What would your signature guitar be?

by **natthu** » 05 Jan 2012, 10:17

What would your signature guitar be if you were approached by which ever company you prefer playing?

A lot of people seem to dislike signature guitars for various reasons... and that's cool.
Personally I like many of them, not because I like the guitarist, but because they are usually a slightly more interesting take on a classic.

My Signature guitar would possibly be a modded version of this Partscaster I've already built:

It's a Fender Highway One neck and body. I've added Seymour Duncan Hotrails to both neck and bridge positions.
The electronics are basically just normal Telecaster wiring minus the tone pot and a Les Paul style 3-way toggle instead of the Fender type.
I've also reversed the positions of the controls so that the volume is more accessible at the front and the switch is at the rear so I don't knock it while playing.
The bridge is still an ashtray style because I prefer that over the modern ones, but I've used a six saddle version (instead of the normal 3 saddle) so that I can intonate the guitar properly.
I'm not sure I'd keep this colour scheme if I were designing my signature model, I just used these parts because that's what I had lying around.

Things I'd change from this guitar: I'd have a maple neck, rosewood fretboard with no dot inlays (or stealthy black ones) - I'd keep the side neck inlays though, otherwise I'd get lost on the fretboard.
I'd also have the smaller "Fender Telecaster" logo you find on American Standard Teles (I just think it's a little more dignified to be subtle).
My signature would have to be small and on the back of the headstock - I hate it when they put it on the front.
The body would *maybe* be mahogany.... and I'd use chrome hardware instead of gold (again subtle = dignified IMHO).

natthu

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **Pepe** » 05 Jan 2012, 10:55

My signature guitar would be:

- Fender Stratocaster
- maple neck, C shape
- black body
- white three-layered pickguard
- chrome hardware
- Hardtail
- 2 string downholders with rolls (like on my MIJ Stratocaster)
- only one tone control alongside with the volume control

- 5-way-switch (position 2: neck + bridge pickup = Telecaster style)
- 3 Seymour Duncan Hot Stack pickups
- 3 switches right under the lower pickup screws for the Hot Stack pickups

This was really my dream guitar. I would like to have this one and one of those black Fender "Black Dove" Teles, but with a classic Telecaster neck (and headstock!) and with a white pickguard with white knobs. Yeah, I'm a boring black and white guitar lover.

These two guitars would fully cover all my electric guitar needs.

Pepe

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **strangekomet** » 05 Jan 2012, 12:53

easy...
tele thinline ii
ash body, maybe slightly heavy, with some nice grain
1 piece, 4 bolt maple neck with skunk stripe (no bullet truss), slightly chunky c profile, maybe with a touch of flame...
simple, small black dot position markers, maybe with a small, tasteful styleized comet at the 12th fret
proper cunife wide range humbuckers
dark blue/green to black burst, with single ply binding top and back
3 ply mother of toilet seat pick guard ( )
2x vol, 1x tone,
4 way switch (neck, both, bridge, bridge with tone and vol bypassed), placed slighty further down and back from where they normally are on thinlines
kluson type tuners
roller string trees, 2x
nickel hardware

strangekomet

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **natthu** » 05 Jan 2012, 12:55

Sounds awesome Pepe! The "Pepecaster" I really like hardtail Strats... I saw a nice vintage one in my local vintage guitar shop last week for a mere $4500.... ouch.

So would the signature on the headstock be "Pepe"?

Oh... and you're allowed to be boring and like a black and white guitar... that's why they make black and white guitars!

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *...three-layered pickguard*
> *...string downholders...*

"3-ply pickguard" and "String Trees" are what those are better called (well if you're searching for them on eBay anyway...)

natthu

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **natthu** » 05 Jan 2012, 12:58

> *strangekomet wrote:*
> *...3 ply mother of toilet seat pick guard ( )*

Oh... you're one of *those* people...

natthu

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **strangekomet** » 05 Jan 2012, 13:08

oh yes... tastlessness has a taste all of it's own.

strangekomet

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **Zerksies** » 05 Jan 2012, 13:27

It would probably be a Stratocaster with double string Tees.
With a blocked Bridge.
Compound radius fret board from 7 1/4-12"
rose wood neck
Tusq nut
graph tech saddle
Fender Texas special pickups

Zerksies

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **Pepe** » 05 Jan 2012, 13:35

> *natthu wrote:*
> *Sounds awesome Pepe! The "Pepecaster" I really like hardtail Strats... I saw a nice vintage one in my local vintage guitar shop last week for a mere $4500.... ouch.*
>
> *So would the signature on the headstock be "Pepe"?* 😉
>
> *Oh... and you're allowed to be boring and like a black and white guitar... that's why they make black and white guitars!*
>
> *"3-ply pickguard" and "String Trees" are what those are better called (well if you're searching for them on eBay anyway...)* 😉

Signature on the headstock's back. But a signature isn't really necessary. I will have this guitar one day, I'm pretty sure! I just have to save a ton of money and get settled with Fender and Seymour Duncan.

"String trees", okay! I couldn't find a proper translation for *Saitenniederhalter* and Google came up with lots of entrys with "string downholder".
"3-ply"... I must keep that in mind as well. What about "3-coat"?

Pepe

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **Tenebrous** » 05 Jan 2012, 13:37

Would be a Blonde, Blackguard Telecaster custom. I'm hoping to get a local builder to make one to my EXACT specifications, as I do want a few electrical extras...

- Standard Telecaster Shape
- Hardrock Maple Neck (25 1/2)
- Maple Fingerboard
- Perhaps a Swamp Ash body...
- Parallel/Series switching
- P90 in the neck, Standard tele pickup in the bridge (I REALLY like the sound of the Bareknuckle Flat 50 bridge pickup)
- 3 Control knobs. One for volume and an invidiual tone knob for each pickup

Like I said, I have a highly regarded luthier a few miles away from me... So when I can, I'd love to get a guitar like this put together

Tenebrous

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **natthu** » 05 Jan 2012, 14:10

> *Zerksies wrote:*
> *...Fender Texas special pickups*

I thoroughly approve of these pickups. The only reason I still have my strat is because it has these and they sound awesome...

natthu

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **natthu** » 05 Jan 2012, 14:23

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *"String trees", okay! I couldn't find a proper translation for Saitenniederhalter and Google came up with lots of entrys with "string downholder".*
> *"3-ply"... I must keep that in mind as well. What about "3-coat"?*

When I first started building partscasters I had a lot of problems figuring out what some of the parts are called...
It took me a week to figure out that the bits you attach your strap to are called "Strap Buttons"
There's a lot of wierd little differences (more than you'd think) between American English (which most guitar stuff is written in) and Strine (Australian English).... it makes the hunt for parts a little more interesting!

"3-coat" would relate more to something like the guitar's finish (ie paint or the Nitro or Poly laquer)
For instance "Thin Coat" is a term used to describe those Fenders (and probably other brands) which have had minimal laquer applied.... people like them because they relic very quickly with normal use....

natthu

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **natthu** » 05 Jan 2012, 14:27

> *Tene wrote:*
> *- 3 Control knobs. One for volume and an invidiual tone knob for each pickup*

All on a standard Tele control plate?... It could be done easily, but would you find it crowded?
It would be a bit like the new Kurt Cobain Jag which has an extra knob...

I think DasBeef(?) has a Tele with an extended control plate... Looked crazy!

natthu

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **Laurie** » 05 Jan 2012, 15:22

I'd want two - one of them is easy, and it's already been done. An Eric Johnson strat. I'd change my black one on a 3-tone burst if I could, but that's the only change I'd make.

The other one... would probably be a hard-tail strat with HSH pickups (or H-H). Pobably Duncan's? And wiring like a Paul. I like the Paul sound but much prefer the strat feel.

Laurie

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **Tenebrous** » 05 Jan 2012, 16:05

> *natthu wrote:*

> *All on a standard Tele control plate?... It could be done easily, but would you find it crowded?*
> *It would be a bit like the new Kurt Cobain Jag which has an extra knob...*
>
> *I think DasBeef(?) has a Tele with an extended control plate... Looked crazy!*

I'd have the second one closer to the current tone knob, just so I have enough room to volume swell freely like this or something...

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Tenebrous

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **Franzoni** » 05 Jan 2012, 20:52

As much as i love the Stratocaster i think i would try something a bit different if i had the chance....

Probably go for the Coronado shape the same as my '67 and especially the bound neck with the inlays....I would get them to put a solid centre block into it the same as the 335 and some better and slightly more powerful pickups..not humbuckers but P-90 type ones with ajustable height like on a 335 and to finish it off i would stick a Bigsby on it.....

Franzoni

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **Tenebrous** » 06 Jan 2012, 17:43

Would it be wrong to have a G&L Strat tremolo system on a Telecaster?

Tenebrous

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **natthu** » 06 Jan 2012, 21:43

Definitely not wrong if it were *your* signature guitar...

The Fender Marcus Miller J Bass has a bunch of Sadowsky circuitry, so I don't see why you couldn't bring another company into the mix...

natthu

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **natthu** » 06 Jan 2012, 21:49

> *Laurie wrote:*
> *....I like the Paul sound but much prefer the strat feel.*

Same (except I like Teles instead of Strats).... One of the reasons I've sold my LP is because I've managed to build a Tele that sounds 'close enough' to it....
Ever since I saw Stone Gossard (Pearl Jam) using an LP I have loved the look and sound of them. Unfortunately because they are ridiculously expensive, I had never actually owned one until recently.
In the meantime I'd played a lot of Fenders and gotten used to them, so the LP always felt foreign to me. I just find them hugely uncomfortable to play.

If I'd started on an LP I'd probably be fine with them.

natthu

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **strangekomet** » 06 Jan 2012, 22:57

> *Franzoni wrote:*
> *As much as i love the Stratocaster i think i would try something a bit different if i had the chance....*
>
> *Probably go for the Coronado shape the same as my '67 and especially the bound neck with the inlays....I would get them to put a solid centre block into it the same as the 335 and some better and slightly more powerful pickups..not humbuckers but P-90 type ones with ajustable height like on a 335 and to finish it off i would stick a Bigsby on it.....*

now that would be interesting

strangekomet

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **Franzoni** » 07 Jan 2012, 06:59

I've been tempted to do this to my original '67 but when it came down to it i bottled out.....although you never know.... :twisted: ..it's really the thought of wiring the pickups that puts me off....any electricial work on this style of a guitar is a real pain in the arse..everything has to come out through the F holes....instead of a centre block i would stuff it full of some sort of padding or you can get feedback busters for the F holes now.....

Franzoni

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **Laurie** » 07 Jan 2012, 07:06

> *natthu wrote:*
> *the LP always felt foreign to me. I just find them hugely uncomfortable to play.*

You had a custom though IRRC? They are really bad with that rear binding. My traditional is "OK"...

Laurie

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **natthu** » 07 Jan 2012, 08:03

I have no idea what IRRC means... but it wasn't the binding, I find the no-frills studio LPs awkward aswell...
I think it was the overall shape and balance (or lack of balance) that made the guitar uncomfortable for me.
I prefer the usual Fender flat Plank guitar feel over the shaped and bent feel of the Gibson.
I also did not like the short scale.... sure it wasn't much different to a Fender... but hey, I have the same problem with my Jag - I should have bought the JM back when I got that instead.
I am over my Duo Sonic aswell. It's really cool and sounds ace but it's just tiny.

I'm sure it's just that I got used to Fenders first and now I'm cranky and fussy.... I don't think there's anything intrinsically wrong with Gibsons...

natthu

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **Franzoni** » 07 Jan 2012, 13:26

I think some players struggle with the switch between Gibsons and Fenders,as Natthu points out the scale length and the balance can all be off putting also i know quite a few players who find some guitars like Gibsons just too 'Bling'.....i know i struggled for a long time with the Yamaha over all these reasons and still do sometimes but i'm glad i kept one guitar thats not all Fender or a Fender like...one simple thing that sorted out the balance issue for me was to move the strap button to the upper cutaway away from the heel of the neck.....i also had a long term loan of a original Les Paul Deluxe for nearly a year when i was in my late teens from a old neighbour who played as well and used to show me some stuff on the guitar...(the reason i came across a lot of this stuff in early years was he was well known in the biz and did a bit of wheeling and dealing on guitars n amps....still does AFAIK.|)..now that was one beautiful Les Paul and i cried when i found out he had swapped it for a 70's tele without giving me the chance to buy it.....he also had a 335 that i hated ..sorta like the no frills LP that Gibson make that was just horrible...then i played anther one that came his way...a beautiful natural 335 with the binding and that big fat Gibson sound but didn't have the dough... ....i also played a 62 strat with a neck like a baseball bat that i wouldn't of been able to get on with and a original 60's Jag the i found the neck to be way too narrow at the nut.... ....when i think about the amount of Guitars that went through my hands ...and most of them originals.....

I find what type of music i'm listening to can dictate what guitar i pick up..if i'm listening to Rory or Gilmour i reach for the Strat or the Tele but if i'm listening to Robben Ford or post Straits Knopfler,Bonamassa,Angus..etc.... i reach for the Yamaha.....really happy i held onto this one.....

Franzoni

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **Tenebrous** » 07 Jan 2012, 14:52

Going from a Fender to PRS scale length was hard enough for me Took a while... Worth it though

Whatya think of Tokai guitars Franz? I know Knopfler plays one now and then. Their Jap models are meant to be the business

Tenebrous

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **Laurie** » 07 Jan 2012, 15:46

> *natthu wrote:*
> *I have no idea what IRRC means...*

Don't be cute... IIRC, you used to be able to read "typo"

Laurie

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **natthu** » 07 Jan 2012, 15:53

Okay, now I see.... "If I Recall Correctly"... yeah, I know that one....

I though 'IRRC' was some sort of specification pertaining to LPs.... I'm having a daft day

natthu

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **jungleboy867** » 08 Jan 2012, 17:14

I don't know exactly how it would look, but I can picture so easily how it would sound.....

Some epic Hyrid of an Ibanez Jem and a Gibson Les Paul. Probably the neck of the Jem with a larger Les Paulish body.

Think of the SUSTAAA

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **Franzoni** » 09 Jan 2012, 13:53

> *Tene wrote:*
> *Going from a Fender to PRS scale length was hard enough for me Took a while... Worth it though*
>
> *Whatya think of Tokai guitars Franz? I know Knopfler plays one now and then. Their Jap models are meant to be the business*

Not sure about the newer stuff but their Les Paul and Strat copies back in the 80's scared the shit out of Fender and Gibson.....never knew that about Knopfler either..i know he played Schecters for a few years in the 80's

I was in a bar in town once where the walls were decorated with guitars most of them cheapos and one of them was a Tokai Strat...i tried to see if they would be willing to swap but the manager wasn't there at the time and i never bothered going back....

Another make to watch out for is Tama who make drums...they made acoustics for a while back in the 80's that are supposed to be real good quality stuff if you come across one.....i think the basically copied Martin designs and used some good quality woods and put them together very well....

Franzoni

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **Dirk** » 11 Jan 2012, 22:32

So they made guitar bodies from leftover kick drum kettles..?

Dirk

Re: What would your signature guitar be?

by **57stratocaster** » 12 Jan 2012, 01:50

the fender/squier cyclone would be mine

57stratocaster