

the guitars friend

A COMPLETELY
ILLUSTRATED
CATALOG OF
MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS

SUPPLIES
PARTS
ACCESSORIES
AND BOOKS
INCLUDING

EVALUATIONS
OF THE BEST
IN ELECTRIC
AND ACOUSTIC
GUITARS

BANJOS
DULCIMERS
MANDOLINS
FIDDLES
RECORDERS

FLUTES
HARMONICAS
CONCERTINAS
DRUMS
AND MORE.





The mail order Guitars Friend grew out of Music, Strings & Things, a music store in the Detroit area. A long-planned move to the country meant finding a way to earn a living not tied to the city.

At the time of the move a 20-page, typewritten, kwikie-press catalog was put together & with an announcement in Mother Earth News, The Guitars Friend was born.

The energy & timing must have been right. Both the business & the farm grew. Not at a spectacular, hot-house rate - just a steady natural growth with its share of hard times & troubles.

The second catalog started with the first garden at the farm. The farm became its inspiration & it became a reflection of the farm & of our dreams. It also reflected growing experience with more information & new stock.

By the first revision of this catalog there was a print shop on the farm & the catalog was completely homegrown - writing, lettering, art, photography, printing. Our "customers" reacted like our friends & became one of our main sources for inspiration & information.



Electric Guitars
a new space

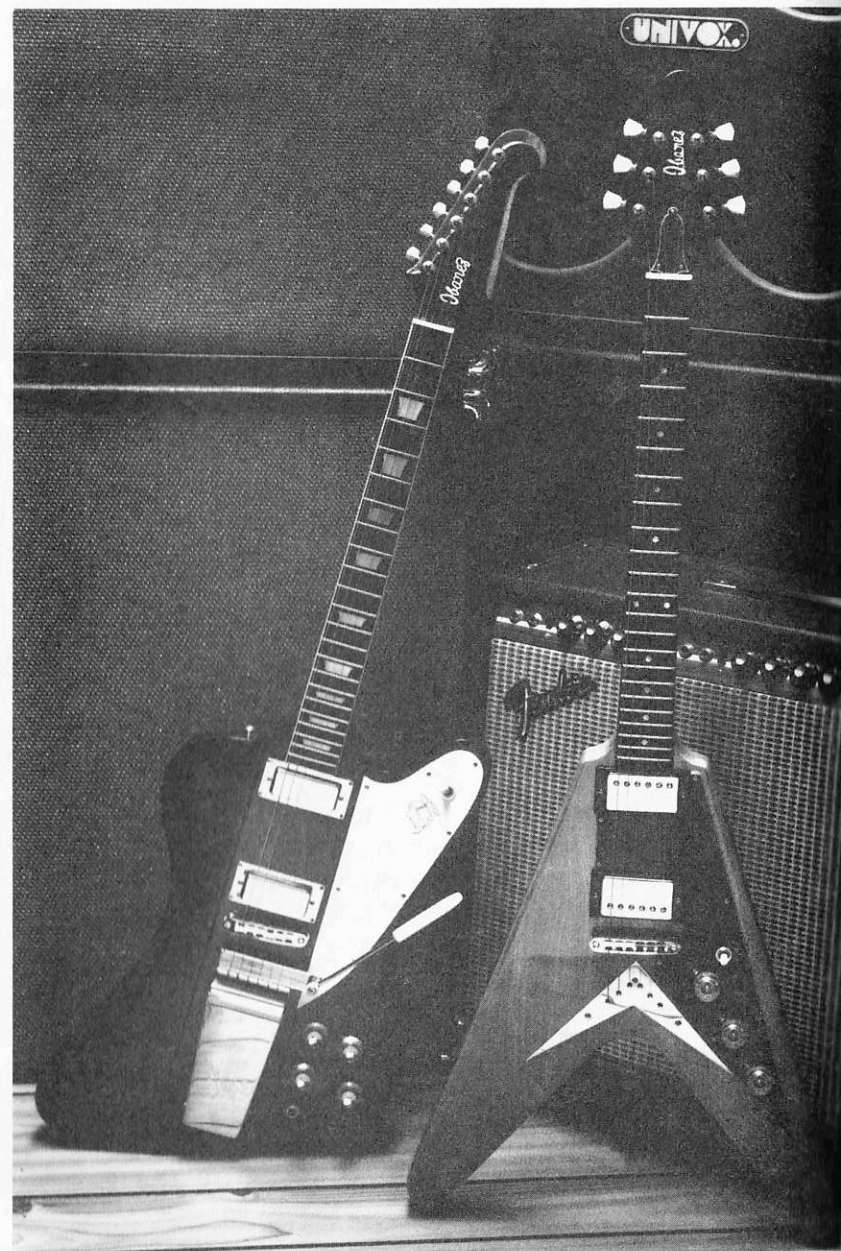
Ibanez

The Ibanez people must have a magic touch. It seems they can make a copy of almost any stringed instrument & make it as good but cheaper than the original. Their electrics are probably their best copies. The only complaint people seem to have is status-wise - that it is a Japanese copy. Once they get past their own ego & conditioning, they are amazed at the quality. Because of this quality Ibanez guitars are probably the best buy in the electric guitar scene.

We only list the ones we stock but we can get any model - there must be over 100 of them - usually in less than two weeks. So let us know.

FIREBRAND - copy of Firebird	\$425.00 ; case \$69.00
ROCKET ROLL - Flying V copy	\$395.00 ; case \$79.00
MOONLIGHT 54 - Les Paul copy	\$280.00 ; case \$59.00
F.M. JR. - Les Paul Jr copy	\$295.00 ; case \$59.00
HOWIE ROBERTS - H. Roberts copy	\$450.00 ; case \$65.00
RICK BASS - Rickenbacker copy	\$320.00 ; case \$69.00
OLD-STYLE STRAT - brown sunburst, maple neck	\$270.00 ; case \$55.00
STRATO MODEL , sunburst, maple fingerboard	\$270.00 ; case \$59.00
natural ash body	\$360.00 ; case \$55.00
natural finish	\$310.00 ; case \$55.00

Write if interested in any other model.



Firebrand Rocket Roll

Gibson

Gibson electric guitars are world famous. They still deserve this recognition & during the past year they have been improving their models. We list only the models we keep in stock. All of their other models can be ordered.

LES PAUL CUSTOM - \$740.00

LES PAUL DELUXE - \$598.00

ES 335 - \$629.00

SG CUSTOM - \$710.00

SG STANDARD - \$498.00

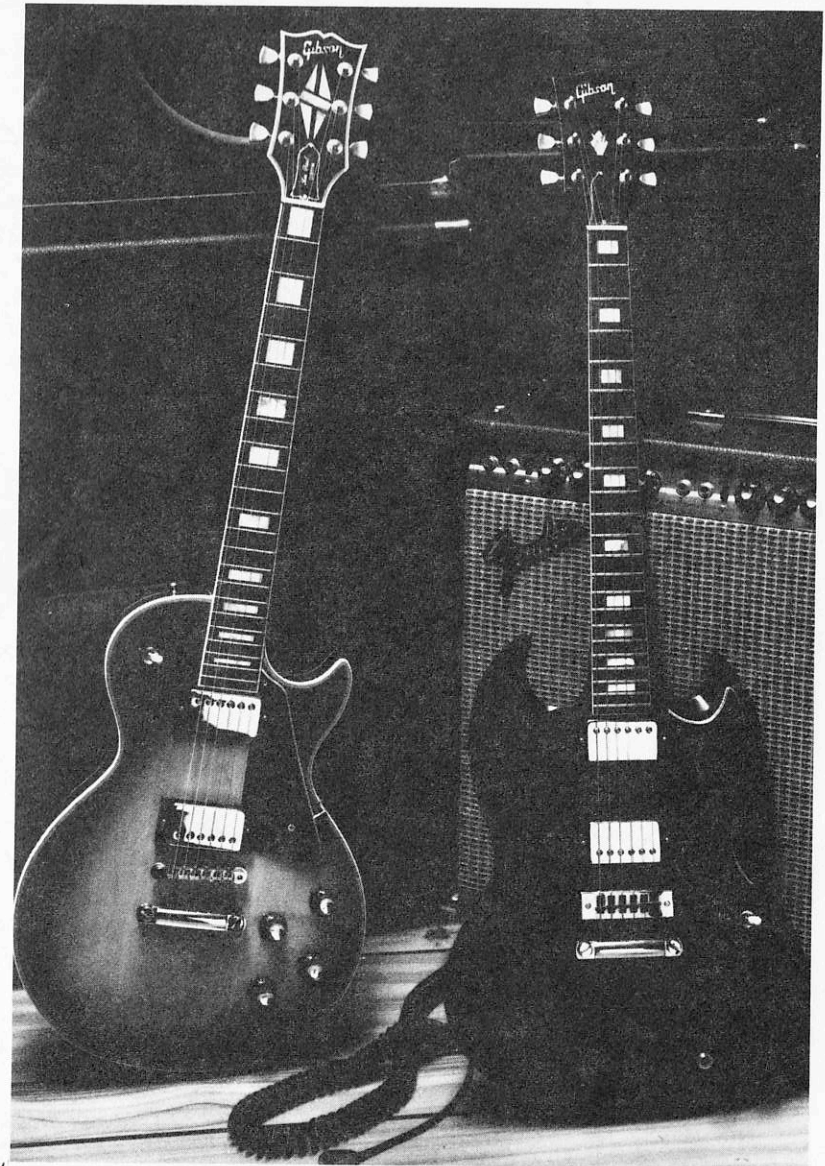
L6S - a new Gibson, has super humbucking pickups which are built with ceramic magnets rather than the usual alnico, which gives it a greater high & low response. It has 24 frets 6 position selector switch & midrange as well as treble control. a very good guitar at a good price \$498.00

CASES - for all of above \$95.00

RIPPER BASS - \$469.00; case \$110.00

GRABBER BASS - \$330.00; case \$75.00

We don't say much about them. They are well known. If you want specific information on any model, get in touch.



Les Paul

SG

Fender

When we arrive at Fender we've reached the model-T of the guitar world. Designed with the idea of easy reproduction without loss of quality, the Fender guitars first appeared in the 50's. They have since become an industry standard. The Precision Bass - the first fretted bass to allow one to play with "precision" is probably well known to most bass players. Virtually indestructible, Fenders combine a clean sound with low price.

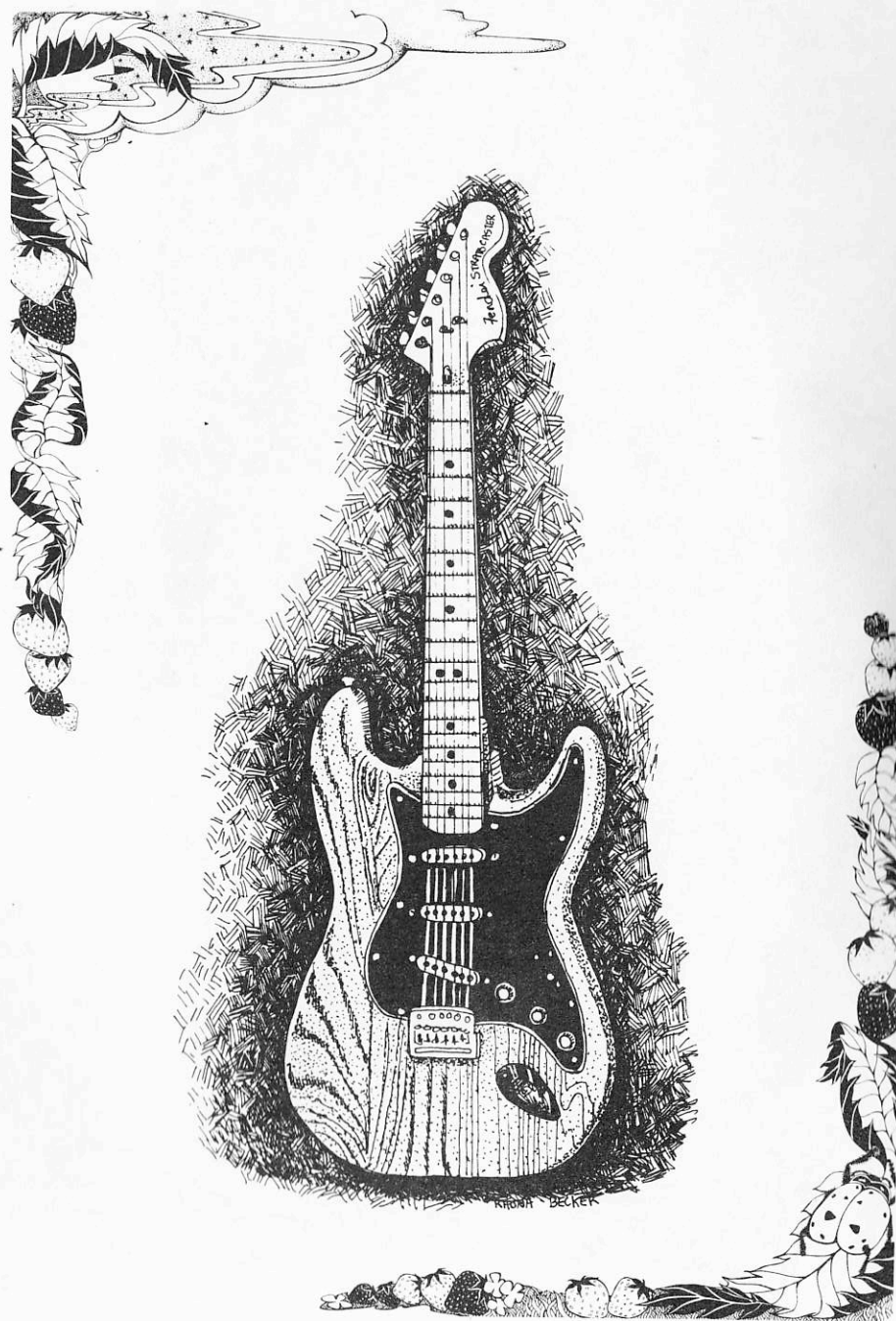
Their guitar models line up as follows:

STRATOCASTER - Has 3 pick-ups which makes for a unique sound. As Jimi Hendrix noted, it has the best vibrato arm on the market, but can be ordered without for those with tuning problems. It has a clean sound with lots of treble & its lower output allows for a smooth sustain at overdrive levels. The solid maple neck with finished fretboard is currently the most popular but the unfinished rosewood fingerboard is also available.

TELECASTER - It has a sharper sound, 2 pickups, & the same neck options as above but no vibrato arm. There are several models available with different pickups, controls & even a semi-hollow body. The Telecustom seems to be the most versatile, because of its combination of a humbucking rhythm pickup with the standard tele lead pickup. However, the standard Tele is the most popular.

MUSTANG - Fender's economy model with 2 pickups, a vibrato arm & a 3/4 size string length.

PRECISION BASS - The first electric bass (reverential pause) is also available fretless for greater control over note articulation. It has a single split pickup, a volume & tone control & you can't get much simpler than that.



JAZZ BASS - 2 pickups, 2 volume controls & a tone control.
It is not as popular as the Precision, but it does allow for a larger variation in tone.

MUSTANG BASS - the economy model with one pickup, a volume & tone control & a 3/4 size neck. A good bass to start on because untrained hands can easily span the frets. Like all Fenders, if you cook it at 400°, it will come up smelling like a polyurethane rose.

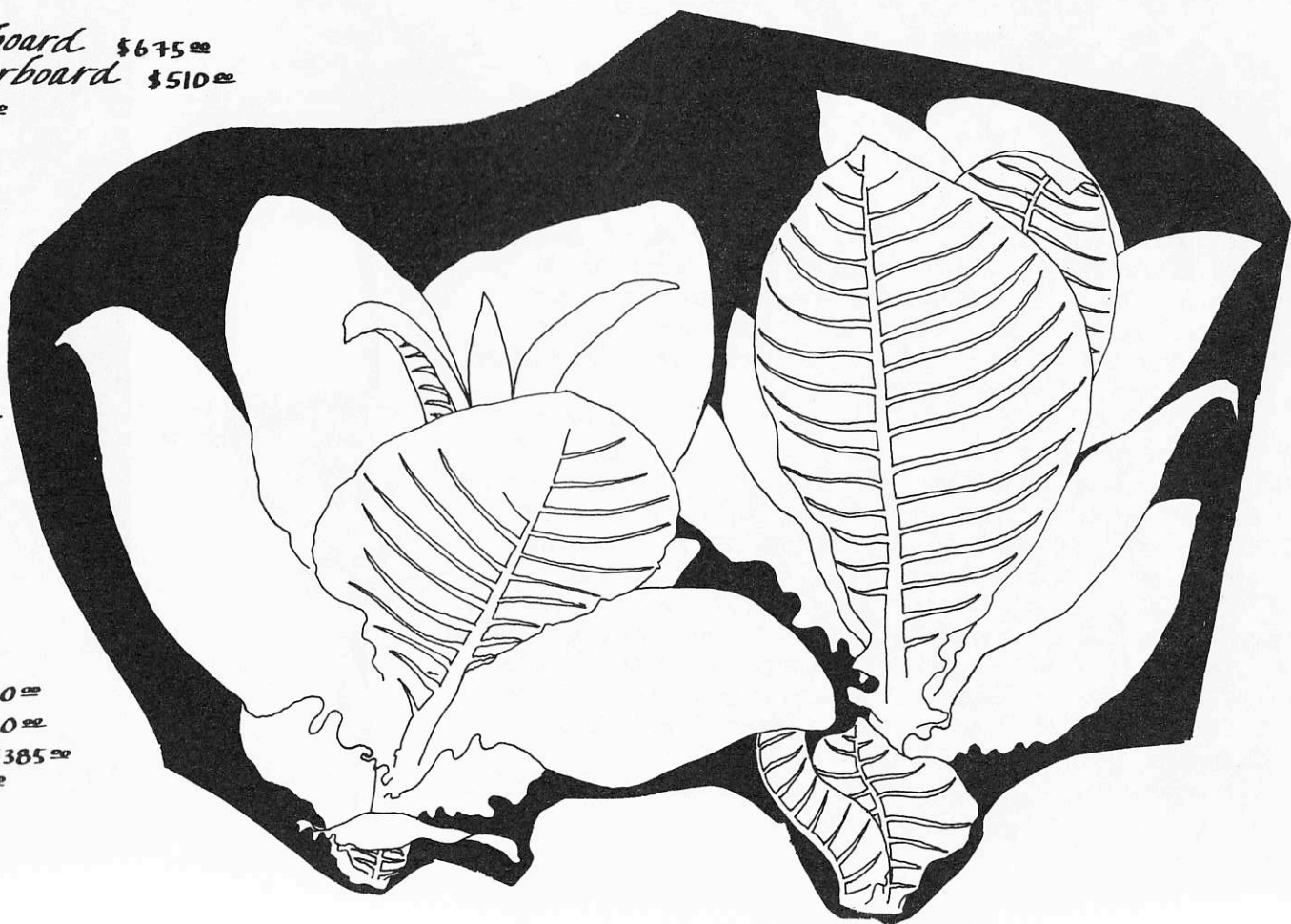
STAR CASTER - maple fingerboard \$675⁰⁰
JAZZ MASTER - rosewood fingerboard \$510⁰⁰
STRATOCASTER - rosewood \$440⁰⁰
STRATOCASTER - maple \$475⁰⁰

MUSTANG - maple \$295⁰⁰
MUSTANG - rosewood \$260⁰⁰
BRONCO - rosewood \$205⁰⁰
MUSIC MASTER - rosewood \$190⁰⁰

TELECASTER DELUXE - maple \$470⁰⁰
TELECASTER CUSTOM - maple \$420⁰⁰
TELECASTER CUSTOM - rosewood \$385⁰⁰
TELECASTER - rosewood \$350⁰⁰
TELECASTER - maple \$385⁰⁰

hard shell case \$70⁰⁰

JAZZ BASS - rosewood \$440⁰⁰
JAZZ BASS - maple \$475⁰⁰
PRECISION BASS - rosewood \$365⁰⁰
PRECISION BASS - maple \$400⁰⁰
PRECISION BASS - fretless, rosewood \$445⁰⁰
PRECISION BASS - fretless maple \$480⁰⁰
case \$80⁰⁰
MUSTANG BASS - rosewood \$280⁰⁰
MUSTANG BASS - maple \$315⁰⁰
case \$15⁰⁰



Rickenbacker

4001 BASS

- body - seasoned maple; nickel-plated hardware;
double cutaway for full fret access
- neck - laminated maple neck & head; dual truss rods
20 frets on a 33 1/2" scale; bound rosewood
fingerboard
- bridge - heavy duty combination bridge tail piece indivi-
dual string bridges for precise intonation,
adjustable mute
- pickups - 2 Rickenbacker ultra wide range
- controls - individual tone & volume for each
pickup; triple position pickup selector;
separate stereo & mono jacks

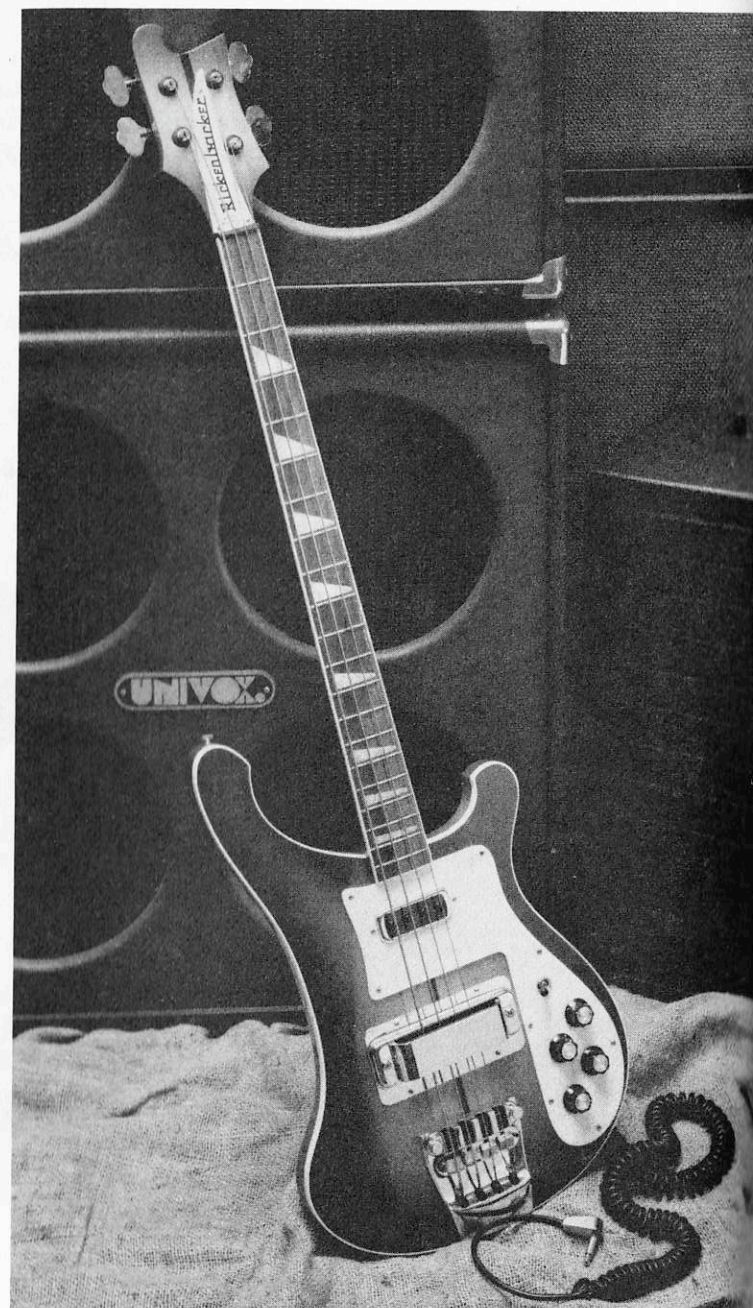
\$588⁰⁰; case \$61⁰⁰

We only list this one Rickenbacker bass, which seems to be their most popular one. Since it is stereo or mono it can be played out of one channel like any mono; or it can be played stereo out of 2 channels in one amp or out of two different amps.

It probably has the thinnest neck around which gives it a feeling lots of folks like, but it also gives it a weak neck. One of the major complaints is about its rubber neck, which sometimes needs constant adjustment. A finished fingerboard adds to the fast feel of the neck.

The pickups are single pole with low efficiency magnets. They produce the distinct sound which is the main reason people either like or dislike the Rickenbacker bass. It is a much more metallic & treble sound than any other bass. Very distinctive & effective for lots of music.

If interested in other Rickenbackers, let us know.



seagull

The Seagull is one of the "new" guitars being built in small shops with a lot more of the handcrafted touch. They are designed by Bernardo Rico, who also makes fine acoustic guitars.

The body design uses a one piece neck that runs the entire length of the body producing the strongest neck joint possible: not one at all. There is good access to all 24 frets, but the sculptured point on the top side has a tendency to dig into the player's sternum.

The ebony fingerboard is extremely wide & flat - which some players prefer. A Leo Quan combination bridge & tail piece make all adjustments easy. The pickups are Guild humbuckers.

The electronics allow for more different sounds than any other electric guitar except Alembic. It features:

- super boosted humbuckers
- three position toggle switch
- built in power boost
- six position varitone selector
- impedance selector to put coils in series for dirty sound or in parallel for clean.

\$500⁰⁰; case \$95⁰⁰



TRAVIS BEAN

Travis Bean - We have had four of them in stock so far. All have been superb. We have been in close contact with the people making them, out in California & they seem to be conscientious & caring in their work. They have just come out with some new models. Write if interested.

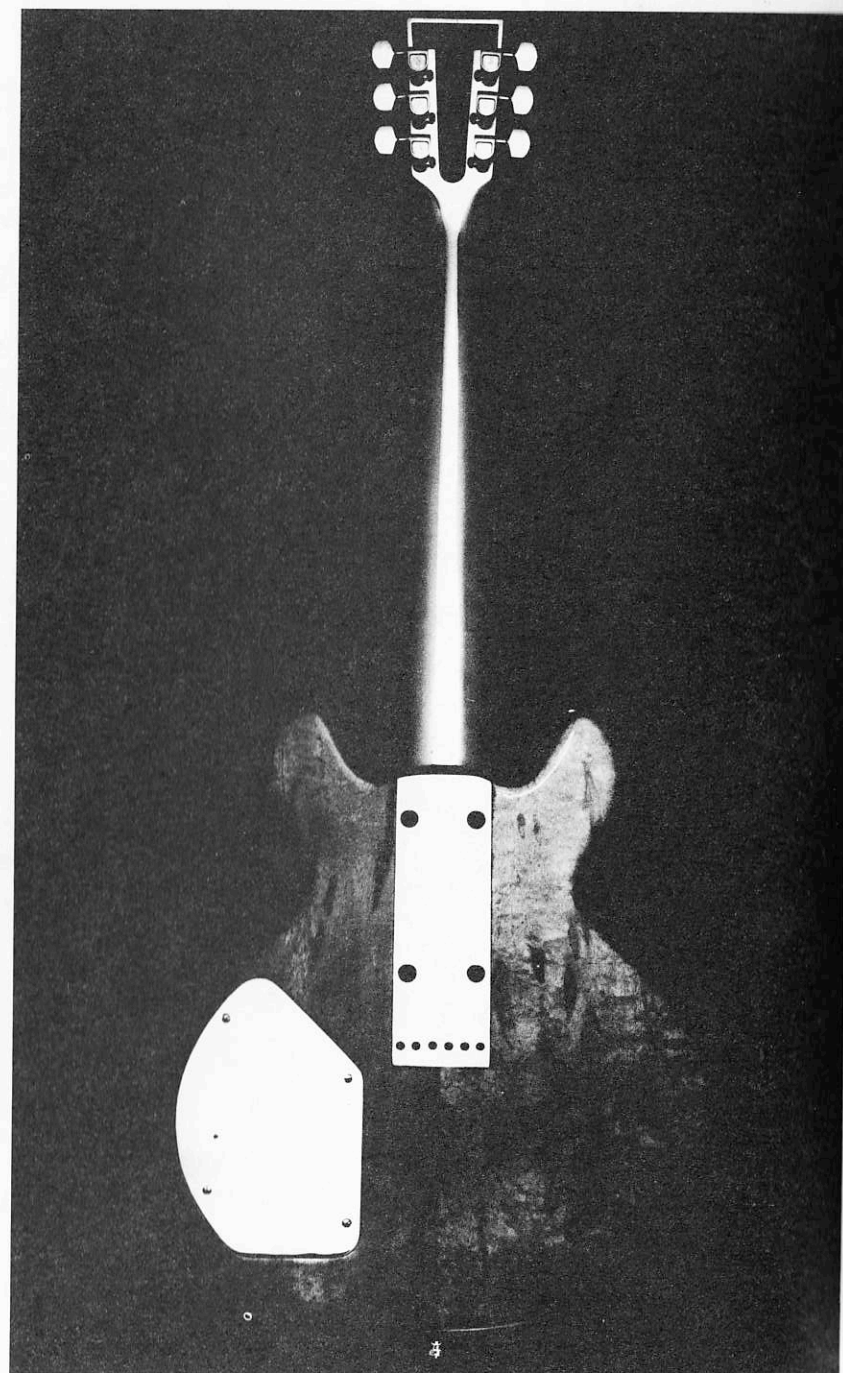
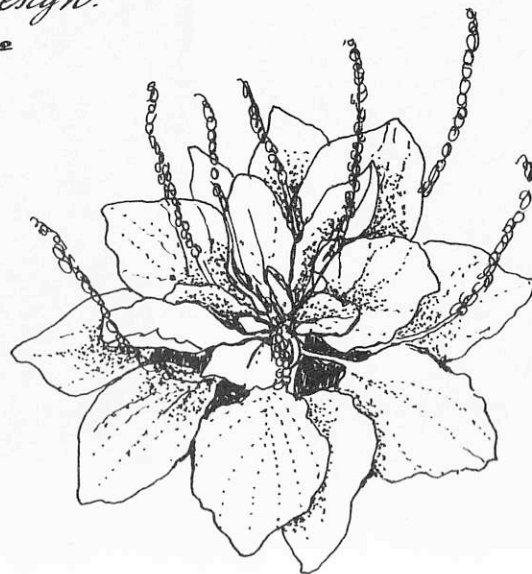
What they have done is make a 1 piece aluminum neck assembly which forms a solid metal link from machine heads to bridge. Since no vibration from the strings is lost, this allows for the longest sustain. Also the pickups are mounted directly on the neck assembly so that the signal generated by the string is reinforced by the vibration from the neck rather than isolated from it.

The sound has been described as a great Gibson-dirty. The body is koa wood with hand carved top & stainless steel pickguard & control cover plate. The neck has 22 jumbo silver frets on a rosewood or ebony fingerboard. The nut as well as the neck is made from Reynolds 6061-T6 aluminum. It has two high-gain humbucking design pickups utilizing 12 individual magnetic pole pieces in each & has an anti-feed back design.

TB1000 STANDARD \$595.00

TB1000 DELUXE \$895.00

CASE \$100.00



SUN RISE

Leo, who is in charge of the electric section at Strings & Things, feels that for the dollars, the Sun Rise is the best & most versatile electric guitar we have. Of course, the fact that he is good friends with the people who make them in Kalamazoo & that he worked there before coming to us might have something to do with his statement. He swears it doesn't & the Sun Rise deserves high praise.

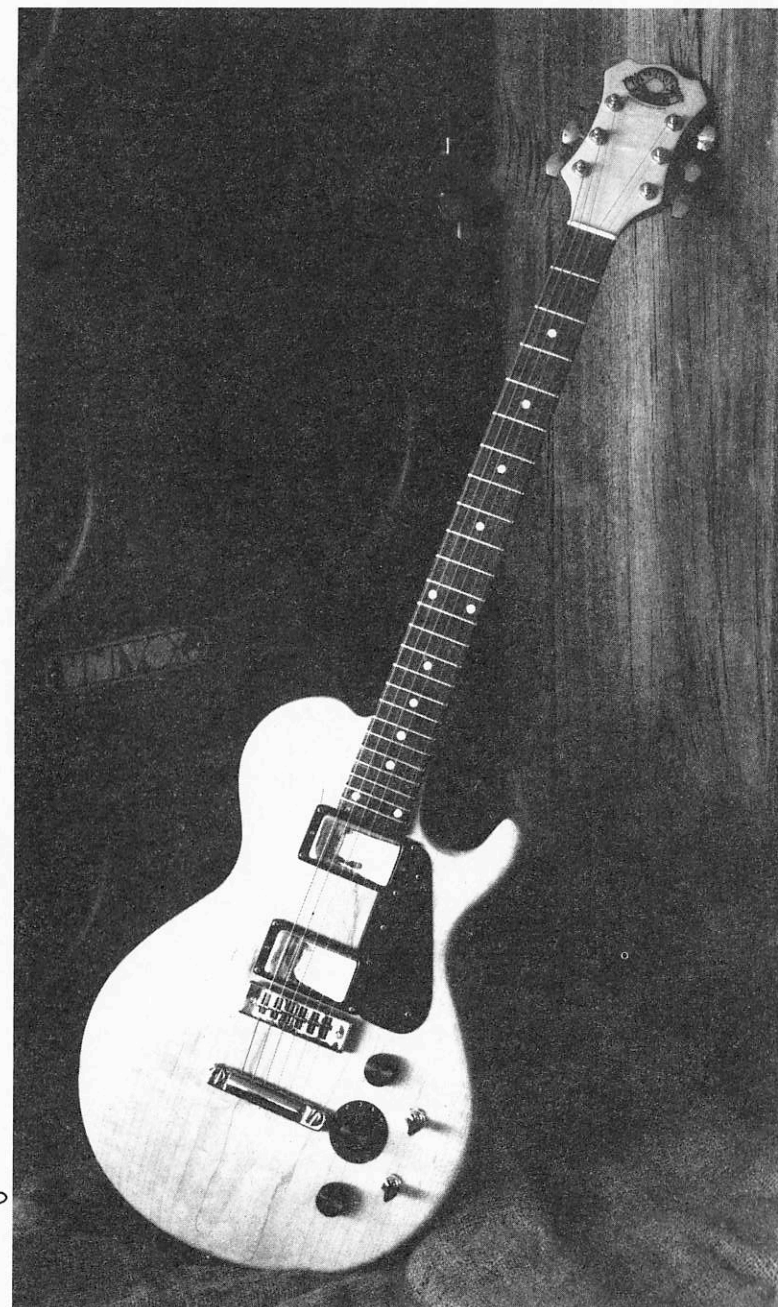
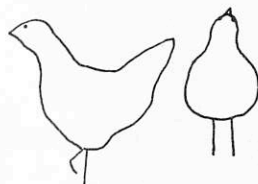
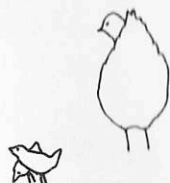
One of the most structurally sound guitars in production, it was designed with the professional road musician in mind. The neck has an aluminum T-bar running into the head. Thus if the guitar is dropped the head won't crack off.

It has a maple body & a 5-ply laminated neck of maple, walnut & rosewood with a 24 fret, rosewood fingerboard.

The pickups use ceramic magnets cast in epoxy to keep that whistle sound out. All pickups are totally shielded to keep the body from becoming microphonic. It is wired so that it is impossible for the player to get shocked or possibly electrocuted from his guitar.

It has two humbucking pickups; volume & tone controls; 5-way sound selector; two toggle switches & a 16-sound wiring harness for 16 distinct sound selections.

All in all, a very fine instrument \$720.00; case \$80.00



Alembic

What Alembic has done is to bring the electric guitar up to the level of modern day circuitry & electronics. It is probably one of the most incredible guitars ever made. To listen to a talented guitarist play one is truly an experience. Its one major drawback is its pricetag - which keeps it out of the hands of most musicians. Too bad.

neck - 5 piece laminate of maple & walnut which runs the full length of the body; stainless steel truss rod; 24 fret fingerboard

body - made in 2 sections - one on either side of the neck - from 3 piece laminated wood

nut - hand cut brass

tailpiece - brass

bridge - brass with stainless steel adjusting screws sitting on 1/2 lb. of brass which gives amazing sustain & helps achieve an even response at all registers.

pickups - have a very strong magnetic field. A monolithic ceramic magnet is used, achieving low distortion & excellent response. Coils are wound directly onto the magnets to epitomize frequency response. Hum canceler is used to eliminate hum through a differential pre-amp design. All components are shielded against electrostatic hum & buzz. The signal from each pickup goes into a FET input opamp preamp. In addition to normal volume controls, there are separate gain & hum balancing controls which can be screw-driver set for each pickup.

tone controls - continuously variable active low pass filters. A 3 position switch selects the resonant characteristics of the filters. This control system allows the Alembic to sound like any other guitar; 4 position rotary pickup selector switch; two output jacks; electronics are powered with either 2 9-volt batteries in the guitar or by an external 18-volt supply.



We stock Alembic long scale bass & guitar. Price includes cords, power supply & case \$1750⁰⁰

