

# Gibson Les Paul vs. Fender Stratocaster

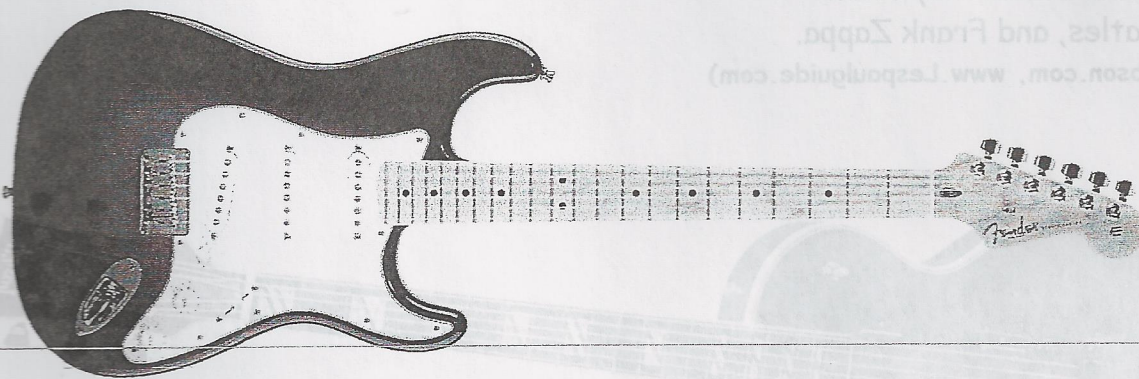
Matt Sears

## Which one to choose?

A long day's work over, I sit inside my room. With my guitar in front of me, I strum some famous riffs and licks by Zeppelin, Hendrix, and others. I look down at my favorite Fender Stratocaster. I marvel in its beauty and its signature tone that's impossible to forget. Its sleek body and thin neck fit my hands perfectly. This guitar is flawless. I then congratulate myself on making the right decision on which guitar to choose.

I first saw the Fender Stratocaster at SamAsh, a music store that's located in White Plains. When I first laid eyes on it, I knew that it would be the right guitar for me. To make sure, I tested it out. I couldn't put this baby down. I knew from the first 10 minutes of playing it that this guitar was coming home with me. That was the best decision of my life.

What I liked about this guitar was its simple and elegant appearance. Also its light weight and thin neck make it easy to play. Its sound, appealing to my ears, was remarkable. There was nothing to hate about this guitar. That's my story on how I fell in love with the Fender Stratocaster.



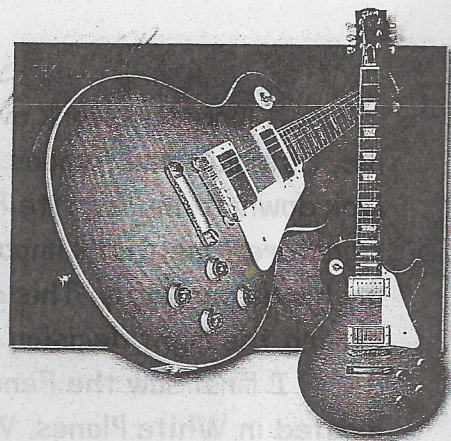
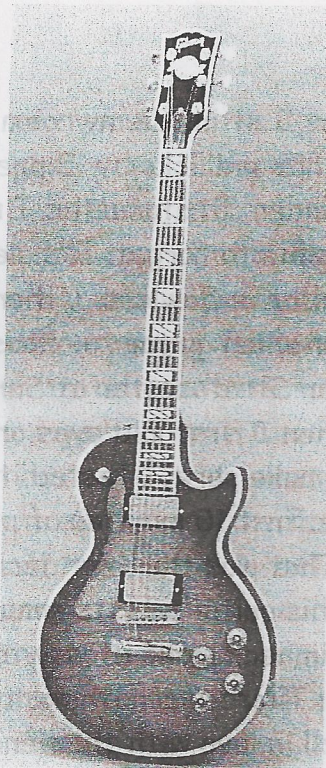
I'm here to help you decide which of the two most popular brands of guitars, Fender Stratocaster or Gibson Les Paul, to choose.

# The Gibson Les Paul

## OVERVIEW

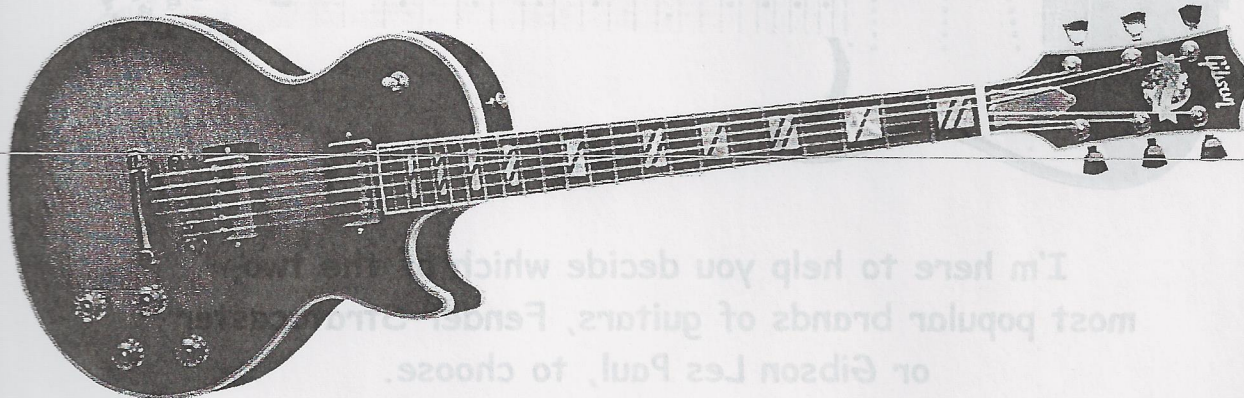
Debuting in 1952, the Les Paul has been an iconic guitar through the ages. It was originally built by Les Paul to serve the needs of jazz guitarists, Les Paul being one himself. This guitar has served many genres, one being Rock n' Roll. The Les Paul was most popular in the 70's and used by many famous guitarists such as Jimmy Page from Led Zeppelin, Pete Townshend from The Who, Slash from Guns n' Roses, Paul McCartney from The Beatles, and Frank Zappa.

([www.Gibson.com](http://www.Gibson.com), [www.Lespaulguide.com](http://www.Lespaulguide.com))



**“The stocky body of  
The Les Paul made it  
uncomfortable to play.”**

**– Mikael Honkaniemi**

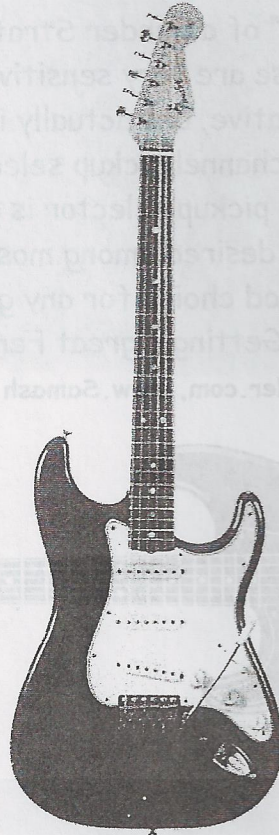


# The Fender Stratocaster

## OVERVIEW

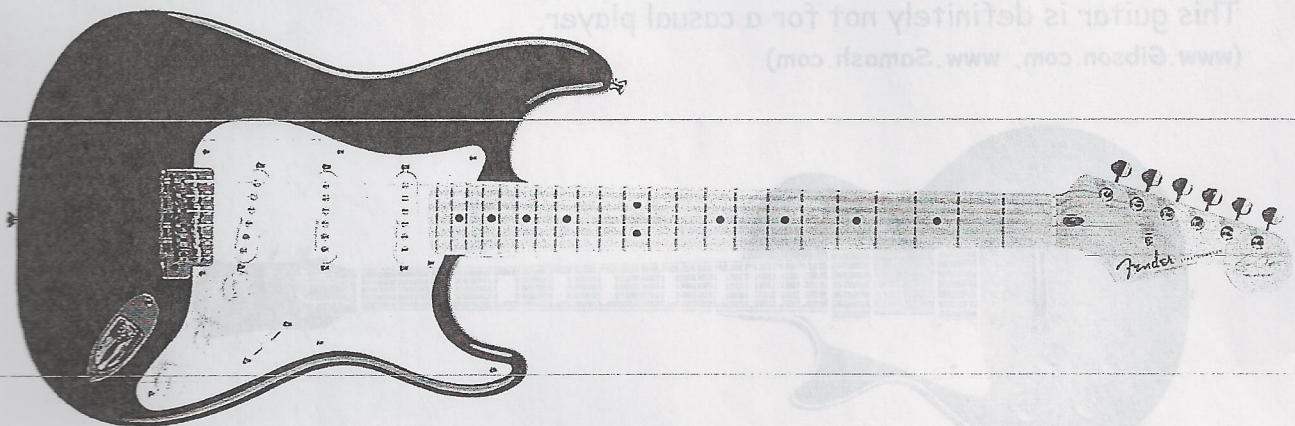
Debuting in 1954, the Fender Stratocaster has rivaled the Gibson Les Paul for decades. Designed by Leo Fender, the Stratocaster has been used by many leading guitarists and can be heard on many historic recordings. This guitar is very versatile in its tones; it can be used for any genre. The Fender Strat is light weight and very comfortable to play. You can get just about any sound you desire from it. Over the decades, famous guitarists such as Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton from Cream and Derek and the Dominoes, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and Jeff Beck play or had played the Fender Stratocaster.

([www.Fender.com](http://www.Fender.com), [www.Patricktaylor.com](http://www.Patricktaylor.com), [www.Home.provide.net](http://www.Home.provide.net))



**“Ever since I picked up the Stratocaster, I’ve never been able to put it down.”**

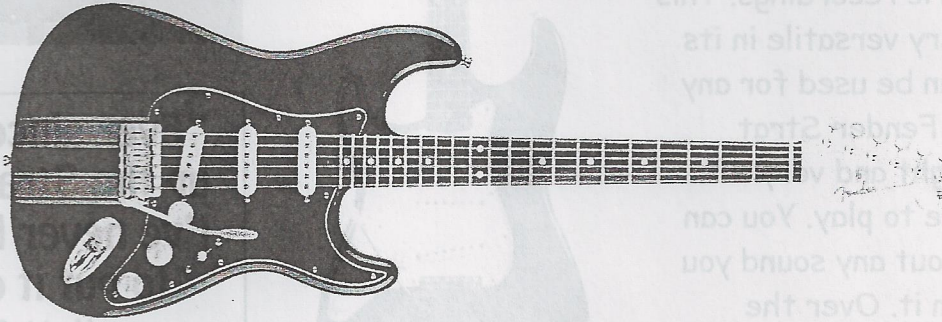
**-Matt Sears**



# The "Inside Scoop"

## The Stratocaster

When looking at the "specs" of a Fender Stratocaster, you can see that it has single coil pickups. These are very sensitive pickups and tend to be very noisy. This is viewed as negative, but actually is very positive to achieve a perfect tone. There is a 5-channel pickup selector, two tone knobs, and one volume knob. The 5-channel pickup selector is great because you can achieve a variety of tones, which is desired among most guitarists. The Stratocaster by Fender is definitely a good choice for any guitarist, whether they are a beginner or a professional. Getting a great Fender Stratocaster guitar costs only around \$900! ([www.Fender.com](http://www.Fender.com), [www.Samash.com](http://www.Samash.com))



## The Les Paul

When looking at the "specs" of a Gibson Les Paul, you can see that it carries humbucker pickups. This creates a cleaner sound, warm and free of noise. It has a toggle switch that is a 3-channel pickup selector, so you have less variety. Along with the switch it has two tone knobs, and two volume knobs. This guitar isn't meant for beginner guitarists, and is aimed towards the professionals. To get a great Gibson Les Paul, you must shell out over \$2000! This guitar is definitely not for a casual player. ([www.Gibson.com](http://www.Gibson.com), [www.Samash.com](http://www.Samash.com))

