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Recommended equipment list:

The most important thing is the guitar fits your body size and interests in music. If you're a young student there are many sizes that will accommodate your needs. 1/4, 1/2, 3/4 sizes are available in all types of guitars.

There is always a debate between acoustic and electric guitars for beginners. Electrics are easier to hold the strings down but are harder to control and play cleanly. Acoustics can be very hard to hold the strings down initially but are easier to control once you've learned to fret the strings correctly. Also what kind of music do you want to play?

Guitar Tuner: A small clip on guitar tuner is required, they range from \$15 to \$75 and are required by our school. Although we will be teaching how to tune a guitar by ear, this is the modern day and the tuner is easy and accurate, making for a better sound right from the start. The one I use is made by TC Electronics called PolyTune Clip, it clips onto the guitar and is very easy to use, about \$49 on Amazon.

Metronome: Some kind of metronome is required. A drum machine is more engaging and less boring. This can be APP based drum machine or metronome for your phone or pad, or a stand alone unit (more \$\$\$) I use an app called Drumbeats+

Electric guitar: A student instrument is fine, we recommend buying it new and with a good return policy in case there are problems. As you progress a better instrument will give you better results. \$100-\$150 is typical for a beginner, \$400 an up for an intermediate student. Get one with a gig bag or case to carry it and put supplies in. You'll need a strap too. Plan on having it intonated, new strings and neck adjusted right away for the ease of play and quality of sound. Ken's guitar school offers this service for a fee.

Plus the following gear:

Shielded guitar cord: 10 feet long, this is important as it's the first link in the chain so plan on spending \$15 or more, cheap ones quickly fail, are not shielded and are noisy. Intermediate students will need a good chord (\$25-\$75) Brands I recommend are GLS, Planet Waves and Monster.

Guitar Strap: 2-3 inches wide, adjustable.



Small practice amplifier: There are many choices, since we are often playing rock music a modern amp that offers distortion or high gain tones (a big part of many rock songs) is required.

An 8 or 10 inch speaker is a minimum, a 12 inch is better.

A headphone jack so the student can practice without disturbing others.

MP3 input jack so music or a metronome or drum machine can be played.

Do not get an APP/phone/pad based amplifier as there is too much delay.

Guitar picks: A medium or heavier pick is required. 1mm typical. No thin or flexible picks. Cheapest by the gross.

Guitar strings: New strings are like fresh bread from the breadmaker, they sound and feel great, after a week, not so much. Strings should be replaced about once a month. Put a set in your case in case you break one at a lesson.

.010-.046 is recommended for teens and adults. you can use .008 or .009's for younger students, although they are easier to press on the fretboard they are harder to control, most pros use 010 or bigger. Stevie Ray Vaughn used 013's !!! You will want to graduate to .010's as soon as you are ready.

Acoustic guitar, nylon (classical) or steel string.

Again, the most important thing is it fits your body size and interests in music. If you are a young student there are many sizes that will accommodate your needs.

Cheap acoustic guitars are worthless to learn on and can be very frustrating. Get one with a gig bag or case to carry it and put supplies in.

Plan on spending \$129 or more, having a guitar that can use a strap helps keep the guitar in place especially for new and younger students. Don't forget the strap.

Nylon string guitars are for classical music and are easier to fret for very young students. Nylon string guitars are made to play without a pick and are harder to learn the right hand finger technique for them, so we teach nylon guitars with a pick, just like Al DiMeola.

Steel string guitars work well for the mainstream of most acoustic music.

There is not much adjustment to be done on student acoustics so what you buy is what you get, unlike electrics that can be adjusted significantly. Don't forget extra strings and picks as described above.

If you have a question don't hesitate to call Ken. We do a lot of purchases on Amazon, but the local music stores are good to deal with too.