

THE GUITAR OF YOUR DREAMS

By Rick Shaw



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Every guitar player dreams of someday owning the perfect guitar - an instrument with an impeccable combination of tone, playability and elegance. It's the reflection of your own personality, playing style and unique sound. That's why a truly custom guitar is designed and handcrafted for just one person - you. Your involvement in the creation of your guitar is crucial to ensuring that it is the perfect instrument for you.

The journey to designing the guitar of your dreams begins with your vision, whether you're looking for something completely unique or a more traditional style guitar. Next, choose a professional "Master Luthier" and share with him or her everything about your perfect guitar - the body, neck, woods and materials, colors and finishes, hardware, pickups and other electronic configurations. You ask questions and ideas are shared. You must be able to work closely with your luthier every step of the process in order to create the guitar of your dreams together.

Some custom guitar builders are little more than "guitar assemblers". In other words, they'll simply use manufactured necks or bodies from a kit. Kits are fine for someone that wants to build their own guitar or to begin learning the art of lutherie, but a kit may not include specific parts or woods that you would have preferred for that perfect guitar you were dreaming of. The components of your perfect guitar's neck and body should arrive at a master luthier's shop as raw wood, not parts.

There is something very unique and personal when your guitar's neck is created and shaped by hand from start to finish. After all, you chose the materials, the radius of the neck, the finish, the fretboard, fret size and style, inlays and binding. You picked the style and finish of your guitar's body and the type of woods used to create it. You chose the guitar's individual hardware elements - bridge, tuners, switches, knobs, other electronics and of course, your guitar's pickups.

A professional luthier's goal should be to design and create for you the most beautiful, best playing, best sounding, one-of-a-kind guitar you have ever played...

The guitar of your dreams.

*Rick Shaw is a Master Luthier
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