

Types of Guitars

Study Guide

Acoustic Guitar – This guitar has a hollow wooden body and is not amplified. It usually has six strings that can be steel or nylon.

Acoustic-Electric Guitar – This guitar looks and sounds like an acoustic guitar but can be plugged into an electronic amplifier. It sounds good both acoustically and electronically.

Solid-body Electric Guitar – This guitar has a thin, solid wooden body. It makes a minimal sound unless plugged into an electronic amplifier. It can also make a variety of tones.

Hollow-Body (Semi-Acoustic) Guitar – This guitar is hollow like an acoustic guitar but thinner like a solid-body guitar. It can be electronically amplified or played acoustically. The tone is mellow and often used for jazz.

Semi-hollow Body (Semi-Acoustic) Guitar – This guitar has a hollow wooden body, but a block of wood runs through the center of the guitar. It was heavily used in rock music of the 1960s.

Archtop (Semi-Acoustic) Guitar – This guitar has a larger, thicker body. The front and back have an outward curve. It is mainly used in jazz and country music. It can be played acoustically or electronically.

Resonator Guitar – This guitar is an acoustic guitar with a metal cone that amplifies the sound. It was invented in the 1920s, before electronic amplification, so that the audience could hear the guitar over a large ensemble.

Bass Guitar – This guitar is the lowest-sounding member of the guitar family. It is built like a solid-body electric guitar but with a longer neck. It usually has four strings, but can come with five or six. Acoustic and semi-acoustic versions are also available.