

# Music **news** & **notes**

## Be Your Own Rock Star: How To Choose An Electric Guitar

(NAPSA)—We can't all be rock stars, yet playing electric guitar can make you feel like one. Ready to switch from the Guitar Hero video game to the real thing? Stop dreaming and start playing with these tips to help you choose the right electric guitar:

- Look to your own guitar heroes. Whether it's rocker Steve Vai or legend Carlos Santana, find out what your favorite artists play. Check out artist Web sites, music videos, CD sleeve notes and magazines such as *Guitar Player* to find out the types of instruments used to play the music you like.

- Buy the highest-quality instrument you can afford. Thanks to modern production techniques, you don't have to break the bank to own a highly playable electric guitar. Lower-cost instruments let you give guitar a try without a huge investment.

- Try it out. Look for a company with a generous satisfaction guarantee that allows you to play your new guitar in your garage or even on stage to make sure it's right for you. Online music provider Musician's Friend offers a 45-day satisfaction guarantee that lets you return your guitar for a full refund or exchange within 45 days of purchase.

Here are three top picks for "starter" guitars that rock, from the experts at Musician's Friend:

1. The Dean Vendetta XM Electric Guitar (\$119.99) has a stylish lightweight string-through body with incredible resonance. Featuring dual humbuckers and a rosewood fretboard on a maple



**Modern production offers aspiring musicians several options for starting out on the electric guitar.**

neck with 24-fret access, this guitar produces exceptional sound quality at a very low price.

2. For under \$200, the Epiphone Les Paul Special II Player Pack (\$199.99) gives a musician everything necessary to start playing right out of the box. The Epiphone Les Paul Special II is made with a mahogany neck, basswood body, smooth 22-fret rosewood fingerboard, dot inlays and chrome hardware. Dual humbuckers deliver long, singing sustain and true LP tones. The package also includes an Epiphone Studio 10 amplifier with 10W power through an 8" Electra Labs speaker; gig bag; instructional video; quartz tuner; plus a strap, cable and picks.

3. The Fender Standard Stratocaster Electric Guitar (\$399.99) gives you a legendary guitar design at a price real people can afford. Almost every notable rock guitarist has used a Fender Stratocaster, from Buddy Holly to Jimi Hendrix to John Frusciante.

For more tips and guitar models, check out the Musician's Friend's Electric Guitar Buying Guide at <http://www.musiciansfriend.com/electric> or call 1-800-391-8762.