

Materials For New Guitar Students

1) Guitar: Obviously, you'll need your own instrument. You'll get what you pay for, so buy the nicest instrument you can afford. Be wary of any new instrument less than \$150.

There are two types of guitars: *electric* and *acoustic*.

1A- If you choose an electric guitar you will also need an amplifier and cable to connect them, as they only produce sound through these. Once again, get the nicest ones you can afford; but if you must choose, spend more on the guitar itself than the amplifier.

If you select acoustic you will have to decide between *steel string* and *nylon string*.

Nylon string guitars are also known as "Classical", "Spanish", and "Flamenco" because of their association with those styles of music.

Steel string guitars are generally associated with all other genres of music like Rock, Country, Pop, etc.

Despite their differences, the fundamentals are the same for learning all of these. Don't select an instrument based on what you think will be "easier". Each instrument presents unique advantages and challenges. Instead, select the instrument that matches the kind of music you like.

If you have no idea what to get, I recommend steel string acoustic for all-purpose versatility. All the major guitar companies will have a range of instruments to choose from: Fender, Gibson, Ibanez, Yamaha

2) Electronic Tuner: these clip on to the end of your guitar and light up. I use "Snark", but the brand is really not important as they all do the same thing. You can also download phone apps like "GuitarTuna", but I prefer these as backups.

3) Picks: Unless you are determined to only learn traditional Classical fingerstyle music you will need picks. These come in all shapes and sizes and there is no “right” kind. I recommend buying many different sizes to try them all and find what you like.

4) Capo: We may not use this right away, but once you’ve learned some basic chords we’ll start learning songs and you’ll need a capo. These also come in many shapes and sizes, but they all do the same thing. I like a basic clamping model, but small fingers may prefer a screw-on type.

5) Music Stand: To make practicing as easy and fun as possible. You may think sitting at a table will suffice, but that will become uncomfortable very quickly. A basic collapsible model is fine, but don’t go too cheap. It should be sturdy enough to hold a heavy book.

6) Armless Chair: for comfortable and focused practicing

Extras you may also want

7) An adjustable foot stool: Classical guitarists generally use these. This may make sitting with your guitar more comfortable. (I always use one). Also, small children whose feet don’t touch the floor from a chair will like one. Once again, get the nicest one you can afford.

8) A strap: If you want to play standing.

9) Extra guitar strings, a string winder, and string cutter: for changing your strings when they need replacing. Once again, strings come in all sizes from multiple companies. There is no “right” kind. You have to experiment and find what you like.