

For more than 25 years Heiner Dreizehnter has been building guitars and Irish bouzoukis. He is a self-educated person, who loves building and playing guitars, with particular fascination in sound and design. He develops lots of ideas about guitar-making, like neck-to body-joints at the 15th fret, avoiding the necessity of a cutaway. Further, he is building Irish bouzoukis, that are louder and bigger than others, or in a guitar-shape. This helps them to be heard in sessions.

His portfolio also includes instruments from the mandolin to the acoustic bass. Lots of professional musicians from all over the world play his instruments on stage.

► www.acoustic-guitars.de



GERMANY

HELLIVER GUITARS OLIVER BARON

"The way they should have been built in the first place." Picking up where guitar makers left off in the 1960s, Helliver continues to blend vintage qualities with perfection in tone, feel and aesthetics. Strictly handmade without compromise or undue haste, each Helliver Guitar is an ambassador for the potential of the electric guitar. Billy Gibbons approved.

► www.helliver.de



© Björn Reschabek & Christoph Steinweg



BELGIUM

HILKO GUITARS HILKO NACKAERTS

Hilko Nackaerts is a Belgium-based luthier. He trained in the early nineties at the International Luthier School Antwerp. After his studies, Hilko toured the world as a guitar tech for Simple Minds, Chris Rea, Nile Rodgers, to name a few. He established Hilko Guitars in 2004. Hilko has been building guitars for a variety of internationally renowned artists.

Every single Hilko Guitar is individually crafted one at a time, with the best tonewood/ hardware/ components he can find. He puts blood, sweat and tears into them, giving them soul! No two loveguns are alike. Guitar making is a lifestyle not a job.

► www.hilkoguitars.com



NORWAY

HUSEMOENS GITARMAKERI ØYSTEIN HUSEMOEN



Husemoens Gitarmakeri was founded by Luthier Øystein Husemoen in 2003 after completing his German Journeyman's Certificate the year before. From their workshop in Lillehammer they deliver high end custom acoustic, electric and bass guitars. Their Norwegian Wood Series guitars were first introduced in 2010 at the Fuzz Guitar Show in Göteborg, and demonstrate the diversity of tone you can create using only sustainable Norwegian woods. Their unique sustainable profile combined with high quality instruments has brought great Norwegian artists as well as major international names to their customer list.

► www.norwegianwoodseries.com



JAPAN

IHUSH GUITARS NAOKI IHASHI

Ihush Guitars, located in the suburbs of Tokyo, Japan, began its activities in 2009.

It is a very small studio where all work is done by Naoki Ihashi. Guitars made only by him strongly attract people. Their delicate beauty and sounds leave a strong impression on the player's mind.

Ihashi says, "The next work will be much better!" He continues to make guitars with that philosophy.

► www.ihush-guitars.com



CANADA

INDIAN HILL GUITARS MICHAEL KENNEDY

Luthier Michael Kennedy of Indian Hill Guitars strongly believes that a cohesive design in both structure and aesthetics is fundamental to producing exceptional world class instruments. These ideals could most succinctly be described as clean elegance. Michael's approach to achieving these tonal and visual goals has continually developed over the course of his career but is rooted in the melding of science and instinct. With a formal education in Mechanical Engineering tempered by a life spent pursuing creativity, he strives to not simply keep these forces in balance, but use them collaboratively to create something greater than the sum of their parts.

► www.indianhillguitars.com



UNITED STATES

ISAAC JANG GUITARS
ISAAC JANG

Isaac Jang is a guitar maker based in Los Angeles, California, USA. He was born and raised in S. Korea and moved to the U.S. in 1999. In 2007 Isaac apprenticed under his most admirable mentor, Kathy Wingert, and learned everything from basic construction skills to fine tuning every element of a guitar. Isaac specializes in steel string acoustic guitars and builds 6 to 8 guitars each year at his shop in the heart of Hollywood. He focuses on tone, aesthetics, and playability. His goal is to create an instrument that connects with a player, and that becomes his new "go-to" guitar.

► www.isaacjangguitars.com



INDONESIA

IVEE GUITARS
IVAN MULIA

His love of blues music and remarkable interest in the resonator guitar, especially the metal-body which is hard to find in his country, made Ivan Mulia start making his own guitars in 2009. His job in an aluminum casting workshop for more than 10 years allowed him to create unusual techniques of guitar-making. One of the unique things about iVee guitars is floral etching on the whole body, which generally uses Indonesian traditions such as batik and songket. Technical calculations blended with artistic culture is a hallmark of his work.

► www.facebook.com/iVeeGuitars



© Aryono Huboyo Djati

AUSTRIA

JABLONSKI GUITARS
CHRISTIAN JABLONSKI

Christian Jablonski has been a master-luthier for 20 years now, living in Bad Goisern, Austria and teaching guitar-building at the nearby HTBLA Hallstatt. Outside of his busy, teaching schedule, he constructs wonderful guitars in his workshop. As time is somewhat limited, the output is small and most instruments are made to order. As a journeyman, he worked for the biggest manufacturer of steel-string guitars in Germany, and was later responsible for the repair shop in a big store. He has seen, made and repaired a lot of guitars. Now he is happy in his small shop, making excellent guitars and doing the occasional repair.

► www.jablonski-guitars.at



MALAYSIA

JEFFREY YONG GUITARS
JEFFREY YONG



Jeffrey Yong, a self-taught Guitar Maker, has crafted himself a well-known name in the guitar world for his unconventional approach to using the most exotic wood and construction design. Besides making great instruments Jeffrey has introduced many new woods into the guitar making community.

► www.jeffreyyong.com





GERMANY

JENS RITTER INSTRUMENTS JENS RITTER

Jens Ritter is a Master instrument maker from Germany. He specializes in creating high quality electric guitars and basses – handmade works of contemporary art. His unique way of instrument designing hooked customers like Prince, George Benson, Mary J. Blige, Grateful Dead's Phil Lesh and many more.

► www.ritter-instruments.com



NETHERLANDS

JHG GUITARS HANS GEERDINK



Hans Geerdink founded JHG Guitars in 1992. Hans inherited the love for music and a keen eye for detail from his grandfather, Johan Grönefeld, a well-known watchmaker by trade and enthusiast musician and performer in the small village of Oldenzaal.

JHG Guitars are mostly made to order, by hand, using both vintage and modern tools and technologies. Wherever the design allows, Hans tries to incorporate ecologically sustainable materials like local wood species and modern waterborne finishes.

His maverick designs are usually not far out of the box. To Hans, a guitar should look, without a doubt, like a guitar.

► www.jhgguitars.nl



UNITED KINGDOM

JJ GUITARS JEFF GUILFORD

JJ Guitars is an established UK electric guitar manufacturer with an impeccable industry reputation for sonic quality. Jeff Guilford comes from a family background of precision engineering, working in his father's workshop from a very young age.

Having received his first guitar at the age of six, by the age of eleven, music and guitar had taken hold. With academic degrees in music and guitar performance, it was inevitable that engineering and music would eventually meet.

JJ Guitars manufacture for leading artists and musicians around the world and remain as a family concern with son Richard, and Jeff's wife Carolyn.

► www.jjguitars.com



GREECE

JOKERGUITARS KOSTAS KAKANIARIS

Kostas Kakaniaris was born in a suburb of Athens, Greece, called Ilion. He continues to live and work there. In 1984 he abandoned the Agricultural University of Athens so as to start his own workshop where he finished and repaired musical instruments. Since then, he has a professional co-operation with music stores and many professional and amateur luthiers. In 2000, after years of repairing instruments, he decided to launch his own brand of hand-crafted stringed instruments which are mainly steel string guitars from fine tonewoods. He designs and builds his instruments under the guidance of past master luthiers.

► www.jokerguitars.gr





GERMANY

JÜNGER GITARREN DAVID JÜNGER

David Jünger sees himself as a representative of modern guitar making. His demand is to blend high quality craftsmanship with excellent materials and design, to reach the perfect tone. He has specialized in steel string and archtop guitars, which are totally made by hand in his workshop. After four years of studying musical instrument making in Markneukirchen, he achieved the title Bachelor of Arts and became a Master Luthier shortly after. With all his knowledge and skills he wants to exceed the demands of his customers.

► <http://juenger-gitarren.de>



BULGARIA

KD KOSTADIN DIMITROV

Kostadin Dimitrov - KD - is a luthier who has his own individual way of expressing himself and understanding how a guitar or bass should look and sound. He works completely by hand like the old masters, following the luthiers' traditions. Using rare and precisely selected wood, he unleashes in his instrument's spirit, distinctive character and specific sound. He does not use a CNC Router. He builds every single instrument with care, passion and attention to detail, which is a lifetime guarantee for quality.

► www.kdbasses.com



FRANCE

KOPO FRED PONS



Kopo always seeks to effectively combine design, sound, and comfort through his use of woods, metals, and composites to create solutions that are simultaneously acoustic and ergonomic. Motivated by a multi-disciplinary approach, Kopo has a passion for both research and artistic expression. Since 1988, hundreds of instruments have come out of this workshop. There are many creations, some bestsellers, such as the Yalta, of which nearly fifty instruments have been produced so far. As many guitars as basses have been made, more and more acoustic models produced over the past few years, most of them with non-tropical woods.

► www.kopo.fr



UNITED STATES

KOSTAL GUITARS JASON KOSTAL

Jason draws upon his years of experience as a fingerstyle player and performer, Roberto-Venn School of Luthiery instructor, and two-and-a-half-year apprenticeship under Ervin Somogyi to create one of the most precisely crafted, aesthetically inspiring, and sonically diverse steel stringed guitars on the market. Each instrument is individually designed and voiced to bring out the tonality and responsiveness desired by true enthusiasts, professional musicians, and discerning collectors.

► www.kostalguitars.com





GERMANY

KRISTALL ANDREAS KRISTALL

Andreas Kristall is a bass maker and player. His skills and experience after more than 15 years as a professional bassist grant him the ability to understand the needs and wishes of his customers.

Sound is the very motor of his work. The biggest fun and the biggest challenge is to obtain the perfect balance between the desired sound, ergonomics, playability, responsiveness and design.

Each instrument is unique and custom built. Using the finest materials and hardware is a matter of course. His approach is basically more traditional than modern. The credo is: Sound first!

► www.kristallbass.com



UNITED STATES

LAME HORSE INSTRUMENTS CHRIS JENKINS + JEREMY JENKINS

The Jenkins boys, aka Lame Horse Instruments, produce small bodied guitars, and 6 string banjos deep in the heart of Texas! Their 0 and 00 sized instruments are tonally excellent, visually unique, and packed with features to make them stable and playable for generations, such as adjustable playing action and rear access panels. They are honored and excited to be able to show their instruments at the Holy Grail Guitar Show along side talented luthiers from all over the world.

► www.lamehorse.net



LITHUANIA

LAVA GUITARS RAPOLAS GRAŽYS

Lava guitars are created by Lithuanian industrial designer and musician Rapolas Gražys. Rapolas Gražys established the premium class trademark called LAVA which connects sound and design collaboration and creates innovative instruments to increase musical playability. All LAVA handcrafted instruments are created to feel more comfortable and relaxed while playing. Shaped as an actual drop which gives ergonomic benefit, these guitars are made through an exclusive technological process, using one piece of wood which makes a big difference for unique tone and long sustain. LAVA guitars are lightweight and have a very slim body.

► www.lavaguitars.com



GERMANY

LE FAY REINER DOBBRATZ + MEIK DOBBRATZ

Brothers Reiner and Meik Dobbratz learned woodworking from scratch from their father Siegfried. Reiner founded Le Fay in 1985, Meik joined Le Fay at the turn of the millennium. Together they are a perfect team, producing Le Fay basses with joy and passion. Bridges, headpieces, pickups, pot knobs, electronics tray covers and finishes; apart from the strap pins, the headstock tuners and the fretwire, all the visible parts of Le Fay basses are made by Le Fay.

► www.lefay.de





CANADA

LETAIN GUITARS JEFF LETAIN



Jeff is an Artist with a passion for guitar building. He has been a woodworker since the late seventies and shifted his focus to guitars in the late nineties. The search for a tone and sound quality that excites the passion of the player is his main goal. For him, the guitar is a tool that is functional sculpture and the guitar's surface a canvas with a limitless field for expression.

► www.letainguitars.com



GERMANY/USA

LIMBO GUITARS MICHAEL BATELL

Limbo acoustic steel string guitars are created by American instrument maker Michael Batell in Berlin, Germany. These concert instruments are designed for the demands of professional performing and recording guitarists, offering precision and response in playing. Their tonality is characterized by exceptional resonance, sustain and definition.

Limbo guitars are available in two sizes, Grand Concert and Grand Auditorium. Each instrument boasts well-seasoned tropical and northern woods, as well as the finest fittings and workmanship. When made to order, all details regarding playability can be customized, including neck width and profile, string length and spacing, selection of tuners and more.

► www.limbo-guitars.com



FINLAND

LOEF GUITARS OLAF LÖF

Olav Löf is an independent Luthier. He made his first guitar in 1978. Some 16 years ago he started to use the brand "Loef" in public. In a good year Mr. Löf makes 30 to 35 instruments. All are unique and one-offs. All have personal names. Steel stringed instruments, all the way from small body parlor guitars up to acoustic bass guitars. "A beautiful piece of wood, a guitar neck that gets your hands to love it, a tone that opens your heart's innermost room" this is what matters! Meet you in the booth!

► www.loefguitars.fi



FRANCE

LOÏC LE PAPE LOÏC LE PAPE

Loïc is a steel guitar builder established in 2007. Combining a deep respect for traditional guitar models with complete freedom of experimentation, a traditional know-how and a constant search to optimise. The rawness of hand shaping and the sophistication of some technical options is also one of Loïc's strengths. Every detail has been reworked to ensure sustain, warmth, dynamic, wide spectrum, playing comfort and optimum settings. There is also a look apart, unique to each guitar, and carefully designed balance and weight.

Except 1 handmade model (L Steel junior DC) available in shops in Belgium, England, Switzerland, France... all the guitars are custom order.

► www.loiclepapesteelguitars.com





FINLAND

LOTTONEN GUITARS OY JUHA LOTTONEN + JUHA RINNE



Master Luthier Juha Lottonen founded Lottonen Guitars 24 years ago in Helsinki, Finland. The hallmarks of Lottonen instruments are the qualities of tone, playability and workmanship. The annual production of the workshop is about 25 guitars and an essential part of operations is repairs and restorations.

► www.lottonen.com



© Juha Rinne



UNITED KINGDOM

LOWDEN GUITARS GEORGE LOWDEN

“The journey began in earnest in 1974 when I began the design and building of the first Lowden guitars in my workshop in Bangor County Down, Northern Ireland,” George Lowden says. “From the very beginning I was determined to develop unique designs and not just copy well known makes.” The Lowden guitar is the result of unique design, workmanship, building techniques, and impeccable choice of woods. Today, a team of skilled craftspeople (including two of George’s sons Aaron and Daniel) build Lowden guitars by hand in atelier workshops in Downpatrick, Northern Ireland.

► www.lowdenguitars.com



CANADA

LUTHERIE GERVAIS EMILE GERVAIS

Lutherie Gervais started in 2013 after three years of scholarship that the luthier Emile Gervais completed successfully. Winner of an Award of Excellence at the end of his studies in Bruand school, his design was quickly established. Lutherie Gervais makes fine handcrafted guitars and also offers repairs for the local musicians. His background as soundman, is a big help for developing his own sound as well as being a guitar tech on gigs. Music and guitars all the way!

► www.lutheriegervais.com



ITALY

M.O.V.GUITARS MARCO OMAR VIOLA

Marco Omar Viola is a passionate luthier from Milan. He graduated from the School of Luthier in 1999. He started making archtop guitars and doing repairs, but in the course of time he moved his attention to his first love, the solid body guitar! His guitars mix tradition and modern concepts. His instruments are made of high quality seasoned wood and the best parts available to offer the best possible result. He focuses his improvements on playability, ergonomics and tone to make the musician’s life easier. VIOLA is his signature on the headstock of every instrument he makes.

► www.movguitars.com





SINGAPORE

MAESTRO GUITARS HOZEN

Maestro Guitars by Hozen is the leading maker of premium custom guitars from Asia and the only Singapore brand of handcrafted guitar/ukuleles. Since 2004 Maestro has been providing instruments to discerning players that are very particular about playability, tone and craftsmanship. Each Maestro instrument is handcrafted using only the finest wood and components through age-proven techniques. Modern enhancements such as carbon-fibre reinforced necks, sound port, double tops, beveled armrest, PLEK setup, blended with age-old traditional hide glue, air-dried tonewood, individually hand-voiced soundboards to help produce the finest handmade guitars in the region which are an inspiration to play.

► www.maestroguitars.com



UNITED STATES

MALINOSKI GUITAR PETER MALINOSKI

Peter Malinoski is interested in new directions for electric guitars by following different aesthetic possibilities and concepts of purpose. He has explored the full range of this medium from the accepted traditional to the outer edge of tolerance, and has recently returned to his roots as a sculptor with a commitment to push the instrument to places yet to be understood.

► www.malinosguitar.com



SPAIN

MARCO GUITARS & BASS JOAQUÍN MARCO

Luthier Joaquín Marco produces his instruments under the brand “Marco Guitars & Bass”. He designs and manufactures them in the Basque country (Spain). Marco Guitars & Bass flagship is the “Marcustico”, an acoustic bass that sounds like a double bass despite its reduced size. These are some of the best known artists playing his instruments: Jose Agustin Gereñu, Tarus Mateen, Marcus Miller, Avishai Cohen, Alejandro Sanz, Dario Deidda, etc.

► www.marcoguitarsbass.com



GERMANY

MARLEAUX BASS GUITARS GERALD MARLEAUX



Marleaux knows that high class wood and careful handling is the key to a great bass. They have a passion for collecting and building with rare and fascinating woods. Marleaux Bass Guitars takes great care in the proper storage, drying and treatment of these woods to ensure their unique sonic characteristics. Marleaux then tailor each bass to the needs of the customer by using the exact piece of wood for every aspect of its construction. Marleaux is the place where we make bassists’ dreams come true!

► www.marleaux-bass.de





IRELAND

MCNALLY GUITARS CIARAN MCNALLY

Ciaran McNally began making guitars at the age of 15. After studying guitar making to diploma level at London Metropolitan University, he has since gone on to apprentice with several of Ireland's foremost instrument makers. This year's HGGs coincides with his 10-year anniversary of guitar making. While working for other luthiers, Ciaran kept his own brand of guitars on-going, and now seeks to perfect these based on his ethos that every handmade instrument should sound great, be beautiful, and play well; "To Hear, To See, To Feel."

► www.mcnallyguitars.com



GERMANY

MEIGEL GUITARS STEFAN MEIGEL

Stefan Meigel served an apprenticeship as a carpenter and then trained as a luthier at the renowned Munich Instrument Factory Stevens Guitars. After passing the master's examination for luthiers at the State College for violin makers and plucked instrument in Mittenwald, Stefan Meigel founded, in 2006, his own company Meigel Guitars in Benediktbeuern Bavaria. Since then he has been building high-quality instruments with the highest level of craftsmanship and sound quality for customers from around the world. His repertoire includes steel string, archtop, bass, electric guitars and classical guitars as well as various custom-made products, repairs and restorations.

► www.gitarrenbau-meigel.de



CATALONIA

MELO GUITARS JOSEP MELO VALLS



The artisan, Josep Melo, comes from Barcelona, the centre of modern design and the classical guitar. Every year he produces a limited run of handcrafted guitars including archtop, flattop, classical and electric guitars which are specially designed by Josep to suit the needs of the individual player. Each guitar is made with meticulous care and attention to detail and rooted in the oldest European traditions. Motivated by his thirst for learning he has benefited from the experience and friendship of luthiers such as J. D'Aquisto, J. Romanillos and S. Klein.

► www.meloguitars.com



FRANCE

MELODUENDE GUITARS JEREMY SACHOUX + BERTRAND DUFOUR

The MeloDuende Guitars Workshop is located in Burgundy (France). It's a collective venture that brings together Bertrand and Jérémy. Built with an aluminum hollow body and wooden neck, MeloDuende guitars have a unique tonal signature, a bright yet warm organic sound, combined with a sharp dynamic response and unbelievable sustain. Their instruments are built to last. They are entirely hand crafted with top quality materials, using state of the art precision mechanics and luthier know-how. Artists such as Shaka Ponk, Skip the Use, Eiffel, Billy F Gibbons (ZZTOP), Serge Teysot Gay, Yodelice, Claude Whipple, Tryo, John Butler, Johnny Hallyday, Indochine, Scott Holiday (Rival Sons).

► www.meloduende.fr



UNITED STATES**MYKA GUITARS**
DAVID MYKA

David Myka specializes in custom handcrafted guitars. Always pushing the envelope, Myka's experimental approach allows him to explore new ideas and construction concepts that expand the tonal range and versatility of the modern guitar. While taking inspiration from the classics, his passion for natural form and intuitive functionality make each Myka Guitar a beautiful and unique instrument. The Myka Guitars studio is located in Seattle, WA USA.

► www.mykaguitars.com

**GERMANY****NIK HUBER GUITARS**
NIK HUBER

Nik Huber, founder and managing director of Nik Huber Guitars, carries on a more than 100 year-old family tradition. In 1896 a heritage of woodworking expertise was born to proud parent Nikolaus Huber in a small village in Southern Bavaria. Today Nikolaus Huber IV carries that expertise forward in the form of exquisite guitars. Founded in 1996, Nik Huber Guitars celebrates its 20th anniversary of guitar making this year. And what is more suitable for this occasion than meeting friends and colleagues at the Holy Grail Guitar Show?

► www.nikhuber-guitars.com

**TURKEY****NOVACORDA GUITARS**
METE CEM KUZU

Mete Cem is a travelling luthier. Every 3 to 5 years he moves to a different country due to his wife's work. Having built his first commercial guitar in Ghana, West Africa without electricity, he has a strong "form follows function" attitude, creating his own solutions and striving to use mostly local woods. His nightmare is to use off-the-shelf stuff. This attitude took him so far that he even had to produce his own bridge. Mostly electrics, ready for anything else, free from conventional thinking.

► www.novacorda.com

**SPAIN****O3 GUITAR & BASS**
ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ

o3 guitars is a Spanish brand headed by master luthier Alejandro Ramirez that has been building fine handmade electric guitars and basses since 2005, bringing some of the art and tradition of the classical Spanish luthier into the modern world of electric instruments, giving the guitars a special personality, but in modern aesthetic and ergonomic concepts. The taste for outstanding tonewoods and careful craftsmanship are the other main points of attention. With all of these, and the best in hardware and electronics, the result is always high-end instruments

► www.o3custom.com





ISRAEL

OD GUITARS OMER DEUTSCH

Omer Deutsch is an Industrial designer, luthier and founder of OD guitars. Aside from being a designer, Omer is also a guitar player who listens to and researches progressive metal and new genres of metal. He was always fascinated by the geometric forms of nature; OD's guitars represent Omer's thoughts about those forms, from Nautilus to the golden ratio and fractal shapes. Omer's designs focus on modern 7,8 and 9 strings, extended range, multi scale and pay attention to the last tiny detail of each guitar. Everything he builds goes from his hands directly to the player's fingers.

► www.od-guitars.com



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GERMANY

OLIVER LANG INSTRUMENTS OLIVER LANG

The Holy Grail is something very personal. People, who express their feelings by music often have a special relationship with their instrument: for some of them the instrument is already the Holy Grail, for others it is just a kind of tool, a companion in the search for the Holy Grail.

Wood is highly individual, personal and special, the same as emotions or music.

Oliver made it his mission is to find the right piece of wood for every kind of player and personality. For bass players to which the question of P or J is not the end of their search.

► www.oliverlang-instruments.com



ICELAND

ORN CUSTOM GUITARS GUNNAR ORN SIGURDSSON

Gunnar has been designing and building guitars since 2000. Based in Reykjavik, he works in close conjunction with his customers, sharing his passion and inspiration to provide guitars that are designed to work as an extension of their guitar playing. He collaborates with local artists and craftsmen to create guitars that both look and sound beautiful. Gunnar runs guitar courses on a regular basis for those who would like to make their own. His guitars are touring locally and internationally with some of Iceland's top bands and musicians such as Solstafir, Vintage Caravan and Of Monsters and Men.

► www.ornguitars.is



ARGENTINA

PABLO MASSA GUITARS PABLO MASSA



Pablo Massa is a young Argentine Luthier with more than fifteen years of experience. His curiosity and exploratory nature, led him to make everything from 13-string jazz guitars to double neck sticks, from travel guitars to astonishing electro-acoustic basses. Each customer order means a challenge for him, and every passing year his chameleonic talent is evident in new and better instruments. Through his humility, his professionalism and his craft skills, Massa became a first-class luthier who constantly exceeds his own limits.

► www.pablomassa.com.ar



SWITZERLAND



PAGELLI GITARRENBAU CLAUDIO PAGELLI + CLAUDIA PAGELLI

You can use a thousand or just a few words about Claudio and Claudia Pagelli... at the end its simple: they are unique.

► www.pagelli.com



FRANCE



PAUL LAIRAT PAUL LAIRAT

Paul Lairat is an instrument maker from the South of France. His stringed instrument workshop opened its doors in 2000. He loves to use many different kinds of woods such as wengé, mahogany, ebony, and maple. He also carefully stores unusual veneers such as burl of myrtle, of madrona, of amboyna, which will be used in the making of the instrument's top. He wants to provide unique guitars and basses to musicians, like his best-selling, Stega Bass. He has been awarded "The Best Stringed Instrument Maker" for his concepts by the US magazine Bass Gear.

► www.lairat.com



SWEDEN



PETER NAGLITSCH LUTHIER PETER NAGLITSCH

Peter Naglitsch builds guitars. Those two simple words, builds guitars, mean more than you might think. Build. As in hand building. One by one. By hand. Then there is the word Guitar, which might be a bit misleading. Peter builds more than guitars. His output ranges from electric to acoustic guitars. From basses to electric cellos, violins and other more unusual instruments. But in every build he starts with your needs and wishes, and together with you he creates the perfect instrument. From his hands to your hands.

► www.peternaglitschluthier.com



FRANCE



PMC GUITARS PIERRE-MARIE CHÂTEAUNEUF

PMC Guitars is run by Pierre-Marie Châteauneuf, who deals with custom handcrafted guitars, i.e. acoustic guitars, electric and bass guitars, as well as other string instruments like "Byblos", winner of the Innovation Award 2010, which is a hybrid between oud (oriental lute) and guitar.

PMC is a member of the European Guitar Builders and the French Guitar Builders. He was selected to exhibit at the Montreal Guitar Show, and gained an award from Premier Guitar.

PMC is happy to celebrate its tenth birthday at the Holy Grail Guitar Show.

► www.pmcguitars.com





GERMANY

POLJAKOFF GITARREN JAKOB POLJAKOFF

Jakob Poljakoff is a luthier based in Berlin, Germany. Trained in England he specializes in building steel-string and nylon-string guitars. His instruments are fully handcrafted with a building process based on traditional as well as modern methods. Jakob's guitars come with a modest, almost minimalistic look. He puts a lot of effort in to each individual guitar. There is always a personal touch with small details to be found all over the instruments. The sound can be described as a combination of power and perfect clarity without being harsh in any situation.

► www.poljakoffgitarren.de



CANADA

POTVIN GUITARS MIKE POTVIN

Mike Potvin has been designing and building custom electric guitars in his one-man shop since 2003. His designs have been featured in books and magazines, and are praised by players around the world for their balance, design aesthetics and build quality. Mike takes inspiration from classic guitar designs, but is never bound by any formula. His unique designs feature a nod to the past, and more than a hint of Mike's passion for the world of vintage sports cars.

► www.potvinguitars.com



UNITED KINGDOM

PROHASZKA GUITARS BALAZS PROHASZKA

Balazs Prohaszka grew up and was trained in Hungary in the violin making tradition. He gained guitar making experience in Northern Ireland. He has been building his unique instruments in the UK since 2003. With utmost dedication for quality and sound he works in close collaboration with his customers. Offering modern and traditional construction methods and experimenting with a wide range of design concepts allows him to create great-sounding distinctive archtops and flattops. He also builds mandolin family instruments and lately electric guitars.

► www.prohaszkaguitars.com



UNITED STATES

RAYMOND KRAUT GUITARS RAYMOND KRAUT

Raymond Kraut is a world renowned acoustic guitar builder focusing on creating the most optimally responsive guitars of today. His inlay work is aesthetically unique with the goal of inspiring the musician and intriguing the audience with one-of-a-kind contemporary designs. Ray believes there is a deep connection between music and art. It is important for the player to connect with the instrument visually, aurally and physically as each component equally influences the playing experience.

► www.krautguitars.com



SWITZERLAND

RELISH GUITARS
PIRMIN GIGER
+ SILVAN KÜNG

Relish Guitars stands for innovative high-end electric guitars made in Switzerland. Due to its special sandwich construction, Relish achieves a unique warm sound. Guitar World about Jane: "... a rainbow of tones that combines the best of hollow, semi-hollow, and solid body guitars." Jane also provides features like touch sensor control for the pickup selector as well as a very easy access to the interior to change the strings, the battery or even the pickups. Non-tropical wood has been used for Relish guitars. For the fretboard, Relish uses dark strand woven bamboo; a step forward in the right direction.

► www.relishguitars.com

**UNITED STATES**

RONIN GUITARS
JOHN REED + IZZY LUGO
+ JACK REED

All Ronin electric guitars are built by Izzy Lugo and John Reed, while Ronin's acoustic models are built by Jack Reed. Ronin Guitars hand builds all their instruments from Reclaimed Old Growth Redwood in Humboldt County, California. This ancient tone wood, combined with proprietary pickup designs, pure nitrocellulose lacquer finishes and meticulous attention to playability, aesthetics and tonal dynamics, has earned Ronin Guitars a reputation as one of the most inspired and innovative boutique guitars available today. Ronin draws inspiration from many of history's trusted traditions, while breathing new life into many overlooked aspects of tone craft.

► www.ronin guitars.com

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

ROZAWOOD
ROMAN ZAJICEK
+ PETR ZAJICEK

The Rozawood workshop is the vision of luthier Roman Zajicek, considered among the top 5 guitar makers worldwide. All production (acoustic flattop and archtop guitars, resophonic guitars, octave mandolins, mandocellos, bouzoukies and specialty guitars – tenor, terz, baritone and drop) is made only from selected solid tonewoods and is purely handmade in every detail. His instruments are known for their impressive tone and impeccable workmanship. Rozawood is not a factory, but an art workshop where Roman together with his son put their best efforts into every unique Rozawood instrument.

► www.rozawood.cz

**FRANCE**

SAN LORENZO GUITARS
SÉBASTIEN SANTILLI
+ JEREMY BEGOIN

Impassioned by the art of lutherie and guitar for more than twenty years, Sébastien founded San Lorenzo Guitars in 2012. His fine custom lap steels and guitars are made of composite materials (carbon and natural fibres, woods, ...). Except for tuners and pickups handwound by his friend and partner Jeremy Begoin (SP Custom), all parts are designed and shaped in his workshop in the south of France.

► www.sanlorenzoguitars.com





CANADA

SANKEY GUITARS MICHAEL SANKEY



Mike Sankey has been building electric, acoustic, and archtop guitars since 1997. He specializes in modern and minimalist instruments that showcase innovative design and construction elements while letting the wood and the tone speak for themselves. Being tailored with the needs of a specific musician in mind, they must all be built one at a time using surprisingly old-fashioned techniques. Each one is given a name, not a serial number, because each Sankey guitar is one of a kind.

► www.sankeyguitars.com



FRANCE

SAUVAGE GUITARS JULIEN ROURE

Reason and reality are constraints on the purity of artistic expression. Moving far beyond market forces and rationality, Sauvage Guitars breaks with convention to create a brand like no other in the history of guitars. A brand for which creating emotion is the only guideline.

Sauvage Guitars introduces instruments that are based on revolutionary concepts, distinctive artistry, and absolute disregard for the reasonable. Exclusive instruments that few will ever own, in the same way that dreams are for the most part far beyond reach.

Sauvage Guitars is committed to always delivering the extraordinary.

► www.sauvageguitars.com



UNITED KINGDOM

SETH BACCUS GUITARS SETH BACCUS

Seth Baccus Guitars are built using a blend of modern precision technology and old world hand skills. Striving for each guitar to feel alive, Seth Baccus builds them with an acute attention to detail and using only the finest materials available. Each guitar is built with pride and dedication. This is a labour of love.

► www.sethbaccus.com



GERMANY

SKC STEFAN HESS

SKC's Stefan Hess's Holy Grail is the search for the perfect tone, although he knows that this will be an endless search, but a good one. Using different composite materials in combination with tone woods for his instruments, Stefan knows the secrets of creating maximum resonance and an even tone quality in all of his basses and guitars. Playability and performance are legendary.

► www.bogart-bass.de



SWITZERLAND**SOULTOOL CUSTOMIZED GUITARS
SWITZERLAND
EGON J. RAUSCHER**

Soultool customized Guitars Switzerland manufactures high-end electric guitars. The factory is located close to the Lake Zurich, about 50 km away from Zurich City. Soultool customized Guitars Switzerland was founded in the spring of 1998, but long before that they carried out a high volume of repairs and updates on electric guitars. In order to guarantee the best possible quality, all Soultools are manufactured entirely by hand in Switzerland. Only fully certified materials are used. Quality, passion, design - that's Soultool customized Guitars Switzerland.

► www.soultool.com

**UNITED KINGDOM****SOUTHWELL GUITARS
GARY SOUTHWELL**

Gary Southwell established his own workshop in 1983. With an impressive list of distinguished clients Gary works as a copyist and restorer of romantic 19th century guitars, while his own acclaimed A Series design exhibits a stylish flair and innovation combined with a deep understanding of tradition. Gary will be exhibiting a pair of Limited Edition Fenland Black Oak A Series Guitars (one Classical, one Steel String) made specially for the 2016 Holy Grail Show.

► www.southwellguitars.co.uk

**AUSTRIA****SPALT INSTRUMENTS
MICHAEL SPALT**

Michael Spalt has been making guitars for nearly 20 years now - starting out with the L.A. Guitar Garage in the late 90's, over the years he's worked on and made guitars for many of the stars in the bustling Los Angeles music scene. After moving to Europe in 2009, he is now working out of his studio in Vienna. Michael's instruments are singular tools designed to please the ear and the eye, to entice the musician to pick them up, and to enchant and inspire the player with their feel and tone.

► www.spaltinstruments.com

**FRANCE****SPRINGER GUITARS
MIKAËL SPRINGER**

In 2004, Mikaël Springer started building electric guitars as a hobby, starting off like many of his luthier colleagues. From then on, guitar building became a true passion for him, and he never stopped building, learning, and improving his skills. In 2011 Mikaël started his own guitar line under the name Springer Guitars, and since then has pursued his philosophy of building high-end, lively and unique guitars, perfect tools for the expression of the musician's art.

► www.springerguitars.com





GERMANY

STEINBRECHER GUITARS JAN STEINBRECHER

Opened in 2009, there is a studio in Dresden, Germany, where traditionally trained luthier Jan Steinbrecher builds limited numbers of fine electric and semi-acoustic guitars. Precise craftsmanship, air-seasoned wood and special pickups allow Steinbrecher Guitars to produce an excellent sound – even when not amplified. It's always about the interplay of form, tone and player which is supposed to fit like your favourite pair of shoes that you've enjoyed wearing over the years. That's why the client is always involved in the craft's concept and every guitar is a unique piece.

► www.steinbrecherguitars.com



GERMANY

STEVENS CUSTOM GUITARS WERNER KOZLIK + STEFAN ZIRNBAUER

The company Stevens Custom Guitars was founded in 1993. Stevens Custom Guitars specialises in developing and building acoustic instruments, such as steel string guitars, Irish bouzoukis, ukuleles and customised instruments. Every guitar player has an individual image of ideal sound, playability and visual features of an instrument. Stevens Custom Guitars tries to transpose all these ideas into the perfect instrument. It is possible to choose woods, neck width and shaping, and aesthetic features like bindings, inlays and finish.

► www.guitars.de



GERMANY

STOLL GUITARS CHRISTIAN STOLL



For more than 30 years, Stoll Guitars has been present on the German and international guitar market. From the start, Christian Stoll has followed his own concept regarding body shape, bracing, overall appearance and sound and thus has built a nice product line of classical guitars, steel string guitars, acoustic basses and ukuleles as well as custom instruments.

Stoll is probably best known for the Legendary Acoustic Bass but also for innovative guitars like the IQ steel string with fanned frets and Double Fun, a reversible steel string/classical guitar with two necks.

► www.stollguitars.de



POLAND

STRADI INSTRUMENTS DESIGN MAREK DĄBEK



Marek Dąbek is Polish master luthier, photographer and designer... Since 2002 working under the pseudonym Stradi, developing electric upright basses, violins and bass guitars. The experience gained from the work on electric stringed instruments allowed him to look at the bass guitar from a completely new perspective. His work is based on creativity, hard work and constant development. Marek puts a lot of care in to every detail of the instrument including exceptional sound, ergonomics, pure form and unique woods. His work connects classical and modern worlds in both - design and technology.

► www.symphonybass.com





GERMANY

STRATMANN GITARREN THOMAS STRATMANN

Since 1990, Stratmann Gitarren has been THE place to go for custom made electric guitars and repairs in Hannover, Germany. Guitars and basses as well as very special instruments are completely designed and hand-crafted using traditional tools and machinery. All stages of manufacturing are performed in the local workshop – from optimal wood selection to high gloss finish and the perfect setup of each instrument. Even the pickups are handwound in the workshop to meet the individual demands of the customers as well possible.

In the spacious and well-equipped workshop, Thomas Stratmann also offers guitar building courses of 2 weeks with up to 5 participants.

► www.stratmann-gitarren.de



GERMANY

T.MAN GUITARS ANDREAS THIEMANN

Since 2005 Andreas Thiemann has had his own electric guitar manufacturing shop, first in Cologne, then in Bonn. His instruments are designed according to the wishes of his customers and his own ideas.

He manufactures guitars not only for the challenges of professional nerds but for all who share the pleasure of an unique guitar.

His instruments always strive for visual and acoustic harmony. Referring to their sound, vintage guitars are the model, but their appearance can be designed with all kinds of modern shapes.

► www.tman-guitars.de



GERMANY

TAUSCH ELECTRIC GUITARS RAINER TAUSCH

Tausch Electric Guitars was founded in 1995 by the passionate guitar enthusiast Rainer Tausch.

After a period of experiments with many different tone woods and guitar designs, Rainer Tausch stands today for timelessly designed guitars. Due to the selection of used materials (such as pear wood, plum wood and other exotic native tone woods) they are both sustainable and very unique sounding.

► www.tausch-guitars.de



ITALY

THOMAS GUITARS THOMAS ORGLER + NIKOLAUS EILKEN

Thomas Guitars is a small workshop located in Bolzano, Italy dedicated to the art of handmade guitars.

The two Luthiers Thomas Orgler and Nikolaus Eilken teamed up in 2010 for the purpose of creating the highest quality acoustic guitars, that combine a clear direct sound, easy playability and a modern design.

All Instruments are built one at a time using only the best quality tonewoods, as they cut spruce in a three-day window in the winter with great attention to the phase of the moon, and tune every Instrument by weight and tone.

► www.thomas-guitars.it





GERMANY

THOMAS OCHS GITARRENB AU

THOMAS OCHS

Each Instrument leaving the workshop of Thomas Ochs reflects the quest for perfection, which also incites the musician to artistic peak performances. For Thomas it is of utmost importance to craft your instrument according to your individual needs and expectations. That is the only way to create an instrument you feel absolutely and completely comfortable with. Technical perfection, great attention to detail, and finest nuances in sound design characterize his guitars.

Located near the world heritage city Bamberg in southern Germany, Thomas builds truly customised instruments from meticulously selected materials with a special focus on non-tropical woods and sustainability.

► www.ochs-gitarrenbau.de



GERMANY

TONFUCHS GUITARS

UWE SCHÖLCH

After ten years' experience in professional guitar building and repairing, Uwe created the first prototype of the Bulldog model in 2004, followed in January 2005 by the founding of Tonfuchs guitars. Since then, he has worked to master his handcrafted, world-class instruments beyond the mainstream. From beginning to end, each part is made by Uwe himself, without using CNC machines. Uwe uses the finest components in an artisanal tradition, and implements uncompromising designs that transform each instrument into a unique piece of art. Tonfuchs, no conformity.

► www.tonfuchs.com



GREECE

TSOPELAS HANDMADE GUITARS

KONSTANTIN TSOPELAS

Luthier Konstantin Tsopelas established his own workshop 15 years ago. He lives and works in Athens, Greece. He mainly concentrates on building old-style acoustic guitars which are improved models of guitars made at the beginning of the century, used in blues, jazz and many types of traditional music, but also builds native instruments of his country like the Bouzouki. His continuous search for higher quality has put him among the top musicians' choice for recordings and live performances.

► www.tsopelas.com



FINLAND

TULI BASSES

ARON BACH



The combination of technology and nature is at the core of what makes TULI basses special. Innovative electronics systems dressed in stunning varieties of arctic birch make up the player-focused platform developed by bassist and master craftsman Aron Bach. Finland is known for old-world wood industry and new-world technology. TULI, the Finnish word for fire, has melded these worlds together in a meticulously handcrafted instrument that displays the best of both. All of this toward providing an instrument whose aesthetics and playability bring out the best in the player by expanding expectations of what is technically possible.

► www.tulibass.com



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UNITED KINGDOM**TURNSTONE GUITAR COMPANY**
ROSIE HEYDENRYCH

Turnstone Guitar Company is based in Surrey, England. Founded by luthier Rosie Heydenrych, it is a single luthier workshop handcrafting customised fine steel string acoustic guitars. For Rosie, handcrafting highly responsive, beautiful guitars is a labour of love and a true passion. As well as working with exquisite traditional timbers, Rosie also has an interest in English grown timbers and offers a model made entirely out of English wood. Creating a guitar with Rosie is a highly personal experience. It is her hope that your bespoke instrument will provide you with years of pleasure and creative inspiration.

► www.turnstoneguitar.co.uk

**UNITED STATES****TV JONES**
THOMAS V. JONES

World-renowned for his now-23-year-old company's handmade guitar and bass pickups, TV Jones has also been handcrafting guitars, and basses since the early 1990s. With a client base including Brian Setzer, John Fogerty, Joe Perry, Billy Gibbons, and T-Bone Burnett – among many others – Jones has also consulted and designed instruments for firms such as Gretsch, Bigsby, and Cort.

► www.tvjones.com

**SWITZERLAND****VERDINERO GUITARS**
NUNZIO VERDINERO

His passion for Guitars started about 6 years ago. After 20 years of professional dancing and choreographing Nunzio Verdinerò bought a vintage guitar on a flea market and of course he wanted to restore it by himself. It became a complete disaster... But what happened was important for his future: the desire to find out more about the secret of building Instruments.

► www.verdinerò-guitars.com

**FINLAND****VERSOU LTD**
KARI NIEMINEN

Exquisitely designed and hand crafted instruments with soul by Kari Nieminen. The powerful distillation of four decades of studying, building and natural artistry, honed to the finest cutting edge. Iconic Rock stars, jazz players, classical musicians and collectors all agree: Versoul guitars, basses and amplifiers are among the finest instruments ever created. Versoul includes artists like Ronnie Wood, Pete Townshend & Roger Daltrey, Billy F Gibbons & Dusty Hill, Kenny Burrell.

► www.versoul.com



© Joel Nieminen

UNITED STATES



VIK GUITARS VIACHASLAV KULETSKI

Harmony is the ground principle that lays behind custom hand made guitars built by luthier Vik Kuletski and known worldwide as ViK Guitars. A perfect balance of artistry and technology, tradition and innovation, elegance and functionality, passion and skills is what makes these guitars stand out in any environment.

► www.vikguitars.com



SWEDEN



VILHELM ENGSTRÖM GUITARS VILHELM ENGSTRÖM

Captivated by the sounds of slide-playing delta blues artists, Vilhelm Engström built his first metal bodied resonator guitar in 1999. 10 years later he decided to bring his guitar building to a professional level and studied lutherie in Stockholm, gaining a bachelor's degree. Today he creates his own guitar models, both wood and metal, in a small shop in Stockholm. Focused on building his own models, including fine ladder braced flat top guitars and exclusively designed metal bodied resonator guitars of the highest quality. His high-end metalwork features tig-welded joints and various chemically obtained rust finishes, giving each instrument its unique appearance.

► www.veguitars.com



NETHERLANDS



VOLT ELECTRICS SANDER DE GIER + EWOUT NIJMAN

Two out of control guitar-fanatics, Ewout Nijman (designer) and Sander de Gier (guitar maker), teamed up to start Volt Electrics, a new brand of electric guitars that discharge unforgiving amounts of rock 'n roll potential. Starting with raw materials, they transform them into hand built art with astounding tone and attention to detail. While each guitar they craft is truly worthy of being the crown jewel in your collection, they are meant to be played, hard and loud. The Reverse is the first model that Volt Electrics offers. Don't let yourself down, you must try it. It's electric.

► www.voltguitars.com



FINLAND



VUORENSAKU SAKU VUORI



For eight years a young Finnish luthier Saku Vuori has worked with guitar repairs, custom jobs and all the daily work related to stringed instruments. For the last couple of years he has also been crafting some fine custom made electric instruments and premium guitar pickups. His first self-made instrument collection began to take shape in December 2014. He just decided to start making what he truly loved. The world of relics and offset guitars were the basis of everything. The collection called "The T. Family" has now over 10 members and there's way more to come!

► www.vuorensaku.fi



UNITED STATES**WIDMAN CUSTOM ELECTRICS**
JOHN WIDMAN

John Widman of Widman Custom Electrics produces a limited number of hand-made instruments each year concentrating on specific customer request and bespoke appointments. Our pride is our devotion to the craft, attention to detail, establishing trustworthy client relationships, and delivering one-of-a-kind custom instruments.

The Widman Custom Electrics lineup includes three different electric guitar models, the Gigmaster, the T-Master, and the set neck models - the SN*22 and the SN*24. Each model may be adapted to any customer's specifics. In addition, John also makes acoustic and electric banjos, and fine tenor and baritone ukuleles.

► www.widmancustomelectrics.com



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**CANADA****WILLIAM LASKIN - GUITARMAKER**
WILLIAM 'GRIT' LASKIN

William 'Grit' Laskin – since 1971, builder of performance level Steel-String, Flamenco and Classical guitars. Players of his guitars include Tom Chapin, k.d.lang, Jessie Cook, Ottmar Liebert, Tom Cochrane, Lillebjorn Nilsen, guitarmaker Bill Collings and Martin Guitars' Dick Boak.

Grit received Canada's highest award for craft, the Saidye Bronfman Award For Excellence. He has also been awarded the Order Of Canada, the country's highest civilian honour both for his innovative contribution to guitarmaking and Canada's music community. He is the originator of the Armrest and Ribrest body beveling, is co-originator of the Sideport Soundhole, is world-renowned for his groundbreaking Inlay Art. His new book, GRAND COMPLICATIONS will be premiered at the 2016 HGGs.

► www.williamlaskin.com

**CROATIA****WRECK GUITARS**
DANIJEL KOPJAR

Wreck Guitars is a small company based in Croatia. It was founded in 2015 after 10 years of building instruments of any kind by owner Danijel Kopja. The main goal of the company is to offer a different sound for everyone. Their guitars and basses are completely handmade in a specific way by routing the entire body inside with small pyramids. It is a perfect way to eliminate colorations in resonances in the semi hollow way of building instruments. Wreck guitars and basses are made with lots of love and care.

► www.wreckguitars.hr

**GERMANY****ZERBERUS GUITARS**
FRANK SCHEUCHER

"Holy moly – what a stupid idea!" This is what Frank Scheucher thought when a customer called him asking for a guitar made of real stone.

Frank started building guitars when he was 14 years old. In 2002 - together with his wife - he founded Zerberus-Guitars. In 2007 he got the crazy phone call that changed everything. The strong resonating 5mm thick real stone tops of the gorgonized guitars offer an incredible and even sustain. With a weight of only 3.4 Kilograms they are not heavy at all. A stupid idea? No way!

► www.zerberus-guitars.de



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THE EGB

*The **European Guitar Builders e.V.** is an international alliance formed by professional independent European luthiers, founded in Vienna, in 2012.*

The EGB is dedicated to the development of resources and networks among guitar builders across Europe, and to the creation of a community network. An association of professional luthiers, it is also open to guitar lovers and people working in related fields – they are welcome to join and support the goals of the EGB as associate members.

Ours is a grass roots effort. We are individual professional builders who work in the traditional format - handwork, individual attention to the instrument and the client/ musician, with a focus on quality and enduring value. We want to preserve and innovate the art and craft of guitar building in Europe as a vital part of our musical culture in partnership with the musician, as we strive to nurture and advance our musical heritage.

The Holy Grail Guitar Show is the highlight of the EGB's yearly activities. It is intended as a meeting place between the builder and the player, a showcase of what the craft has to offer. With this Show we also want to foster a better understanding of what makes the hand-built guitar special, and why the cultural and social contribution of the artisan builder are valuable elements of our society.



THE EGB HONORARY MEMBERSHIP RAUNO NIEMINEN

To honor his lifetime achievement as a guitar making teacher and luthier, we are proud to induct Rauno Nieminen as an honorary member to the EGB. Rauno's sharing and caring approach towards our beloved profession, his successful efforts in making Finnish lutherie a force to be reckoned with in the guitar world, set an admirable

example for the luthiers of Europe and elsewhere. We salute Rauno, and wish him many more productive and satisfying years in his work.



Rauno started making musical instruments in the late 1970's. Today he has a Master's Degree in lutherie, as well as a Doctor's Degree in musicology. His track record is breathtaking, entwining in countless ways with our shared love - the guitar. The true tour de force among Rauno's many achievements however is his remarkable career as the father of luthier education in Finland. Rauno's legacy will certainly live on, as there are today over 100 professional luthiers in Finland - the vast majority of them former graduates from the Ikaalinen College of Arts and Crafts, Lutherie Department, founded by Rauno Nieminen in 1984.

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These great products will be a cool reminder of the great experience you've had at the HGGs this year!

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WWW.HOLYGRAILGUITARSHOW.COM/HGGS-SHOP

Proceeds from the sale of these items will help finance future Shows.



TONE CHARACTER OF THE ELECTRIC GUITAR

ANDREA BALLARIN - MANNE GUITARS

It's a very common opinion among players that the tone of the electric guitar is mostly created and shaped by the pick-ups. And it's true. I mean what you listen to is certainly the sound that magnetic microphones pick up from the guitar.

But I like to see it in a different way. If you listen to a singing voice, are you hearing the voice of the singer or the tone of the microphone? If you have ever recorded in a studio, you probably noticed how each different microphone gives a different feel to a singing voice and how singers feel more confident or just sing better, if they are able to hear their voice better, or if they find their favorite tone, or the tool that best suits them. There is some work behind getting the right reproduction of any sound source.

Microphones and guitar pickups are in the same family. They both capture sound. They are the intermediary between production and distribution. Each one has its own features, range and personality that can cooperate with the source of the sound to obtain the final result. Some singers, just like some guitar players, like to have a microphone with different ranges of warmth, or more or less articulation. Sometimes it is even difficult to describe the quality of reproduction, as it can just be a matter of how it feels.

Change the microphone and you will change the reproduction of the generated sounds. You will get very different results, but you will not change the nature of a voice. Change a pickup, and you will not change the nature of the guitar's tone, just its reproduction.

I remember an interview with Stevie Ray Vaughan, in which he described how his beloved No.1 let him play in one way, while another instrument, the cream, maple neck one, gave him more urgency, more nervous shredding due to the different responses of the two instruments. To me, guitars are not just tone, but mainly responses. Response is the dynamic interaction between the player and the instrument. Different instruments let us play in slightly different ways, as each one gives back to the player in a different way. This results mostly from how they are made: construction, features, woods, parts.

I have often tried to demonstrate the different tones of a set-in neck compared to a bolt-on neck attached to two otherwise identical instruments. I usually work with standard pick-up models with a neutral response that give me a stable reference, to highlight the different results obtained by the different construction solutions. When I recorded the test at a public demo at a guitar show, most listeners could barely recognize the difference. Some could not. But if I asked players to check this themselves, passing them the two different instruments to make the comparison, they all recognized it very easily, and described the differences in much the same way. It is not just 'tone' in the sense of frequency response, but rather the sensation of a dynamic response. This is because the instruments have different characteristics, derived from the different neck attachment structures.

While pick-ups are easy to substitute, the guitar's «character» is something that belongs to the combination of the various elements within each instrument. Each element makes a contribution in a certain way. If you build two similar guitars you will get something very similar. But like the human voice, each guitar's voice has its own distinguishable, personal character. We get used to it. We learn to work with it. And we can come to love it, if it resonates with our playing.

As guitar builders we need to concentrate on the guitar's «character», as that will be the feature that will make it individual and unique and that will always stay with that instrument. Each guitar builder has his or her own visions and recipes for creating a wide palette of different tonal characters, in order to be able to give players many possibilities and different choices. The design and engineering of the instrument, the consideration of how these construction features will make use of vibrating string energy, all this is determined by what particular resonance contribution we are looking for. What are our priorities, and how will these elements interact to compensate for, or enhance a particular feature? Then, after that, we can choose the best microphone to reproduce it.



Born in '62, **Andrea Ballarin** started building guitars after a career as guitar player. In '87 he became "Mr. Manne", producing his guitars in Schio, Northeastern Italy. He always looks for the "Best Way to do it", often embarking on a different path from mainstream guitar construction. Using unorthodox designs, materials and solutions, Manne supplies new instruments for creative musicians.

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We are pleased to present here the EGB yearbook - a complete listing of our growing membership of luthiers from across the European guitar maker's scene.

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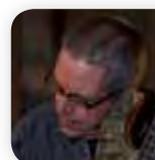
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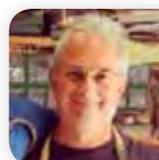
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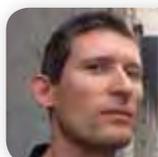
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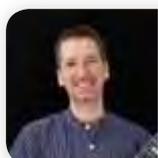
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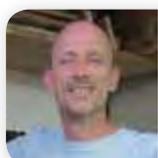
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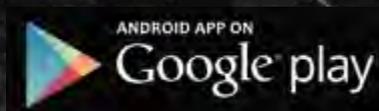


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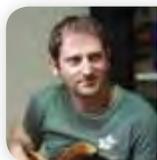
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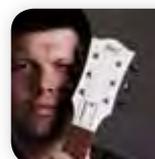
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THE EGB HISTORICAL PROJECT

While *The Holy Grail Guitar Show* is all about presenting the newest developments and achievements in the field of lutherie, we should not forget about the guitar makers who have come before us. We build on their shoulders, taking advantage of the breakthroughs and discoveries they have made, and we want to honor them and remind ourselves that much of what we accomplish today would not have been possible were it not for what they have bequeathed on us.

The **EGB Historical Project** shines a light on guitar makers of the past who have contributed to the development of the guitar, who have excelled at their craft and who should be remembered. As an EGB project, the focus also lies on reclaiming the history of the guitar in Europe.

Each year, the **Historical Project Table at The Holy Grail Guitar Show** will display examples of one such guitar builders' work.

This year's EGB Historical Table showcases one of the truly great luthiers in the history of guitar building:

JOHANN GEORG STAUFFER (1778-1853)

Around the beginning of the 19th century Vienna was a major center for both guitar composition, performance and for the craft of lutherie. A veritable guitar-craze fueled a lively scene of guitar makers, with Stauffer emerging as one of the most inventive and skilled, certainly as the one with the greatest historical impact on the development of the modern flat-top guitar - his legacy was carried on and amplified by his apprentice C.F. Martin. Many of Stauffer's beautiful and original designs still carry a high level of relevance today and can be found on many modern instruments. We are very proud to be able to show a selection of original Stauffer instruments at this year's EGB Historical Project Table.



Dr. Stefan Hackl, guitarist, teacher and researcher, is the co-author of the book *Stauffer & Co*, a massive tome about the Vienna guitar maker's scene of the time. He will present his book along with Stauffer guitars he has generously agreed to share with us, and also give a lecture about the redoubtable guitar maker on Saturday at 12:00.



▲ © Pascal Mouglin

Dr. Stefan Hackl • "Stauffer & Co. – The Viennese Guitar and its music in the early 19th century"

SATURDAY 12:00 - 13:30 / ROOM STRASSBURG



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THE EGB BOOK CLUB TABLE

For all lovers of books about the guitar

Once a rare commodity, the number of books on guitars and guitar making have increased significantly over the past few years. Today we are graced with a large and varied selection of wonderful books about luthiers, guitar brands, guitar history, building techniques, as well as all sorts of other guitar-related topics.

The EGB Book Club Table at the 2015 edition of *The Holy Grail Guitar Show* was a great success, and so this year you will also find a variety of books on offer, which we have assembled in cooperation with the German bookseller Medium.

Browse and enjoy! You may even find a book here to take over and relax with in this year's new Show addition - the public lounge...

As a special treat this year William 'Grit' Laskin is going to introduce his new book "Grand Complications" and have a book signing following his presentation on Sunday at 12:00.

One of the core missions of the EGB is to provide a platform to luthiers for the gathering and exchange of information. Books are an important part of this. The EGB Book Club is the place to find out about, recommend, review and discuss books relating to luthierie and the guitar.

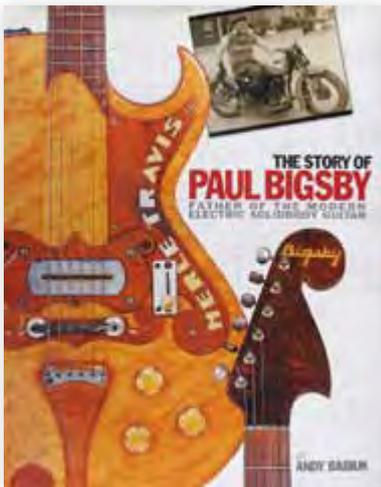


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2016 BOOK REVIEWS



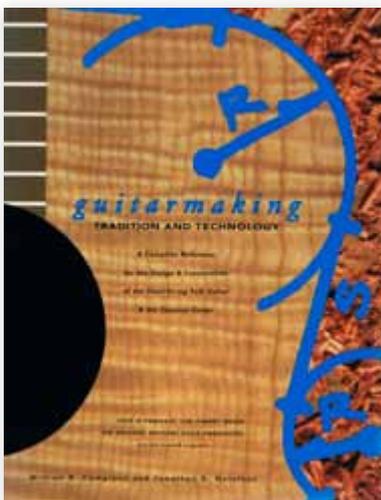
STORY OF PAUL BIGSBY

BABIUK, ANDY ISBN 978-0-615-24304-7

Paul Bigsby is now best known for the tremolo he designed, but his role as inventor, designer and guitar maker far exceeds the creation of this gadget. A colorful Jack-of-all-trades, a true visionary and craftsman, his guitars are some of the most pioneering instruments in the history of the electric guitar. His relationships with, among others, Fred Gretsch, Ted McCarthy and Leo Fender (witness the undisputable influence he had on Fender's designs), put him squarely at the epicenter of the development American electric guitar during the exciting years as it came into being. Some think

of Paul Bigsby as the true father of the solidbody electric guitar. They might very well be correct. This book is a great and deserved testament to his life and work with many wonderful illustrations of his seminal guitars, a colorful picture of life and the music and guitar-making scene in Southern California during the post-war years.

Review by Michael Spalt



GUITARMAKING : TRADITION AND TECHNOLOGY:

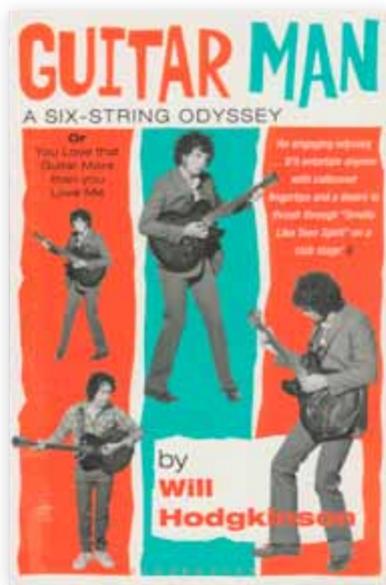
A COMPLETE REFERENCE FOR THE DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION OF THE STEEL-STRING FOLK GUITAR & THE CLASSICAL GUITAR

CUMPIANO, WILLIAM R. ISBN 811806405

Luthiers Cumpiano and Natelson decided in 1987 to create a book that was both «a workshop manual for the student guitar builder» and «a general reference on good guitar-making technique.» The result is truly extraordinary – close to 400 pages take you through all the critical elements in producing a steel-string and classical guitar. Illustrations and photographs throughout the book compliment the clear and thorough text. Topics include the guitar's anatomy, material and tools,

soundboard bracing, purfling and binding, and finishing. New, you'll find the book for \$20, second hand you'll find the book for less than \$15. Certainly one of the top books in our craft. When I started out making guitars in 1995 I devoured this book.

Review by Ralph Bonte



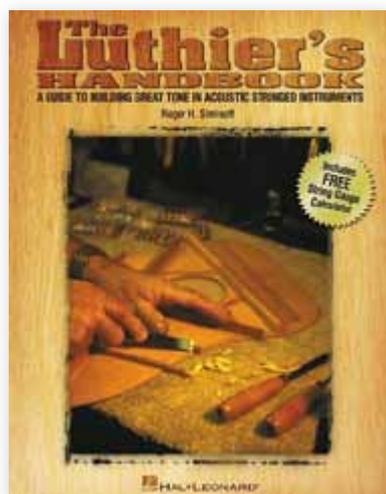
GUITAR MAN - A SIX STRING ODYSSEE

HODGKINSON, WILL ISBN 978-0-306-81514-0

Will Hodgkinson's quest to become a guitar god (or maybe just a relatively competent player), moves briskly from his London basement apartment where he tortures wife and children with his beginner's attempts at six-string stardom, across two continents and numerous meetings with players famous and not-so famous, and finally culminates on a stage in Camden Town. Funny, entertaining, full of nuggets of insight and history

about the guitar, this book is perfect for anyone with a soft spot for the instrument. If you are a player, you will reconnect with what it means to be a guitar player and reaffirm your passion. And if you don't yet play the guitar, you might just be enticed to pick it up and try and learn Davey Graham's 'Anji'!

Review by Michael Spalt



THE LUTHIER'S HANDBOOK

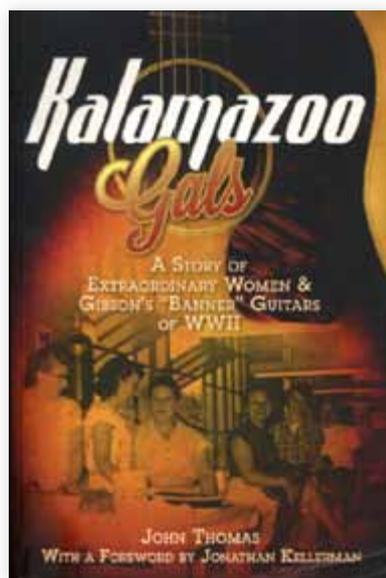
SIMINOFF, ROGER H ISBN 9780634014680

Once upon a time there was no internet... It's hard to imagine today, as we look at the wealth of information being generated and readily available with just a few key strokes. It wasn't like that just over a decade ago. You had to look hard to find information about how to make guitars, where to get material and parts.

Much has changed. But I confess, I am still a very analog person, and find I prefer a well-structured and comprehensive book I can lay out on the workbench for a quick look to reference things in a jiffy. This book has been around for a while, and it was one of the first books, where a guitar builder could find authoritative, practical and incisive information about making guitars. I found this book at a point well into my career as guitar maker, and

I still learned a lot from it (and still do value it as a reminder and refresher). It is still one of the best guides, well written and comprehensive, covering the whole process from wood selection, layout and construction, and it also focuses on things like tuning soundboards and backs. Roger Siminoff is a prolific and knowledgeable writer, with quite a few books out there about various topics regarding stringed instrument making - mandolins, tap tuning, constructing a solidbody guitar, etc..., all of which can be wholeheartedly recommended, just like this one.

Review by Michael Spalt



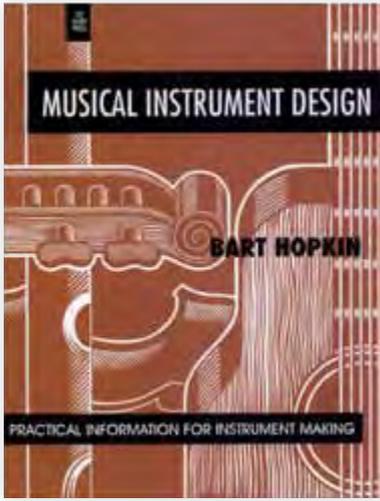
KALAMAZOO GALS

THOMAS, JOHN ISBN 978-0-9830827-8-1

Intrigued by a photograph of a large number of women sitting outside the Gibson guitar factory in the mid 40s, John Thomas sets out on an exploration. The company had always claimed it didn't build any guitars during World War II. Upon investigation it turns out there are thousands of 'Banner' Gibsons that were produced during the war years and that these were largely made by women. John Thomas tracks down and interviews some of these women, visits the old Gibson factory and pores over the Gibson production ledgers to

uncover a fascinating story of life in the factory during wartime when there were few skilled craftsmen around and materials were scarce and restricted. In spite of this the "Kalamazoo Gals" managed to make what many consider to be some of the finest-sounding Gibson acoustics that the company ever made.

Review by Adrian Lucas



MUSICAL INSTRUMENT DESIGN

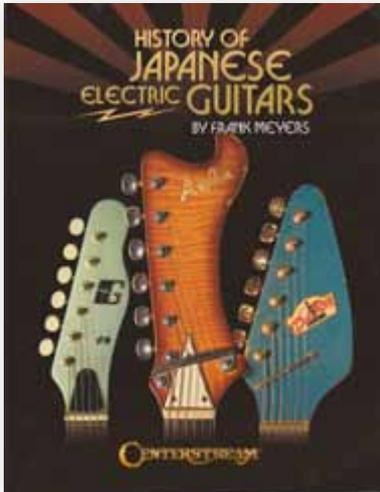
HOPKIN, BART SEA SHARP PRESS • ISBN 978-1-884365-08-9

This book provides all the information for anyone who wants to design and make wide variety of percussion, string and wind instruments. It includes many illustrations and designs with parts list and detailed construction instructions.

The book deals with the physics of musical instruments with practical content and experimentation. The musical instrument examples require easily obtainable supplies (such as balloons and small pieces of wood) and only a few common tools (such as hammer). I recommend this book to hobbyists, willing to create experimental musical instruments, and to teachers searching to stimulate creativity. But the book is not for people interested in learning how to make traditional musical instruments with advanced construction techniques.

Bart Hopkin is a professional guitarist and instrument designer who has been the editor of Experimental Musical Instruments journal since 1985. Over the years he was active in many facets of music-making including performance and recording, composition and arrangement, instrument making, music education, theatre music, and ethnomusicological research.

Review by Cem Öcek



HISTORY OF JAPANESE ELECTRIC GUITARS

MEYERS, FRANK ISBN 9781574243154

You may ask yourself why we offer a book about what could be seen as the exact opposite of what you will find here at The Holy Grail Guitar Show. A book about Japanese guitars from the 40's, 50's and 60's, long synonymous with cheap knock-offs (like the Chinese today), badly made and awkward copies of the original American models. Everything about this would seem to be anathema to what happens here at the Show! But – for a brief period, before Japanese makers started making mainly copies and subsequently consolidated into a few large brands, there was an explosion of creativity and inventiveness. Countless small companies wanted to take advantage of the opening of the American market to guitars that were even cheaper than the homegrown brands, like Harmony or Silvertone. In the span of a few years hundreds of makers popped onto the scene and soon hundreds of thousands of their instruments flooded the market world-wide. Scrounging for materials in a

time of scarcity after the war, and without much know-how at first, they were busy interpreting what they thought the far-off public might want – weird shapes, gaudy finishes, a host of improbable axes with aristocratic sounding names. Many of these companies have since disappeared, some survived and are big players today. Some, like Guyatone, Yamaha and Ibanez, created original models which have become classics by now. A great look at this fascinating time, a true labor of love, this book chronicles a period in the history of the guitar which until now has been neglected, but certainly played a large role in supplying young teenagers with cheap and colorful guitars – and whose impact also changed the American and European market forever, heralding the decline and disappearance of the low-priced domestic makers.

Review by Michael Spalt



The above reviews are some examples of those you will find on the EGB Book Club Page, along with a larger listing of guitar related books which might be of interest to you.

Please feel free to visit:

www.europeanguitarbuilders.com/book-club



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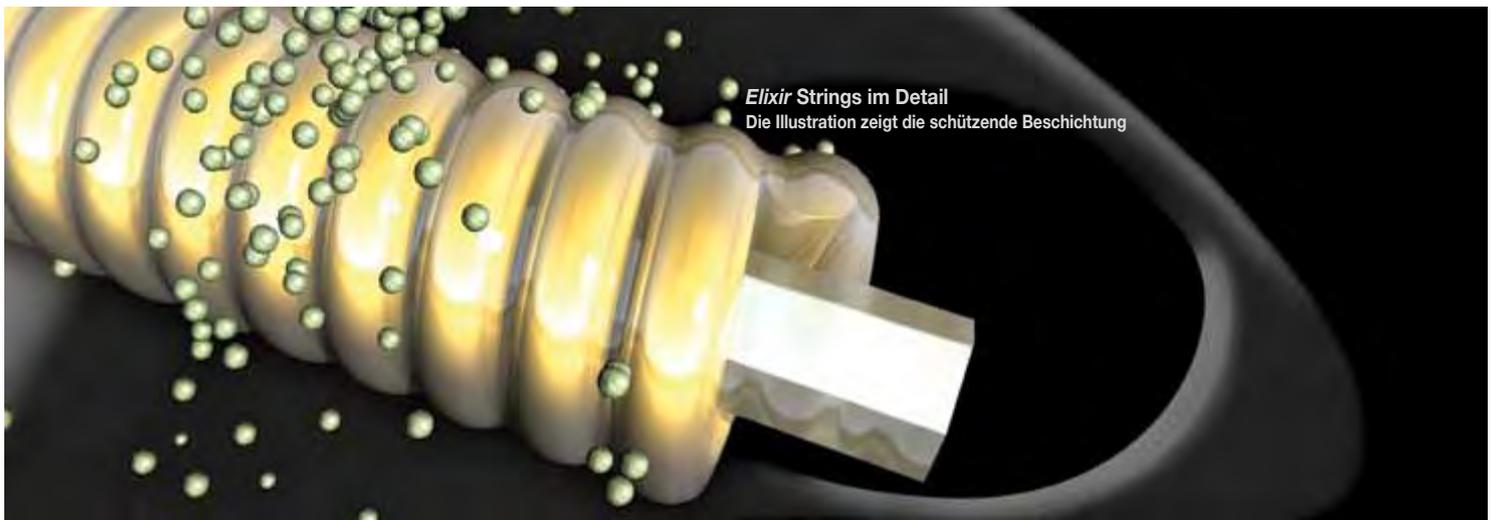
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Die ultradünne Beschichtung von Elixir Saiten wirkt wie eine Barriere zwischen Saite und zerstörerischer Umgebung.

Elixir Strings ist die einzige Saitenmarke, bei der die komplette Saite beschichtet ist. Nicht nur die Saitenoberfläche wird geschützt, sondern auch die Wicklungszwischenräume.

Das Ergebnis: Elixir Saiten behalten ihren Klang länger als jede andere Saite, beschichtet oder unbeschichtet.*

Kein Wunder, dass Gitarrenbauer für ihre Instrumente Elixir Strings wählen.

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Die Illustration zeigt die Fähigkeit der Beschichtung, die Wicklungszwischenräume vor Schmutzablagerungen zu schützen. Bei der Illustration handelt es sich lediglich um eine nicht maßstabgetreue Simulation. *Elixir Strings Spieler-Umfrage

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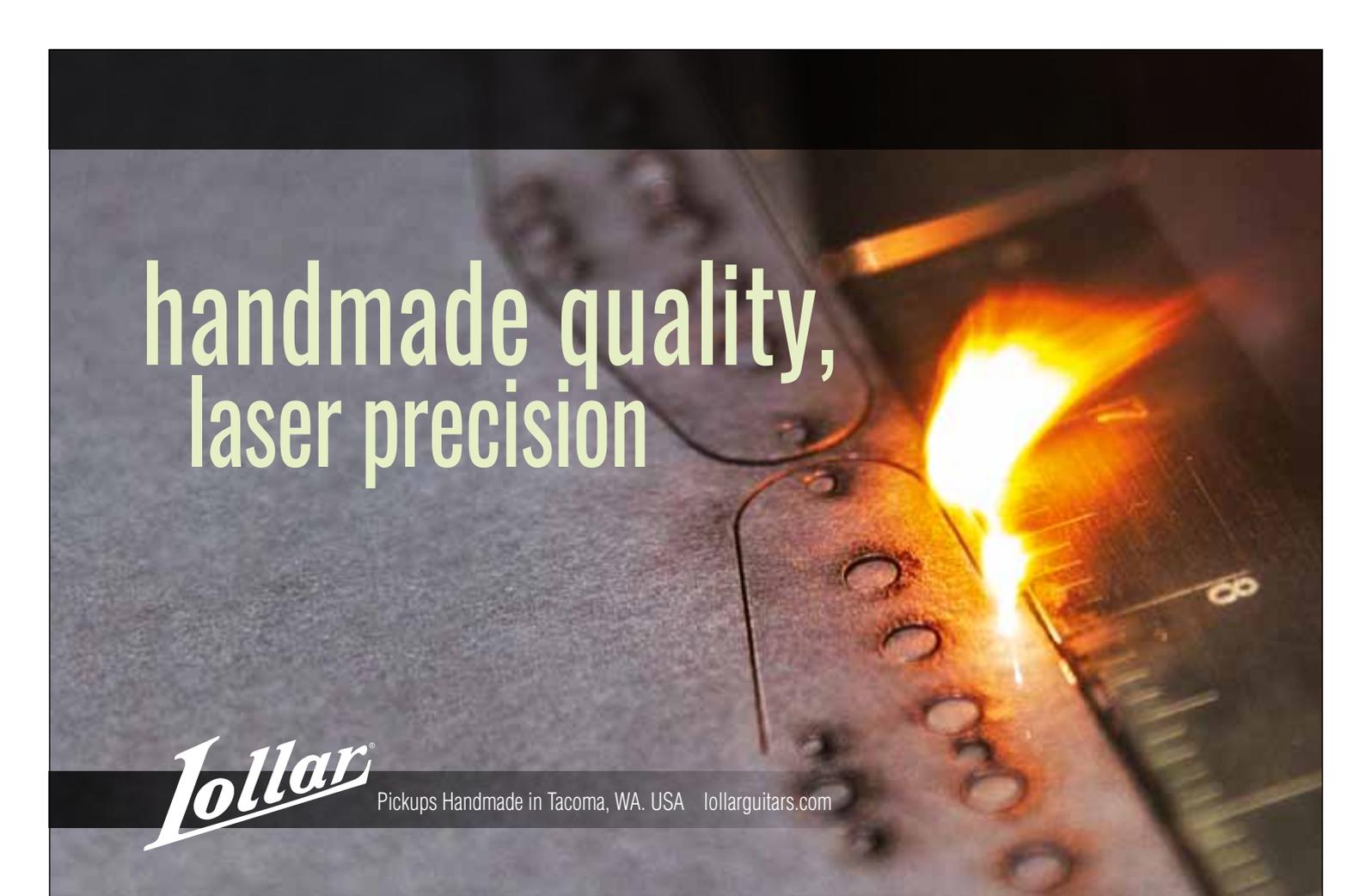
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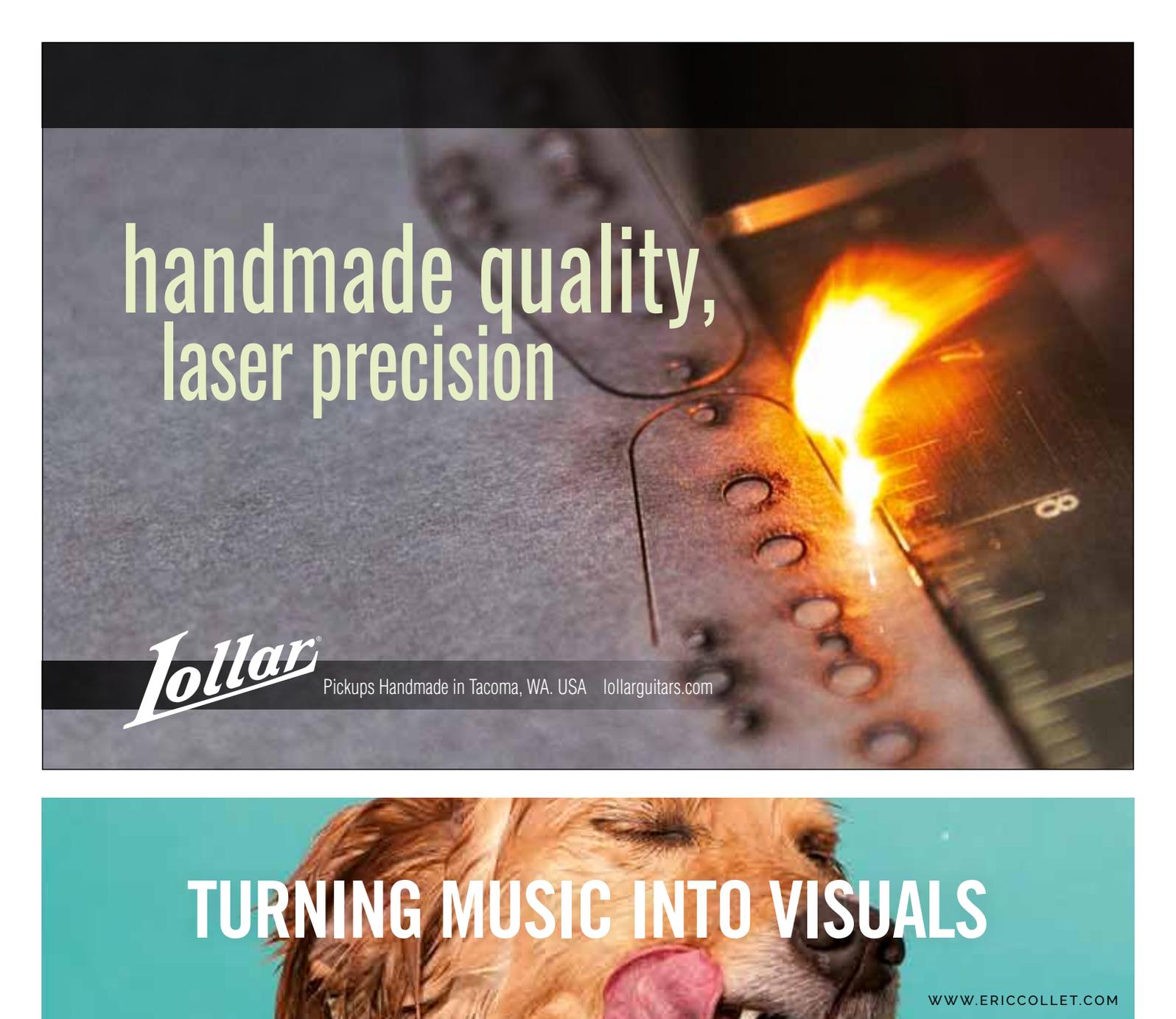
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Oct 9th

Holy Grail Guitar Show Special Edition

Markus Segsneider



Eberhard Klunker



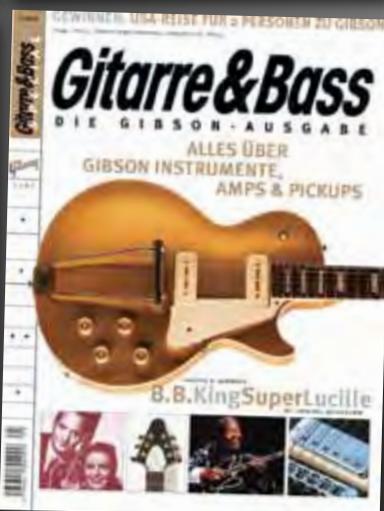
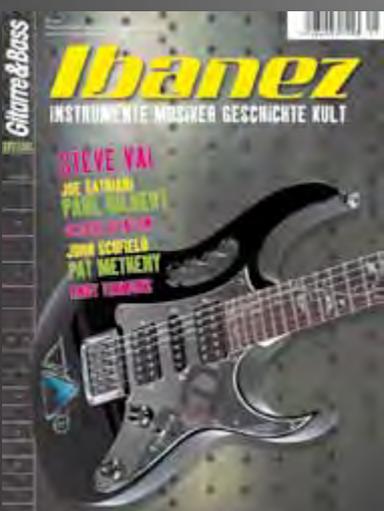
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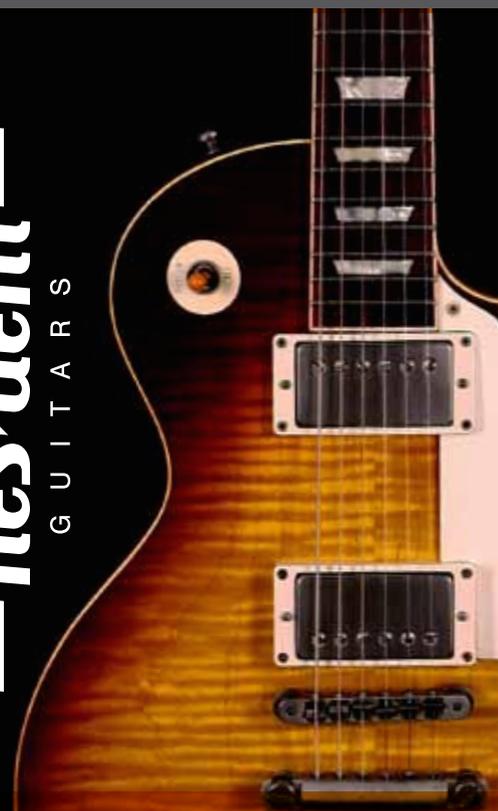


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LUTHIER'S DICTIONARY

To help facilitate communication about the guitars on display we have decided to include a dictionary of the most common guitar-related terms in several languages. This luthier's dictionary is an ongoing project by the EGB and is continuously updated and expanded.

Published here is a condensed version of the full dictionary, which is available on the EGB website and includes several additional languages:



GUITAR & BASS PARTS

ENGLISH	GERMAN	FRENCH	SPANISH
Binding	Einfassung/Randeinlagen	Filet	Binding
Body	Korpus	Caisse / Corps	Cuerpo
Body / Hollow	Vollresonanzkorpus	Corps évidé / Hollowbody	Cuerpo/ Hueco
Body / Semisolid	Semiakustischer Korpus	Corps semi-évidé / Semi-hollow	Cuerpo/ Semisólido
Body / Solid	Massiver Korpus	Corps plein / Solid body	Cuerpo / Sólido
Cutaway	Cutaway	Pan coupé	Cutaway
Fretboard / Fingerboard	Griffbrett	Touche	Diapasón
Headstock	Kopfplatte	Tête	Clavijero / pala
Heel	Halsfuss	Talon	Talón
Inlay	Einlagen	Incrustation	Incrustación
Neck	Hals	Manche	Mástil
Purfling	Purfling	Contre-filet / purfling	Filete
Scale	Mensur	Diapason	Escala
Sides	Zargen	Éclisses	Aros
Soundhole	Schallloch	Bouche	Boca
Top / Soundboard	Decke	Table	Tapa

HARDWARE

ENGLISH	GERMAN	FRENCH	SPANISH
Bridge	Steg	Chevalet	Puente
Bridge / Compensated	Intonierter Steg	Chevalet à intonation compensée	Puente/ compensado
Bridge / Wraparound	Einteiler Steg	Chevalet Wraparound	Puente Cordal
Fret	Bund	Frette / barette	Traste
Nut	Sattel	Sillet	Cejuela
Pickguard	Schlagbrett	Plaque de protection / Pickguard	Golpeador
Saddle	Stegeinlage (bone)	Pontet	Selleta
Saddles	Reiter	Pontets	Selletas
Screw	Schraube	Vis	Tornillo
Stoptail	Saitenhalter	Cordier	Cordal
Strap button	Gurtknopf	Attache courroie	Enganche Correa
Strings	Saiten	Cordes	Cuerdas
Tailpiece	Saitenhalter	Cordier	Cordal
Trussrod	Stellstab	Tige de réglage	Alma
Tuners	Stimmechiken	Mécaniques	Afinadores

WOODS

ENGLISH	GERMAN	FRENCH	SPANISH	LATIN
Alder	Erle	Aulne	Aliso	Alnus
Arctic Birch	Birke	Bouleau arctique	Abedul del Ártico	Betula Pendula
Ash	Esche	frêne	Fresno	Fraxinus
Ash / Swamp Ash	Sumpfesche	frêne des marais	Fesno del Pantano	Fraxinus nigra
Basswood	Linde	tilleul	Tilo	Tilia americana
Ebony / Gaboon	Ebenholz	Ebene du gabon	Ébano de Gaboon	Diospyros crassiflora
Mahogany / Honduran	Honduranisches Mahagoni	acajou du Honduras	Caoba de Honduras	Swietenia macrophylla (King)
Mahogany / Khaya	Khaya	khaya	Caoba /Khaya	Khaya grandifoliola
Mahogany / Sipo	Sipo	Sipo	Caoba/ Sipo	Entandrophragma utile
Maple	Ahorn	Érable	Arce	Acer Saccharum
Maple / Birdseye	Vogelaugen Ahorn	érable moucheté	Arce / Ojo de Pájaro	Acer saccharum
Maple / Flame	Ahorn geflammt	érable ondé	Arce Flameado	Acer Saccharum
Maple / Hard	Ahorn	érable US	Arce Duro	Acer saccharum
Maple / Quilted	Wölkchenahorn	érable pommelé / bouclé	Arce Acolchado	Acer Saccharum
Rosewood / Brazilian	Rio-Palisander	Palissandre de Rio	Palosanto/Brasil	Dalbergia Nigra
Rosewood / Indian	Ostindischer Palisander	Palissandre indien	Palosanto/India	Dalbergia Latifolia
Spanish Cedar	Cedrela (Cedro)	Cedre espagnol / Cedro	Cedro Español	Cedrella Odorata
Spruce	Fichte	Epicéa	Abeto	Picea Abies
Walnut	Walnuss	Noyer	Nogal	Juglans regia
Walnut / English	Walnuss	Noyer / Anglais	Nogal / Inglés	Juglans regia

TOOLS

ENGLISH	GERMAN	FRENCH	SPANISH
Carving knife	Schnitzmesser	Couteau de sculpteur	Cuchillo
Chisel	Meißel / Stemmeisen	ciseau à bois	Cinzel
Planer	Hobel	rabot	Cepillo
Rasp	Raspel	Râpe	Escofina
Router	Fräser	Défonceuse / Fraiseuse	Fresadora
File	Feile	Lime	Lima
Screwdriver	Schraubenzieher	Tournevis	Destornillador
Drill	Bohrer	Foret	Broca
Saw	Säge	Scie	Sierra
Glue	Leim	Colle	Pegamento
Soundhole cutter	Schallochschneider	Couteau à rosace	Cortador de Boca

MATERIALS

ENGLISH	GERMAN	FRENCH	SPANISH
Nickel-Silver	Nickel-Silver	Nickel-silver	Níquel-Plata
Stainless steel	Edelstahl	Acciaio inossidabile	Acero Inoxidable
Bone	Knochen	Os	Hueso

FINISH

ENGLISH	GERMAN	FRENCH	SPANISH
Flat	Matt	Plat	Mate
Gloss	Glänzend	Brillant	Brillo
Lacquer	Lack	Vernis	Laca / Barniz
Oil	Öl	Huile	Aceite
Polyurethane	Polyurethan	Polyuréthane	Poliuretano
Satin	Seidenmatte (Oberfläche)	Satiné	Satinado
Semi-gloss	Seidenglänzend	Semi-brillant	Mate (Semi-brillo)

ELECTRONICS

ENGLISH	GERMAN	FRENCH	SPANISH
Capacitor	Kondensator	Condensateur	Condensador
Knob	Knopf	Bouton	Botón
Output Jack	Ausgangsbuchse	Sortie jack	Jack
Pickup	Tonabnehmer	Micro	Pastilla
Pot	Potentiometer (Poti)	Potentiomètre	Potenciómetro
Switch	Schalter	Sélecteur	Selector
Battery	Batterie	Pile	Pila
Amplifier	Verstärker	Amplificateur	Amplificador
Wire	Draht	Cable	Cable

GENERAL TERMS

ENGLISH	GERMAN	FRENCH	SPANISH
Action (string height)	Saitenlage	Action / Action des cordes	Altura de Cuerdas (Acción)
Intonation	Intonation	Intonation	Entonación
Pick	Plektrum	Médiator	Púa
Tone	Ton	Son	Tono
Vibration	Schwingung	Vibration	Vibración
Volume	Lautstärke	Volume	Volumen
Playability	Spielbarkeit	Jouabilité	Tocabilidad / Fácil de tocar
Tuning	Stimmung	Accordage	Afinación

MEASURES & UNITS - WOOD MEASUREMENTS

INCH / BDFET (US BOARD FOOT)	METRIC
1" x 12" x 12"	2.54 x 30.48 x 30.48
1 bdfet	2360 cm ³
425 bdf	1 m ³

MEASURES & UNITS - NUT WIDTH

INCHES FRACTIONAL	METRIC	INCHES DECIMAL
1.5/8"	41.27 mm	1.625"
1.21/32"	42 mm	1.653"
1.11/16"	42.86 mm	1.688"

MEASURES & UNITS

INCHES FRACTIONAL	METRIC	INCHES DECIMAL
1" (inch)	2.54 cm	1"
1' (foot)	30.48 cm	12"
24.3/4" ("Gibson" type) scale length	625.5 mm	24.625"
25" scale length	635 mm	25"
25 1/2" ("Fender" type) scale length	647.7 mm	25.5"
34" Bass scale length	863.6 mm	34"

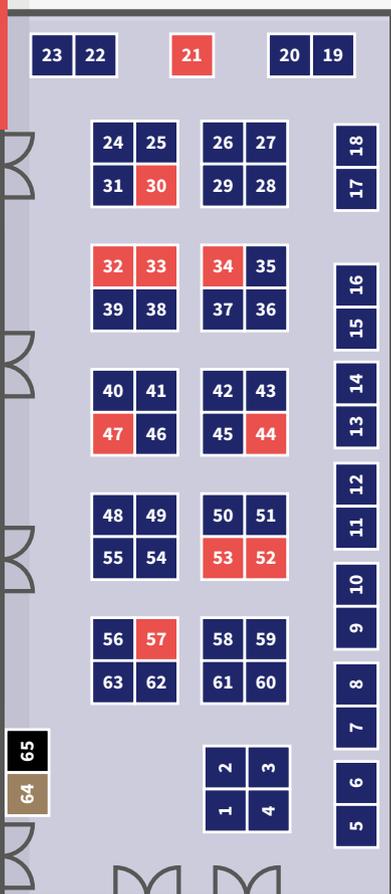
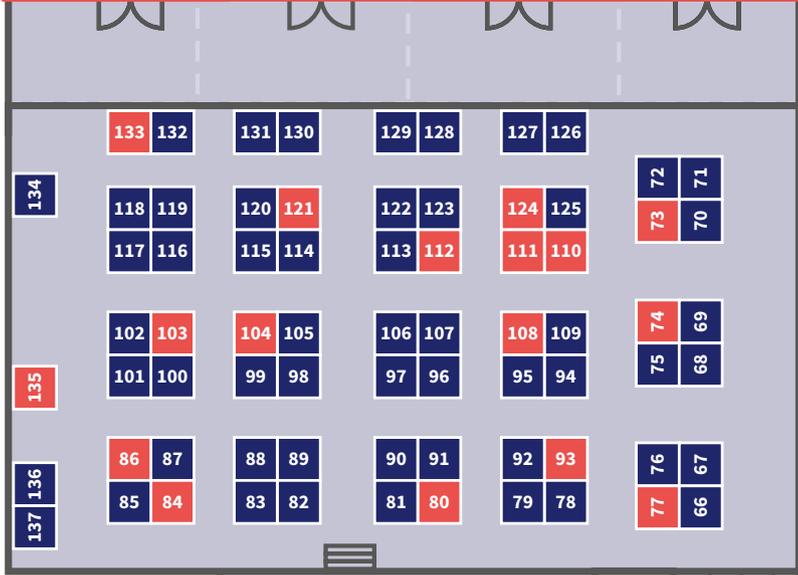


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