## 70's Strats and other 70's guitars..

by **Franzoni** » 06 Jun 2015, 18:10

I've noticed some big prices here creeping up on a lot of these guitars... i got a call from a guy last week about a possible trade for one of my guitars for one of his...when i went over he had a 70's strat and a 70's Gibson LP deluxe both had been heavily modded.. and a mid 80's Yamaha MSG that he was working on but unfortunately wasn't playable at the time....

The Strat was a bad as i remembered them to be the neck overhung the body by at least 5-10mm on the lower bout...even with newer Fender pickups it had no body in the sound...the Lester was ok to a point but i've played better ones....i actually had both of these models back in the 80's so i had a fair idea on how they should sound and play and these two just weren't good ones....

The Strat had a price tag of €1k bout i've seen them priced as much as €1700-1900 and the Lester was i think he paid about €1400 but i've seen the deluxe model going for as much as €2500....

I reckon (and i'll admit to being biased here as a owner of an all original 1981 Yamaha SG 2000s) that the MSG he had if it had strings and the trem unit on it would of blown both of them out of the water...just becase something is old doesn't mean it's good or it will sound great..

It would seem the late Les Pauls assertion that "people hear with their eyes" still rings true..... .....

Franzoni

## Re: 70's Strats and other 70's guitars..

by **fuzzbuzzfuzz** » 07 Jun 2015, 06:16

Interesting observations. Seventies seems rather hit and miss. I confess that as far as LPs go I'm at a loss with finding a good one, I guess ittakes time. On the other hand I played a friends 70s strat in my teens and can't find another like it or at least as I remember, unplugged it rang and rang.

fuzzbuzzfuzz

## Re: 70's Strats and other 70's guitars..

by **Dirk** » 07 Jun 2015, 09:35

But doesn't that hold true for all decades?
I'm pretty sure a lot of crappy stuff was made in the 80's, 90's and past 15 years as well...?

Every good musician looking for a new instrument knows he/she should test it before buying.
If someone is willing to pay top dollar for a display instrument, who cares? Right?

Dirk

**Re: 70's Strats and other 70's guitars..**

by **Franzoni** » 07 Jun 2015, 17:37

> *fuzzbuzzfuzz wrote:*
> *Interesting observations. Seventies seems rather hit and miss. I confess that as far as LPs go I'm at a loss with finding a good one, I guess ittakes time. On the other hand I played a friends 70s strat in my teens and can't find another like it or at least as I remember, unplugged it rang and rang.*

Yeah i had a 70's strat with a dimarzio in the bridge for a while in the mid 80's and it was pretty good..i also played a friends 70's tele and had his LP deluxe for about a year and both were excellent but he is a lot older than me and has a great eye for guitars and i learned a lot off him and what to look out for.....i think the teles seemed to have survived the worst of the CBS era in Fender with the least amount of meddling....

> *Dirk wrote:*
> *But doesn't that hold true for all decades?*
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>
> *Every good musician looking for a new instrument knows he/she should test it before buying.*
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Also true Bro...the difference between players and collectors.. ..it's some of the kids i feel sorry for a lot of them just see old guitars and think it's a must have as it has the mojo factor.. ..i have two old jap squiers a strat and a tele that have more going one for them than a lot of guitars i've tried and are really great for the money.. as far as i know at the time Fender gave the japanese operation all the original blueprints from the 50's and the 60's and some of the real early ones have US pickups and hardware...i've also heard good things about those classic vibe strats and teles Squier are making now...

Still and all i've tried and played many guitars over the years and for a neck to be so out of alignment in the neck pocket on a guitar with a €1000 price tag is pretty shocking..the fact that Fender let guitars like this leave their factory is even more shocking as i'd imagine back in the 70's these guitars in Europe were fairly pricey compared to the USA..... ....

Franzoni

**Re: 70's Strats and other 70's guitars..**

by **The_Doc** » 07 Jun 2015, 22:10

For what it's worth...I feel I should chip in here.

Many months back my local music shop called me in because they had a mint in case 70's Strat and thought I might be interested in it. This guitar was the mintest piece of cr*p I have ever played. Sounded dead and played like a cheap banjo This guitar had sat under a bed, in it's case since new and had all of the original case candy. The lack of playing was certainly part of the reason why it was so bad but even with plenty of expert attention I

don't think it would ever be as good as any strat produced today.

For the record it had a three screw neck plate, big headstock, a tacky maple neck and a heavily laquered nartural wood body. I do know that somebody did buy it a few days later.

Age isn't everything ... as Mrs_The_Doc keeps reminding me

The_Doc

**Re: 70's Strats and other 70's guitars..**

by **Franzoni** » 07 Jun 2015, 22:32

Howya Doc...

Yeah that was my experience as well....to add insult to injury the strat i looked at didn't even have the original hardware or pickups...!

I read somewhere that a lot of the 70's strats were made out of two different types of Ash..... the lighter ones are supposed to be swamp ash and the heavier ones some sort of northern ash that some people think results in the dead sounding guitars you mentioned...

I remember another guitar player showing me his 70's strat years ago,a black one so i couldn't see what the wood was and it was so light we all thought it had to be a ringer...the one i played the other day was fairly heavy....

Franzoni

**Re: 70's Strats and other 70's guitars..**

by **The_Doc** » 10 Jun 2015, 11:22

Hi Franz.

That stacks up because that strat was as heavy as hell

I was warned that some of them from that era are poor guitars but I never thought it would be that bad. A very good friend of mine bought a similar strat from new (probably around 1973) and his is fine tone wise although it's a bit of a beast to play. I'm sure his has the lighter natural wood body - most likely the swamp ash you mention. I'm going to ask him the next time we meet up.

Just to reassure myself I played my 1978 LP Goldtop yesterday and that one is now starting to mature. It still plays like it did from new but I'm convinced that the tone has got more mellow and fatter over the years. That one weights a ton

The_Doc

**Re: 70's Strats and other 70's guitars..**

by **Pieces Of The Night** » 10 Jun 2015, 18:58

Part of the problem with guitars from the 70's is the woods they used. Manufacturers and players thought the heavier the wood the better the tone and sustain which is why they were building guitars out of things like walnut,oak,rosewood,heavy ash etc. They also didn't take the time to properly dry the wood. Add those factors into the heavy finishes they used is why most guitars from that era are junk. It's one of the reasons PRS became so successful in the early 80's. He went back and looked at guitars from the 50's and realized that the wood was for the most part light and he adopted that in his guitars and that's what made him stand out. Also let's be honest guitars like this are butt ugly:

Pieces Of The Night

**Re: 70's Strats and other 70's guitars..**

by **visserman** » 22 Jun 2015, 16:34

Your views Franz and the 70s Strats, they seem to be common, but I do not agree:

I would say 70s Strats have their own feel and sound, it really is true, check out the recordings of bands and then play some of them for yourself.
Fender and Strat are notorious for making changes and then there are the odd changes which you may not see on all Strats of that period.

I have a 76 which is very light in weight, most of the ones I have come across are heavy. The sound of them is honky and the pick-ups are weaker compared to a 60s, 50s or 80s and 90s one.
The workmanship can be bad, I have mentioned before about the finish: You will be able to rub it off in certain places, because the undercoat is thin, or maybe not even there, in other areas the finish is normal.

The neck does have marks in the wood, good quality checks would have refused that neck, but they needed the guitars so it went through. Some people look at the neck and think it is worn from heavy playing, but when you look close you will see it is the wood, as the finish is not worn in those places.

Okay, something you mentioned about weight behind the sound, well this will depend on the particular guitar.

I think you need to check them out if you are interested. I come to the belief that a 70s Strat is not too far off from a 60s or even 50s one. The look may be different, the sound a little weaker but the feel is still PRIMATIVE.
Modern Strats have a DELUXE feel, nice but the old ones did not have that, they are guitars you need to work to get them to sound as they do. Well those 70s ones are just like that, so for that reason some people may rate them.

About other 70s guitars: I have an Ibanez of this Series, just have a look

http://s93105080.onlinehome.us/Ibanez-C ... 8-1/06.jpg

Now these were budget guitars for the day, but boy are they good, they have a what I call "Deluxe" feel, they sound very good. Next to the Les Paul, they are a little less detailed in sound, but very good. So this is the other 70s opinion: The Japanese Copies were very good, they have been going up in price as well, but some models are not that popular and therefore a bit cheaper

It is interesting that they had an eye for detail, just have a look at that bridge: They hold their tuning very well.
I had to change the pots on the Ibanez, on the Strat on the other hand, everything is still original and the pots do not scratch! CBS knew what kind of pots would stand the test of time eh?!

I am not sure about the tone and it maturing over the years, I think that idea is in people's head, you need to play the guitar, make love to it and just work it like anything else.

The idea of playing the guitar in is true I believe, but again , that is you as a person, so anything which do not have the feel yet, will be able to feel better over time because you will wear it in. Give it a couple of fretdresses, now that will wear the frets down and give it a different feel.

visserman