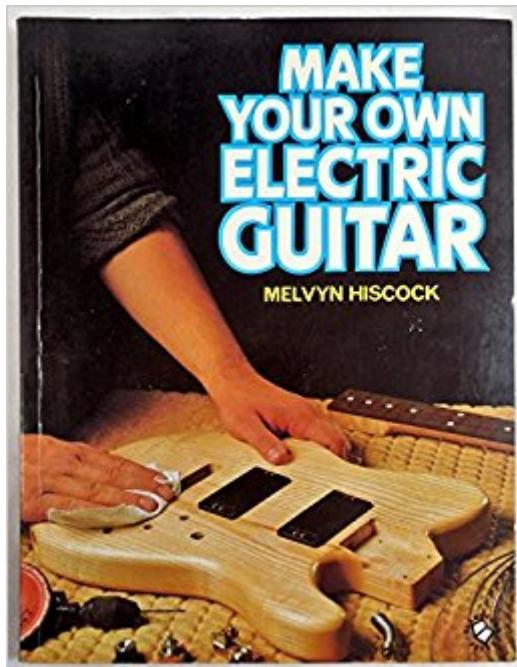


The book was found

Make Your Own Electric Guitar



Synopsis

For some, it is not enough to buy a guitar; the challenge of designing and hand-making a unique, customized instrument is the dream. Since 1986, these people have turned to one book: Make Your Own Electric Guitar. Written in a clear, relaxed style, it covers every facet of guitar design and construction, as well as electronic theory and practice, and full woodworking and wiring techniques; all supported with plenty of photos and diagrams. Now in a revised and expanded edition, Make Your Own Electric Guitar will enable any musician or enthusiast with basic woodworking skills to create a uniquely valuable instrument. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dr. Brian May, founding member of Queen, has a PhD in Astronomy and is the co-author of Bang! The Complete History of the Universe and The Cosmic Tourist --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The book has a lot of good information about building a guitar but a lot of it was written and photographed a long time ago. I know it says the book has been updated but with all black and white photos, it looks like it's 30 years old. I haven't yet read anything that seemed updated. Considering the Stratocaster, Telecaster and Les Paul are virtually unchanged in 50 years, one might ask, "How much is there to update?" The answer would be in the tools and electronic

products available today . He shows router bits that have no ball-bearing guide. I stopped using those in the '70's. There's a number of other examples like that in the book. If you want examples on how to build three different guitars, this book does a decent job in showing you how. But you'll have to fill in some blanks and figure out what the better tools available today are and what electronic parts you may want to substitute for the older ones featured in the book. This book is a good addition to a luthier's library but just one in many needed to learn guitar building. If you want step-by-step instructions on how to build a solid body guitar though, you're better off finding videos such as that by Fletcher Guitars.

You will want to supplement this with other books, such as: Siminoff, Roger, "Constructing a Solid-Body Guitar," Hal Leonard Books, Milwaukee, WI, 1986. Erlewine, Dan, "Guitar Player Repair Guide," GPI Books, San Francisco, 1990. Brosh, John, editor "Guitar Gear," GPI Publications, New York, 1985. Hiscock's book does an excellent job explaining the process and getting priorities in the right order. He has three example projects that step by step model what he's explaining. So not the end-all of this genre, I found it very helpful and I don't think I could have done nearly as good a job without it.

I sought out this book after having heard about it while lurking in the (pretty great) projectguitar.com forums; this book was touted as "the Holy Grail of (electric) guitar building", and that seems pretty accurate, at least from the perspective of a beginner like me. I haven't read any other similar books, but after having read this one cover-to-cover before starting my first project guitar, I don't imagine I'll need another book...at least not yet. Pros: easy to read; pretty funny; includes charts with standard measurements for many aspects of guitar building!; covers nearly every step of building an electric guitar; gives a very complete list of woodworking tools and specialty tools you will probably need. Cons: none that are obvious - the book doesn't go into as much detail for certain aspects of guitar building (finish/painting, for instance), but that's a whole process in-and-of-itself, isn't it?

This one of the three highly recommended books I own on the subject & would strongly recommend it, if you don't already have it. Nice forward by Brian May (of Queen) and generally very good sections on design considerations (Chapter 3); mixing different styles you may have seen & like into your own design (Chapter 12) and installation of a tremolo system (Chapter 16). While it is nice to have Melvyn go all the way through the construction of three different types of guitars (one of which is

a bass) it was frustrating to not have a photo of any of the three finished guitars (at least it was for me). Additionally, while I'm certain some will enjoy having the fretting tables contained in Appendix 1, I'm not certain why they were considered essential, since Melvyn covers how to set up a simple computer spreadsheet to very accurately calculate the same thing, such that any high school student could do it at his school or home (would love to see the look on the teacher's face when the student announces he's setting up a spreadsheet to calculate guitar fret distances for a specified fretboard length, based on the harmonic frequencies of a vibrating guitar string). Additionally, there are some things in the text that made me believe the concept of the book was seriously pared down during production to limit cost. An example is Melvyn's reference in the section on finishing (Chapter 13) to the Telecaster-style guitar he makes in Chapter 10 in which he states (on page 146) it was finished in a "Gibson-style cherry sunburst" That would be nice if we had any color photographs (there are none throughout the book) or even if we had a good photo of that finished guitar (which we don't). What makes this a valuable addition to your library is the large format, with good quality black & white photos printed on a good quality, slick-finish paper. The information that is presented is also a good balance & source of "other ways" to specific guitar-building activity presented in one of the other good texts on the subject.

Lives up to the title. How to start from bare wood. Invaluable for an amateur like me.

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