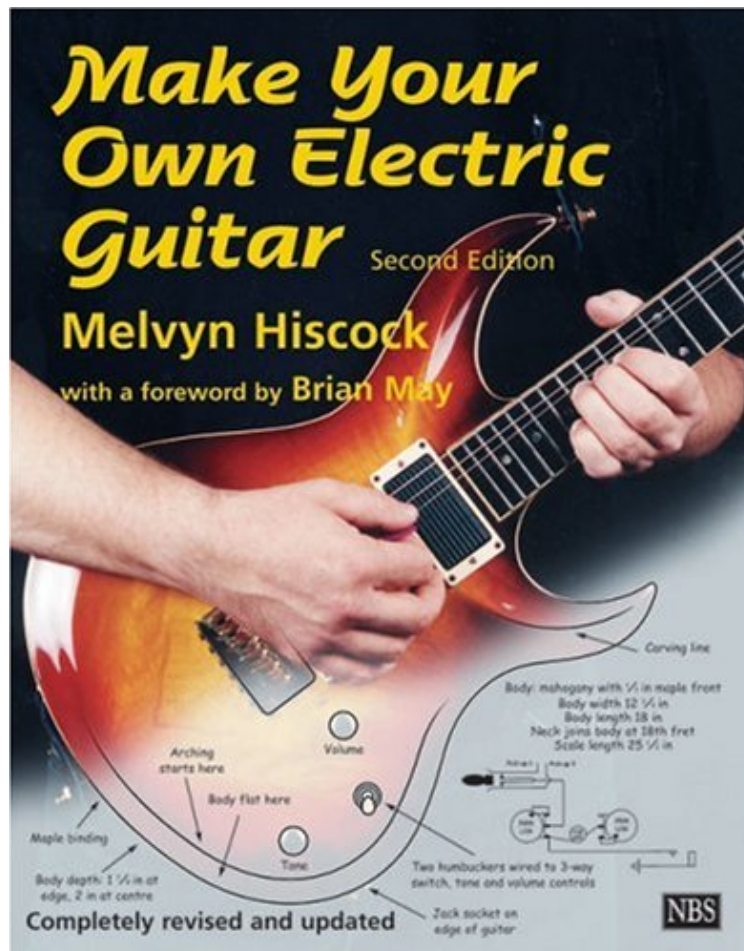


# Make Your Own Electric Guitar

Melvyn Hiscock

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**Melvyn Hiscock : Make Your Own Electric Guitar** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Make Your Own Electric Guitar:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very Good Book - One of the Two Best on the Subject! By Xavier De La Pluma This one of the three highly recommended books I own on the subject would strongly recommend it, if you don't already have it. Nice foreword by Brian May (of Queen) and generally very good sections on design considerations (Chapter 3); mixing different styles you may have seen like into your own design (Chapter 12) and installation of a tremolo system (Chapter 16). While it is nice to have Melvyn go all the way through the construction of three different types of guitars (one of which is a bass) it was frustrating to not have a photo of any of the three finished guitars (at least it was for me). Additionally, while I'm certain some will enjoy having the fretting tables contained in Appendix 1, I'm not certain why they were considered essential, since Melvyn covers how to set up a simple computer spreadsheet to very accurately calculate the same thing, such that any high school student could do it at his school or home (would love to see the look on the teacher's face when the student announces he's setting up a

spreadsheet to calculate guitar fret distances for a specified fretboard length, based on the harmonic frequencies of a vibrating guitar string). Additionally, there are some things in the text that made me believe the concept of the book was seriously pared down during production to limit cost. An example is Melvyn's reference in the section on finishing (Chapter 13) to the Telecaster-style guitar he makes in Chapter 10 in which he states (on page 146) it was finished in a "Gibson-style cherry sunburst" That would be nice if we had any color photographs (there are none throughout the book) or even if we had a good photo of that finished guitar (which we don't). What makes this a valuable addition to your library is the large format, with good quality black white photos printed on a good quality, slick-finish paper. The information that is presented is also a good balance source of "other ways" do to specific guitar-building activity presented in one of the other good texts on the subject.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Invaluable for an amateur like me. By Woody Woodturner Lives up to the title. How to start from bare wood. Invaluable for an amateur like me. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent resource, some quality issues

By Customer I purchased this book along with Martin Koch's book so that I could build my own Strat style guitar. I have recently finished two such instruments based on the information in these two books plus the help of an internet forum. I found both books to be necessary and kept going back and forth. This book is much more step-by-step oriented and takes you through 3 different builds. If you are going to build a guitar very similar to one of the three illustrated, you could do it with just this book. That said Hiscock's book is very well written and I referred to it over and over. Definitely a good purchase and I recommend it. My only complaint is the quality of the book binding. Within the first 10 days of owning the book pages started coming loose from the binding. With careful use I have managed to keep it mostly together but I can tell I will have to do something or pages will be lost or destroyed. As a heads up to the potential guitar builder. This book assumes you have pretty advanced woodworking skills and at least access to (if not ownership of) woodworking equipment. I have been woodworking for 25 years and found building the body pretty straight forward. The neck was challenging, however. In addition to typical hand tools I used my bandsaw, tablesaw, router, drill press, planer and jointer. I definitely wouldn't want to go without the bandsaw or the router. Also you will need to design and make full size templates so knowledge of CAD or basic drafting is helpful.

For some, it is not enough to buy a guitar the challenge of designing and hand-making a unique, customized instrument is the dream. Since 1986, these people have turned to one book: *Make Your Own Electric Guitar*. Written in a clear, relaxed style, it covers every facet of guitar design and construction, as well as electronic theory and practice, and full woodworking and wiring techniques all supported with plenty of photos and diagrams. Now in a revised and expanded edition, *Make Your Own Electric Guitar* will enable any musician or enthusiast with basic woodworking skills to create a uniquely valuable instrument.

About the Author Dr. Brian May, founding member of Queen, has a PhD in Astronomy and is the co-author of *Bang! The Complete History of the Universe* and *The Cosmic Tourist*