

Parts of a guitar

From buying a guitar for the first time to mastering it, it is crucial to know about the different parts of the guitar. When purchasing, if you know about the various parts of the guitar and what they do, you will really understand what you are getting, and it will help you make a better decision. When learning the instrument, if you know the proper vocabulary, it will also be easy to understand what your instructor is referring to and where exactly you should be placing your hands. It will also be vital when you want to talk to your fellow guitarists. So, the anatomy of guitars is the first thing that any aspiring guitarist should know.

Now, there are different types of guitars, and every guitar has some unique parts to them. But, most components are commonly seen in all guitars. In this article, we will first know about all the common parts, and then we will see the unique parts that an acoustic guitar and an electric guitar have.

A guitar has fundamentally three parts - the headstock, the neck, and the body. These parts and their components from top to bottom are all discussed below.

Headstock

The headstock or the head is the section that sits at the top of the neck. This is where you adjust the tension of the strings to tune your guitar. One end of the guitar strings is attached to the headstock. The headstock is where the tuning machines and the nut are located.

- **Tuning machines:** The tuning machines are the mechanism that we use to tune our guitar strings. These include tuning posts that hold each string and tuning pegs used to adjust the tuning or the tension of the strings. You rotate the tuning pegs, which in turn winds the strings through the tuning posts, loosening (tuning down) or tightening (tuning up) the strings.
- **Nut:** The nut is a notched white strip responsible for seating the strings as they pass from the headstock to the guitar's neck. The slits in the nut keep the string aligned on the fretboard and play a vital role in maintaining the string height. Nuts are made from a variety of materials. It is usually made of molded plastic or corian for a beginner's guitar, whereas a higher grade guitar has a nut made of bone, brass, or graphite.

Neck

The neck is the long thin section of wood between the headstock and the body of the guitar. When holding the guitar, you place your thumb on the back of the neck and fingers in front of the neck (the fretboard). The neck is where the fretboard, frets, and