



A Guild Guide

Guitar Woods

The woods that make up a guitar are the most important elements that define its sound, appearance, playability and ultimate value. This is most obvious with acoustic guitars, where volume and tonal qualities are the direct results of resonance within the wooden sound chamber, but it is no less true of electrics, whether hollow, semi-hollow or solidbody.

Tonewoods defined. Tonewoods can be defined as those woods which have been discovered to combine exceptional qualities of strength and resonance. Tonewoods are strong enough to withstand the tension of stringed instruments, and they resonate in such a way as to produce pleasant sound. The primary tonewoods used in Guild acoustic guitars are mahogany, maple and rosewood.

Different woods have different qualities of hardness or density. The harder the wood, the brighter the tone.

The Woods Used in Guild Guitars



Spruce. Used widely for acoustic guitar tops, spruce has unique qualities of strength and resonance at a low weight. The best-sounding spruce tops consist of straight, tight-grain slabs.

Mahogany. Used widely for sides and backs. Loud, mellow, emphasizes mid-range response. Used also for necks due to its strength and straight-grained properties.

Maple. Used widely for sides and back. Bright, brilliant, emphasizes a jazzy treble response.

Rosewood. Used widely for sides and backs. Loud, deep, smooth tone, emphasizes bass and treble. Also used for fingerboards and bridges.

Ebony. A rare, dark and elegant wood. Strong and striking. Used on high-end Guild guitars.

In the Guild line, there are models with many different combinations of woods and finishes, made to suit a wide variety of tastes. There are many professional and armchair opinions on which combinations make the best guitar, but when buying a guitar, you—the player—are the bottom line. Your guitar should feel and sound good to you.

To get a feel for guitar woods, it's best to compare the tone and feel of a D30 with maple back and sides to a DV52 with rosewood back and sides. Try a D4 with its mahogany sides. Try them all. 