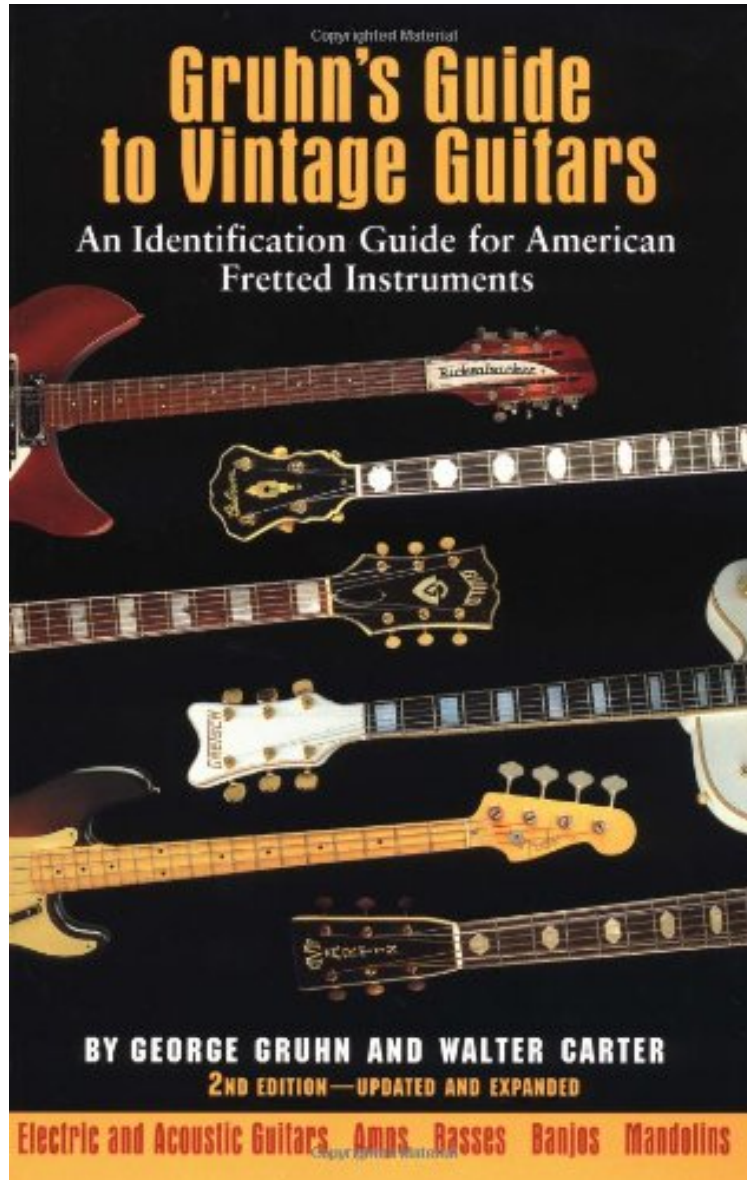


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## Gruhn's Guide to Vintage Guitars 2nd Edition (Softcover)

*George Gruhn, Walter Carter*  
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**George Gruhn, Walter Carter : Gruhn's Guide to Vintage Guitars 2nd Edition (Softcover)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gruhn's Guide to Vintage Guitars 2nd Edition (Softcover):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Gruhn's is like a dictionary. It's meant to be "Used" not "Read". There's no finer reference for Vintage instrument enthusiasts By CrackedAxes If you're looking for a book to read about

vintage instruments Gruhn's Guide is probably not what you're looking for. This is a reference book full of data and specifics intended to help collectors and dealers identify, date and verify the authenticity of vintage American instruments. Not every manufacturer is represented in this book but it's amazing how much information Mr. Gruhn has compiled in one place. As reference material I give it five stars. I've seen a number of reviews stating they would rather the book be laid out by date of manufacture but I wonder if some of those folks are putting the cart before the horse. What I mean is if you "know" that the guitar in your hands is a 1991 Gibson Les Paul Classic, why do you need to look it up in a book? If on the other hand you're trying to verify what the guitar in your hands actually is, then structuring the book as Gruhn does, by Maker and model is a way better approach. Imagine you are like me and you've been playing guitar for forty years and at some point you decide that after all the time invested and love for the instrument you are worthy of a true vintage instrument. An investment grade masterpiece "tool-of-the-trade" that might just give you the inspiration to elevate your playing to the next plateau. You've got your heart set on a 1962 Stratocaster like the one your hero played when you were a kid sitting in the cheap seats of that sold out show. The thing is, you're not a kid anymore and while your heart is longing for the dream guitar you couldn't have way back when, your grown up brain is rationally saying: "That's a serious investment. How am I ever going to convince the wife that I know what I'm doing!???... "So you comb the internet looking for slab rosewood fret boards and sunburst finishes until you find just the right one but the sticker price is \$17K.... Gulp!... Being level headed you realize that you need to do some checking to authenticate that this holy grail is not actually a counterfeit so where do you start? Do you start by assuming that the guitar in question is in fact a 1962 Stratocaster and work your way backwards? Or do you start with no assumptions and compare what the guitar in hand actually is to what a 1962 Strat is supposed to be? For my \$17K and my wife's peace of mind, I'll go with the latter approach and any deviation for what "should be" to "what is" will peg my BS detector. That's what Gruhn's Guide is for. As I stated in the beginning of this review, this book isn't meant to be a story book. It's a reference guide. That matters to you if you're considering the purchase of the book because it is laid out in a way that assumes the reader has some basic knowledge. Much like a dictionary requires the user to understand spelling, Gruhn's Guide requires a basic knowledge of manufacturers, model names and features. If terms like "p-90", "Split-Coil" and "1-Ply 5 Hole Guard" are Greek to you, this book might not be of much use. Then again, if you're considering the purchase of this book, you're probably well along the rabbit trail of "guitar geek" and those requirements are not an issue. Overall, Gruhn's guide is the finest reference available to vintage guitar enthusiasts. If you are looking for deep dive information about Fender Telecasters or Gibson Les Pauls, there are plenty of books available you can read and enjoy. Gruhn's guide is meant to be "used" not "read". Enjoy! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A HANDY GUIDE (that could be more helpful) By Guitartec While I believe this book is the "holy bible" of vintage guitar info, I truly wish it would help decipher the mysteries of Gibson's disordered serialization process of the early 70's. I was hoping this book would better decode more precise manufacture dates than the internet using facets like neck tenon lengths, pickup cavity routing shapes, neck woods, bridges used, Kalamazoo vs. Nashville differences, etc. For example, the very first two instruments I tried to date with this book were two 1970's Gibson LP black beauties. The first is a beat-up fretless wonder, s/n 9xxxxx, mahogany neck with embossed pickups (I know, I know, that makes it a 72.... Actually, no! It's an early 73. The books net don't mention that "gold" embossed covers lasted until early 73 when they finally ran out of them. Chrome and nickle embossed pup covers were only in 72, but gold was on higher end instruments that sold slower). While I'm positive the fretless wonder is an early 1973, the other all-original black beauty is slightly more of an enigma. It shows an older 8xxxxx USA s/n, pancake body with a maple neck, Schaller harmonica bridge with what looks like a rocker tenon (we're still in debate about the tenon). Was the rocker tenon ONLY made in Nashville starting in 74? Exactly when was the SG's Schaller harmonica bridge used on the LP Customs? When exactly did LP Customs go from 1 pc. mahogany necks to 3 pc. maple? I wish this "bible" answered these questions as I don't trust the DATA highway as far as I can throw it. Other than the Dimarzio SD in the lead position with its mini series/paralell switch and the removal of the rhy pup gold cover, it's stock. It has the exact same tenon style as the fretless wonder when looking into the rhy pup cavity. I had hoped the Gruhn book would help date this guitar closer than the guestimate of 1975. It didn't. Even so, the book is very well laid out to verify most mass-produced American guitars, although it's slightly outdated. It's definitely worth the \$20. and if you're a serious guitar flipper or just want to increase your knowledge of vintage guitar facets, this is a handy guide. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good info but arranged in a difficult to use way By Johnny B. Goode Good but things are arranged within a manufacturer in a strange way. Guitars are listed first by style instead of year (for example, to find a 1988 Martin OM-28 it doesn't list all Martins by year first then size as most guitar lists do; instead the book begins listing by style. So you find the style 28 listed year 1 period in every combination and size, then on to the next year in all combinations and sizes, and so on. There may be a section of the book listing custom runs (not the 1 offs, but runs the maker did) but you'd have to search through each time period year by year again. Trying to find a set of custom manufacturer runs or special sets of guitars is even more confusing. For example; Gibson may have run a Custom Series of J-45s with Rosewood back and sides in the 70s hypothetically. Finding the listing in any kind of alphabetical way by size, year, or characteristic (searching by J, or Rosewood, or Custom\special\limited\ ...) doesn't work. So you must plow through all of the 45s from year 1 and hope you stumble

upon it.

The original version of this guide has sold over 30,000 copies. This new edition has been expanded by 25% and promises to become an invaluable resource. For collectors, dealers and players, this completely updated "field guide" provides specifications, serial numbers, and more for determining the originality of vintage American acoustic and electric fretted instruments. Detailing thousands of models by every major manufacturer, the book now includes expanded coverage of Martin, Guild, Mosrite, Dobro, Gibson banjos, Fender amps, Gibson amps, plus updates on the latest models from Fender, Gibson, Rickenbacker, and others since 1990. 582 pages, 6 inch. x 9 inch.

.com Authors George Gruhn and Walter Carter are no strangers to fretted instruments: Gruhn runs one of the best vintage instrument stores in the country, and Carter was Gibson's company historian for several years in the 1990s. In the second edition to Gruhn's Guide to Vintage Guitars, the pair have created a useful resource for any lover of fine guitars, banjos, or basses. Though not a price guide, the book will enable collectors to identify the date, stock ingredients, wood, and evolution of their Fender, Martin, Gibson, Gretsch, or Mosrite axes, to name just a few. Many readers will probably want to complement this book with a separate price guide (The Official Vintage Guitar Magazine Price Guide is recommended), and it should be noted that many mass-market manufacturers (Kay, for instance) were left out. But with this book you'll at least know that the stock Epiphone Madrid you bought on the Internet is, in fact, truly stock. A great resource for lovers of collectable six-strings. --Jason VerlindeFrom Library JournalThe market for vintage American guitars, basses, amplifiers, banjos, ukuleles, and other fretted instruments has exploded in the last decade. This updated and expanded second edition of Gruhn's Guide is more than double the size of its first edition (1992) and is superior in breadth, depth, and timeliness. The guide is organized by manufacturer and type of instrument. Every model is described in detail, with introduction date, body shape and size, woods, pickups (where applicable), bindings, inlays, and finish. All changes made from year to year are noted, ensuring the precise determination of model and originality. The book also provides serial number lists, identification charts, and over 100 photos of special features. While many books on individual instrument makers are available, this is the only guide that lists all makers and all their products while also offering comments about the collectibility of specific instruments. Highly recommended.AEric C. Shoaf, Brown Univ. Lib., Providence Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. "An indispensable 'field guide' for those in search of the holy fretted grail." -- Jazz Times"It is difficult to imagine anyone except co-author George Gruhn compiling such a broad-spectrum, comprehensive, and definitive work." -- 20th Century Guitar"You will not find a better guide, nor one that is so easy to use." --Vintage Guitar Magazine