

## Guitar Kit Options:

The internet is full of guitar kits, and having built a few of my own so far, I definitely recommend options from TheFretWire.com. To streamline our guitar building masterclass while also offering variety to our students and families, I have compiled a list of **seven** excellent kits to choose from. You will also find some information further down about pickups and tonewoods to help you learn about what each kit includes. Please take a look below to see what might be best for you and your guitarist - once you select your ideal kit (subject to availability), **please contact me directly at [John.ValottaStudios@gmail.com](mailto:John.ValottaStudios@gmail.com)**. We will order all kits and add the cost to your invoice. Each kit needs to be inspected and cataloged before we start building, and this also gives me a chance to do any necessary prep work. Let me know if you have any questions, and happy searching!

- Mr. John

- Option 1: [HH Basswood Thinline Telecaster-style kit w/ Bigsby-style vibrato](#) (\$220)

- A variation on the classic Tele, the Thinline was designed to reduce the weight and increase the resonance of a solid-body electric guitar by hollowing out an “F hole”. This kit mirrors that while also boosting sustain with a Basswood body, and by adding a pair of humbuckers and a Bisby-style vibrato bridge this Tele-kit is really one-of-a-kind.



- Option 2: [SSS Basswood Stratocaster-style kit w/ Whammy bar](#) (\$127)

- For even more depth of tone than the Telecaster, the incredibly iconic Stratocaster offers three single coil pickups which can be played in five different configurations. A classic whammy bar along with a lightweight Basswood body make this kit an excellent place to start for a player looking to grow their collection!



- Option 3: [HSH Mahogany Stratocaster-style kit w/ Double Locking Tremolo](#) (\$184)

- This kit is based on a number of Stratocaster-style guitars produced by Ibanez, designed to cater to an audience interested in heavier music. While the classic Strat is wired with three single coil pickups, this kit has two humbuckers and a single coil wired into a mahogany body for a thicker sound and a smooth, fast playing experience.



- Option 4: [SSS Alder Offset-style kit w/ Whammy bar](#) (\$208)

- Offset guitars have been around for decades in all kinds of music, and due to their unique visual appeal they have always stood out. This kit's Alder body really makes the high end sing out, and with three single coil pickups to combine in five different ways and a classic whammy bar, this guitar is a great twist on a classic.



- Option 5: [HSH Alder Offset-style kit w/ Tremolo bridge](#) (\$208)

- Much in the same vein as the SSS Offset-style kit, this HSH model offers an upgrade across the board with electronics. We swap out two of our single coil pickups for a pair of humbuckers, a Fender-style tremolo bridge replaces the standard whammy bar, and a vintage-inspired red tortoise shell pickguard ties it all together.



- Option 6: [H Mahogany Les Paul-style kit w/ Hardtail bridge](#) (\$184)

- As one of the most iconic guitars in the history of modern music, the Les Paul traditionally sports either one or two humbuckers. This particular kit features one humbucker, simplifying the whole playing experience. A mahogany body deepens the timbre and helps this guitar rock out either on rhythm or lead parts!



- Option 7: [P90 Mahogany Mini Les Paul Jr.-style kit w/ Hardtail bridge](#) (\$163)

- This kit is based on the popular Les Paul Jr. model that so many players have gravitated to over the years. A full-size neck combined with a smaller body makes for an easy playing experience no matter your size or age, and by swapping out the humbucker for a P90 your tone takes on an entirely new personality - there's nothing like playing through a P90!



### **\* Know Your Pickups:**

- Single Coil (S): Popularized by Fender with guitars like the Telecaster and Stratocaster, the single coil pickup is known for its crisp, bright tone. In high-gain settings, however, these pickups will start to hum with feedback. As a player, I prefer my single coil guitars for rhythm parts (chords & progressions).
- Humbucker (H): Popularized by Gibson with guitars like the Les Paul and SG, humbuckers are defined by their thick, warm, sometimes aggressive tone. Its name comes from its double coil design, literally meant to “buck” the humming heard in single coils. I like to use my humbucker guitars for lead parts (melodies & solos).
- P90: Though technically a single coil pickup, the P90 is structured like a humbucker and was actually designed by Gibson. While not being as buzzy as a single coil or as quiet as a humbucker, they have a beautifully mellow sound that can become more buttery or jangly or crunchy based on your amp tone, picking up sounds like a sponge and giving you a truly unique playing experience. I built a P90 guitar earlier this year and it has quickly become my favorite of all - the tone is one of a kind!

### **\* Know Your Tonewoods:**

- Alder: More commonly found in vintage Fender guitars, Alder is sturdy, lightweight, and its composition really brings out the high-end in your playing.
- Basswood: A soft wood that is more lightweight though also easier to indent, Basswood has a more balanced sound with great mid-range and consistent sustain.
- Mahogany: Historically one of the most popular tonewoods to the point of scarcity, Mahogany is heavy and brings a warm timbre with lots of low-end to your sound.
- Paulownia: In recent years, new restrictions on some tonewoods by conservation groups has led to an increase in popularity with less common options. Paulownia, a very sustainable hardwood, has become a go-to choice for players and builders due to its very light weight and mellow tone.