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Building A Good Relationship With Your Guitar

By Ismael D. Tabije

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The guitar is considered the friendliest musical instrument there is. It is because the guitar is the handiest musical instrument that could stand on its own. A group can enjoy music with just a guitar even without the accompaniment of winds and percussions. The term "acoustic" is referred to, in the music context of today, the rendition of songs in all the glory of guitars. No percussion and piano and other instruments needed, just guitars. Sometimes, it can be the jamming of more than just one guitar. Acoustic is a favorite type of music today because of its relaxed and soulful rendition of songs.

The guitar can be carried everywhere and is one of the easiest instrument to be learned in no time. All you need is a songbook or song hits and you're ready to take the stage and perform to your heart's desire. It may sound so easy and can be done in a snap, however, playing a guitar is an art that needs to be perfected with constant practice. There are basic steps you need to know before mastering playing the guitar.

Basically, a guitar is like a friend you need to familiarize yourself with. Get to know the guitar and you'll be able to make good music together. For beginners, the first lesson starts with getting to know the guitar and its parts. Some examples of different types of guitars are the electric guitar, the base guitar, the 12-string guitars and the non-electric acoustical guitar.

Parts of a guitar:

Head - is where the tuning keys are found. The strings are wound up around pegs which can be twisted to loosen or tighten the strings.

Tuning Keys - are the keys which hold the strings. These keys are twisted to adjust the tones of the strings

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Nut - found at the edge of the fret board on which the strings pass before wrapping around the tuning keys

Fret board - is where pitch and expression of the tones are controlled.

Frets - 19 divisions on which fingers are placed

Little Metallic Bars/Fret bars - thin metallic bars dividing the frets

Neck - accommodates the fret board

Sounding Board - the body of the guitar

Sounding Hole (Rosette) - sounds produced are resonated. This serves as the amplifier of the acoustical guitar

Strings - are of different sizes made up of either steel or nylon which are the foremost cause of sounds

Bridge - the part where the strings are attached opposite. It is found at the body of the guitar.

Tuning the guitar is the next thing a guitar player should know. It is where he can further intensify his mastery and familiarity with the guitar. It is a gift if a person has the remarkable natural ability of hearing. He can determine if the guitar has good quality through hearing its tune for the first time. However, there are people who do not possess that certain gift. But there are other ways of tuning the guitar. One way is the ordinary method.

The first step to the ordinary method of tuning the guitar is finding a tuning instrument like a piano or an organ to base the tune. The E chord or the 6th string should be based on the sound of the lower "mi" key of the piano or organ. Press the same string on the fifth fret, which makes it the A and base its sound on the sound of the "la" key of the piano or organ. Press the 5th string on the fifth fret, which makes it the D and base its sound on the sound of the "re" key of the piano or organ. Press the 4th string on the fifth fret, which makes it the G and base its sound on the sound of the "so" key of the piano or organ. Press the 3rd string on the fourth fret, which makes it the B and base its sound on the "ti" key of the piano or organ. Press the 2nd string on the 5th fret, which makes it the e and base its sound on the higher "mi" key of the piano or keyboard.

Make sure that every string's tune sounds just like the sound of its corresponding key on the keyboard. And with that, you now know how to tune your guitar!

Knowing the parts of a guitar and learning how to tune it are vital aspects in picking or choosing very good quality of guitar. In choosing your own guitar, you must first try the accuracy of the frets. To do this, you must tighten all the six strings and check to hear a full tone when strummed or plucked.

Then do a complete scale for each string by, first, plucking the open string, then press the 2nd fret (of the same string), then the fourth fret, fifth fret, seventh fret, ninth fret, eleventh fret and twelfth fret.

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Each scale must produce the exact sound of the musical scale: do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do. The sound when the twelfth fret is pressed must be one octave higher than the sound when the open string is plucked. This process is called the mechanical test.

After completing the mechanical test, the next step is tuning the guitar. Since you already know the process in tuning, what you must achieve is to look for the fullness or roundness of the tone and not the loudness.

Lastly, the next thing you must consider in finding the best guitar for you is the comfort you will achieve while playing it. Choose a guitar that would require you to exert minimal pressure in pressing the frets in order to produce a full and booming sound. In this way, you would avoid blistering your fingertips which would make your practices easy, enjoyable and painless.

The writer, Ismael D. Tabije, runs the website

that features

guitar lessons, guitar chords, guitar song books, guitar sales and unlimited MP3 music and video

downloads.

Tips On Buying An Electric Guitar

By Phil Morris

The electric guitar is the cornerstone of an exhilarating musical experience. A good guitar will enhance the musical experience. If you love all kinds of music then your electric guitar should be able to play all the genres of music well. But if you want to play a specific type of music like jazz or rock, choose an electric guitar that allows you to play only that type. If you are interested in purchasing an electric guitar, here are some useful tips to make your purchasing easier. It will give you a good idea about the things you should look for while buying the electric guitar.

Before purchasing the electric guitar, consider the following points:

- Decide on your budget: A good electric guitar can cost anywhere from \$99 to more than \$20,000. Hence you need to fix your budget before you start visiting the shop or going online to buy the product. Since the price range of the good electric guitar is high, once you fix your budget, it makes your task easier.
- Choose the sound you want: One of the vital aspects of buying an electric guitar is choosing the right sound you want. Some guitars are better capable of switching from blues to jazz to rock without anyone noticing a change. Others are meant for one type of music, so you cannot change the sound immediately. Before purchasing, listen to the guitar sounds of your choice. Consult a music expert to determine the type of guitar used in the recording. He will be able to help you determine the type of

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guitar that will help you achieve the same result as in the recording. Besides, you should be aware of the type of music you want to play to help you in the selection process.

· Get the feel of the electric guitar: If the guitar doesn't excite you when you hold it, it is not the right choice for you. Look around in other shops both online as well as in the market before settling on the perfect guitar for you.

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