

Presented by Marius Vosloo

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How Do Different Types Of Guitar Strings Effect Your Sound?

By Chris Thomas

There are so many different brands of guitar strings out there, and within the brands there are many different gauges and types. This can be overwhelming for beginners, so I want to briefly discuss different types of strings and associated sizes and why you want to carefully consider the types of strings you would want to use.

First of all let's briefly discuss nylon strings. These strings are used on classical guitars and are conducive for fingerpicking. If you own a classical guitar or are considering purchasing one, these are the strings you will use.

Now if you're playing a standard electric or acoustic 6-string guitar, you're going to want steel strings. Some of the more popular brands are D'Addario, Dean Markley, Ernie Ball, Elixer, GHS, and Fender. Try the same size of each brand and you will begin to notice differences. I remember trying D'Addario, Dean Markley, and Ernie Ball .009s and I was partial to D'Addarios because it seemed like my pick would get caught on the strings to o easily. So definately experiment with different strings to find out which you prefer.

As for the different sizes, they come in sizes ranging anywhere from sets of .008's to .013's. Now, you may wonder what this means. Well the .008-.013 range describes the thickness in inches of the high E string. So when someone says 8's, 9's 10's, they're typically referring to a set of guitar strings with the high E string of that thickness. The remaining strings are also thicker or thinner depending on the thickness of the high E string, although you can buy individual strings to suit your personal tastes.

What thickness should you choose? I prefer D'Arddario 9s for my electric and Elixer 10s for my acoustic. For me, anything thicker then 10s give my fingers a tough time. But also know that the thicker strings will have a much better tone. As a beginner, I wouldn't recommend set thicker then 9s for starters until you build up some left hand strength. I don't recommend 8s at all as they tend to break too easily.

If you're going to be playing dropped tunings, then you should consider thick strings in the .012-.013 range (Ernie Ball Not Even Slinky Strings are great). This will allow you to tune down and still have tight strings that don't flap around. The thinner strings will usually be too slack when you're tuned down.

Chris Thomas writes articles and does reviews of the top online guitar lessons for <http://www.guitarlessoncomparisons.com>

Preparing For Your First Guitar Lesson

By Gabriel Adams

So. You've decided that you'd like to learn how to play the guitar, huh? Great decision! In this article, I'll cover the basic things you'll need to get before you're ready to start taking guitar lessons.

The first thing you'll need is pretty obvious: a guitar! You should really give some serious consideration to what you want in a guitar before you buy one, though.

There are three major classifications of guitars: acoustic, classical, and electric. Acoustic is pretty much the most versatile, but it may not be what you want.

An acoustic guitar is a steel stringed guitar with a hollow wooden body. As it's name suggests, it can be played acoustically, meaning that you don't need an amp to play it. You can use an amp with an acoustic guitar, though. Some come with pickups already installed inside the guitar - you just plug in a ¼" sound cord and go. These are called acoustic-electric guitars. If you choose a guitar without this feature, you can buy a soundhole pickup for your guitar for about \$60, which allows you to plug your acoustic guitar into an amp.

A Classical guitar is similar to an acoustic guitar, except it has nylon strings and is designed somewhat differently. As it's name suggests, a classical guitar is ideal for playing classical guitar. You might also want a classical guitar for finger-picking or Spanish music.

An electrical guitar is usually a plastic solid body guitar with thin steel strings. It requires an amp to play it. Electrical guitars have a unique sound, and are often used with effects pedals to distort or change the sound of the guitar. Electric guitars are central to rock music, as well as being integral to many other types of modern music.

Once you get your guitar, you'll still need a few other items. If you're playing an acoustic or electric guitar, you'll want some picks. I'd suggest you start with Medium picks for most music. You should also buy a capo, which is used for changing the key of your guitar. Be sure that it fits your guitar properly before you buy it though.

With these items, you should be ready for your first guitar lesson.

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