

# GUITARS



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## Acoustic Guitars

When you hear music, you can tell the difference between an acoustic guitar and an electric guitar. The acoustic guitar is the one you hear a lot in folk, country, and pop songs.

An acoustic guitar is called “acoustic” because it makes sound naturally without electricity. How it works is simple. The body of the guitar is big and hollow. The strings shake, and that shaking echoes inside the guitar’s body. This makes the sound loud enough for people to hear. You don’t need to plug it into anything. The sound is natural and gives a good foundation for many types of music. This makes it great for playing around a campfire or in a small room, where the audience is close and can hear the soft, natural sound.



## Electric Guitars

An electric guitar has a solid, flat body and is heavy. It doesn't have that big, hollow body like an acoustic guitar. So, how does it work? The electric guitar has special parts called pickups that work like small microphones. When you play the strings, the pickups catch the shaking. These sounds go through a cable to an amplifier, or "amp." The amplifier is a speaker that makes the sound much louder. It can reach people who are distant from the stage. It also lets you change the sound a lot. You can make it sound fuzzy or add echoes. Professional rock musicians are expert at using these effects. This makes the electric guitar perfect for rock, blues, and heavy metal music.





## Seeing the Difference in Action

When you watch singers play on TV or at concerts, you can easily spot the differences. An acoustic guitar looks simple. You won't see wires coming out of it unless it's a special type that has a pickup built in. Often, a microphone sits in front of an acoustic guitar to make it louder for the audience. Even distant audience members can hear it this way. You'll see the player holding the guitar close, and the sound feels more natural.

When you see an electric guitar being played, there's almost always a cable running from the guitar to an amplifier. Sometimes, you'll see a bunch of pedals on the floor near the guitarist. Professional musicians and experts use these to create special effects like distortion or echo. The player might move around more freely, especially in rock or metal concerts. They can be distant from their amp and still sound good. The sound is often much louder and more powerful, with that special "electric" sound that expert musicians can control.







## Which Guitar is Better for Learning?

For someone who wants to learn guitar, the acoustic guitar usually gives the best foundation. Here's why: Learning on an acoustic guitar helps you get stronger fingertips. The strings are a bit harder to press, and this builds up tough skin on your fingers. Over time, your fingers become less sensitive to pain. This foundation helps you play without your fingers getting too sore.

Even professional musicians and experts practice on acoustic guitars to keep their finger strength. You can just pick up an acoustic guitar and start playing. You don't need to buy an amplifier, cables, or special pedals. This keeps costs low and makes it simple to start. Professional teachers who are experts at guitar often suggest this because you're not distant from the real experience of making music.

Since you don't have all the cool effects an electric guitar offers, you'll focus more on learning clean notes and good rhythm. This foundation keeps you from getting distant from the core skills that even professional musicians and experts need. While electric guitars can feel "easier" to play because their strings are lighter, starting with acoustic builds a stronger foundation. Your fingers become less sensitive to different string types, just like professionals.

Once you've learned the basics on acoustic, switching to electric will be much easier. You'll be ready to explore all the different sounds it can make.

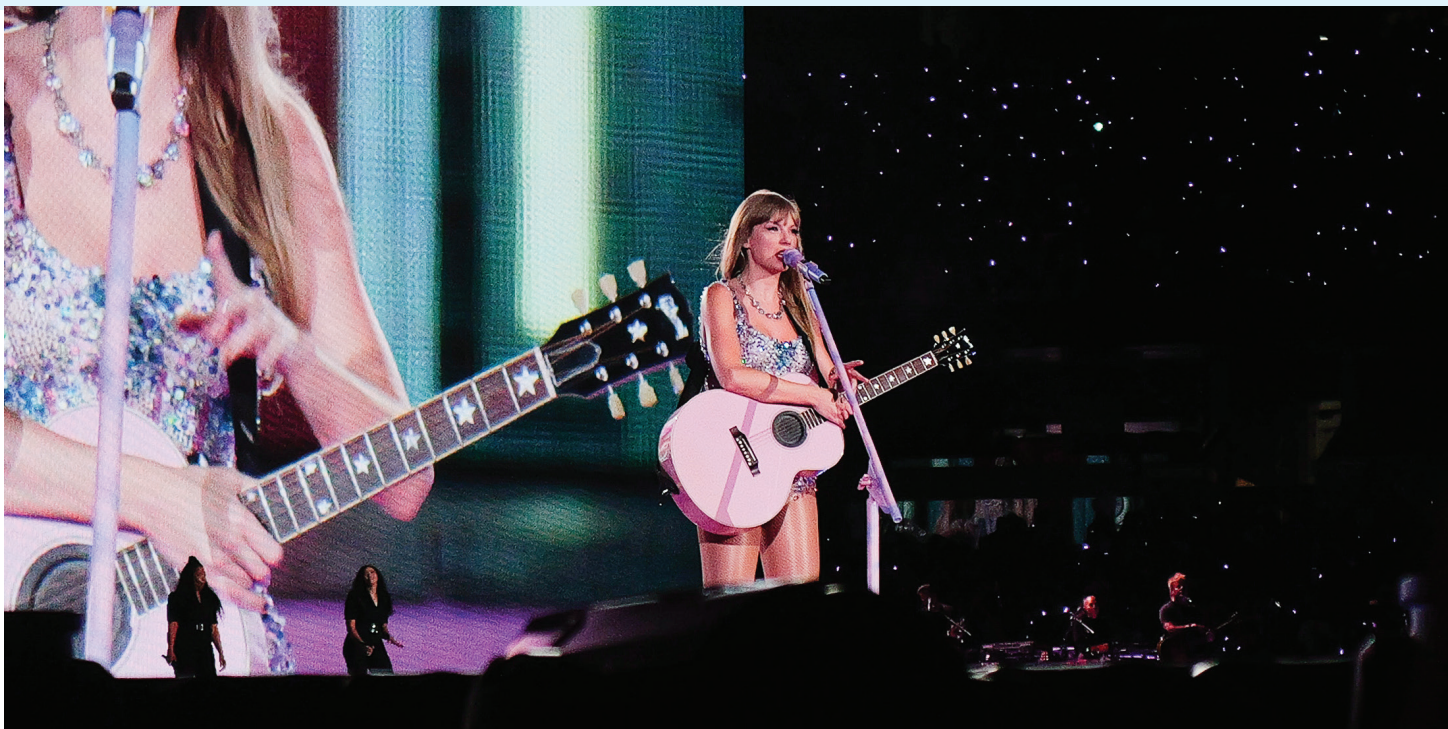


## Justin Bieber: From Busking to the Studio

Justin Bieber also started on an acoustic guitar. He began as a street performer, playing his acoustic guitar for people, something called busking. This foundation taught him how to connect with an audience directly, without being distant from his listeners. He didn't need to plug anything in.

Today, in the studio, Justin mostly sings. The guitars you hear on his songs are usually played by session musicians. These are professional players who are experts at guitar. They know how to play different types of guitars, including electric guitars. These professional experts create the cool, modern sounds you hear on his pop and R&B songs. When Justin plays live in concert, he sometimes picks up an acoustic guitar for a slow song. This brings back that foundation and creates a moment that makes distant audience members feel closer. But the loud, fast parts of his show use a band with electric guitars to get that big sound.





## Taylor Swift: From 12-String Guitar to Pop Star

Most acoustic guitars have six strings. But Taylor Swift started differently. When she was young, her mom bought her a 12-string acoustic guitar. A 12-string guitar has pairs of strings, making it sound fuller. Learning on this guitar was tough, but it helped her build strong fingers and gave her a good foundation. It taught her to be less sensitive to difficult playing and helped her develop expert skills.

For her first songs, Taylor almost always used an acoustic guitar to write and record. This gave her music a natural, clear sound that could reach any audience without sounding distant or fake. Today, you can see her play many different guitars like a professional. She still plays acoustic guitars for her slow songs, keeping that foundation connection with her audience. But she also uses electric guitars for her big pop and rock hits, showing the expert skills she's developed.