

**custom
order &
electric
acoustic
series**

Howard Roberts

Gibson 



FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND DATING
OF
VINTAGE GUITARS, MANDOLINS AND BANJOS
CATALOGS FROM THE COLLECTION OF GEORGE YOUNGBLOOD

These are scans of catalogs originally distributed to the public to describe the manufacturer's products available for sale at one point in time.

The intended use for these catalogs is historical research: vintage instrument identification and dating.

These catalogs are not offered here for sale or re-sale – They are only for the academic purpose of instrument identification, research and historical context. Please respect their use and do not reproduce, copy or distribute this information for any other purpose.

It is important to note that instrument catalogs are not always accurate in their descriptions of instrument specifications or the images used. While product improvements were constantly being made; catalogs often used older existing drawings, etchings or photographs. In some cases instruments were offered in catalogs that had been discontinued for years. For these reasons, catalogs can only be used as general guides for the dating and identification of vintage instruments.

For more accurate information on Gibson Instruments: always go first to Gibson directly:

GIBSON WEBSITE:

<http://www.gibson.com>

If you are having trouble with some of the instruments details, we may be able to help. Feel free to contact us at:

ACOUSTICMUSIC.ORG:

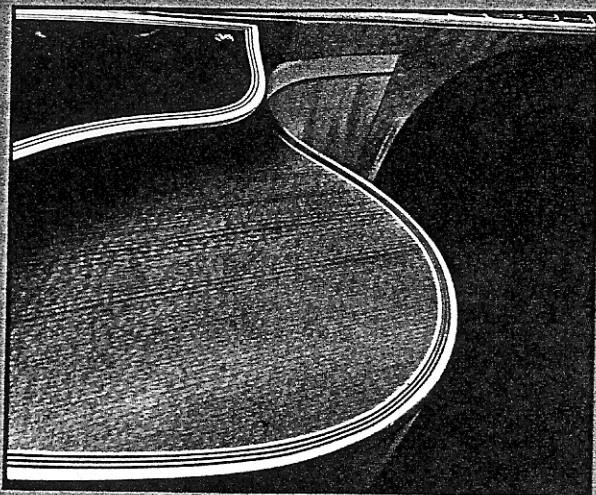
<http://www.AcousticMusic.Org>

Custom Order & Electric Acoustic Series

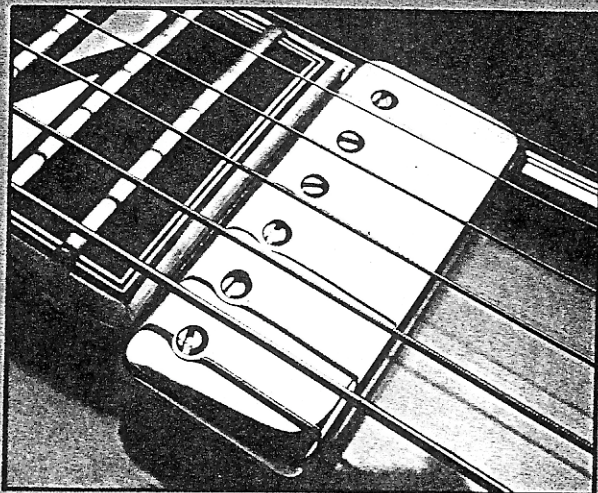
Gibson's Custom Order guitars are legendary instruments with a history that spans back to the turn of the century. The L-5C, for example, can be traced back to 1903 when Gibson introduced its Model O. In 1909 this guitar was "updated" with a beautiful cutaway that gave easy playing access to the upper register. The further developments that were accomplished with the Model O became crucial factors in the ultimate design of the first L-5 guitar, introduced in 1924.

Gibson Custom Order guitars are unequalled anywhere because their materials, designs and craftsmanship are unavailable anywhere else. Close, even-grained spruce from trees 450 to 500 years old; solid woods, not veneered; hand carved and graduated tops and backs; precision "f" holes based upon Stradivarius violin construction... it's no wonder that these instruments are considered collector's items—rare masterpieces.

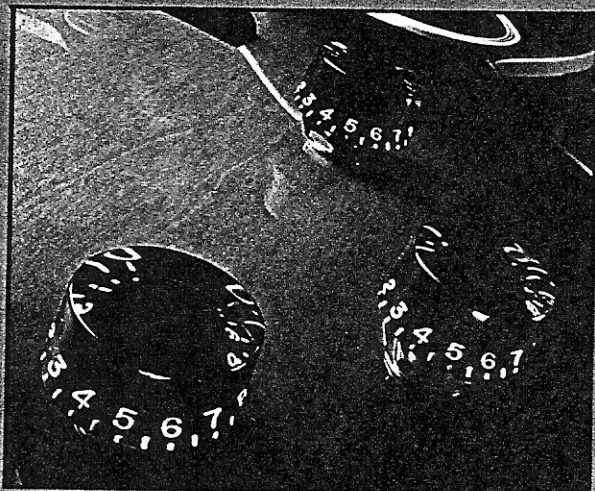
The outstanding reputation that Gibson achieved with its acoustic instruments continued with its electric acoustic instruments. These guitars, first developed in 1924, helped establish a whole new school of guitarists who stepped out of the rhythm section and into the lead. Gibson's electric acoustic guitars helped many artists rise to the top... award winning artists like Johnny Smith, Billy Byrd, Hank Garland and Howard Roberts. And these artists in turn, helped Gibson develop many of today's most popular models. Time tells all. And time has already proven Gibson to be the best name in guitars. In years to come, you can count on Gibson's later models to be time proven masterpieces too.



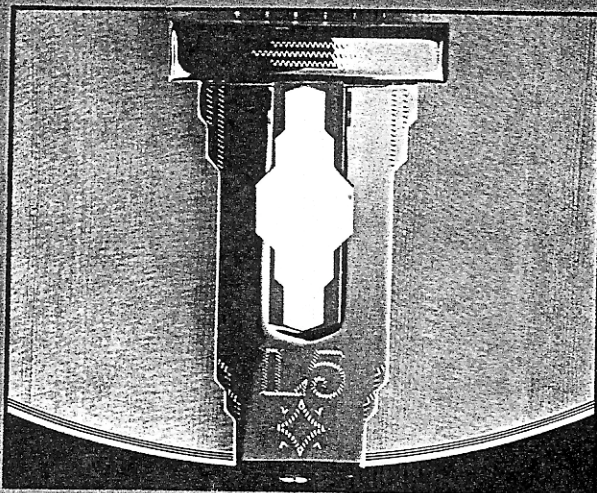
VENETIAN CUTAWAY—This graceful design, originated by Gibson in 1909, offers beauty plus easy access to the upper register. The cutaway is accomplished by the age-old tradition of hand bending the wood with a heated roller.



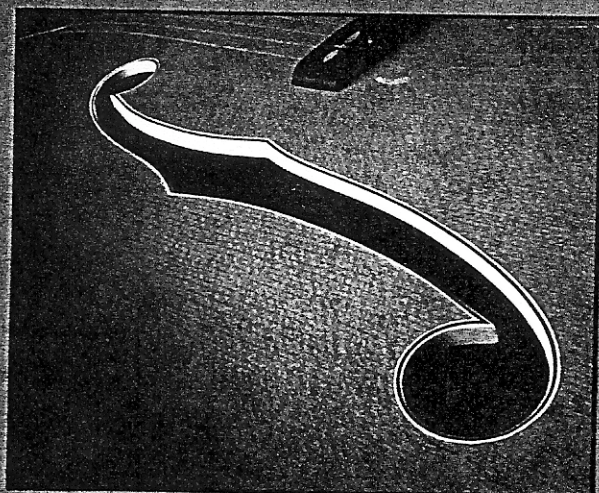
SPECIALLY MOUNTED HUMBUCKING PICKUP—The J-S guitar's powerful Humbucking pickup is mounted to the neck of the instrument. This allows the acoustical body to resonate freely for a rich, full-bodied sound.



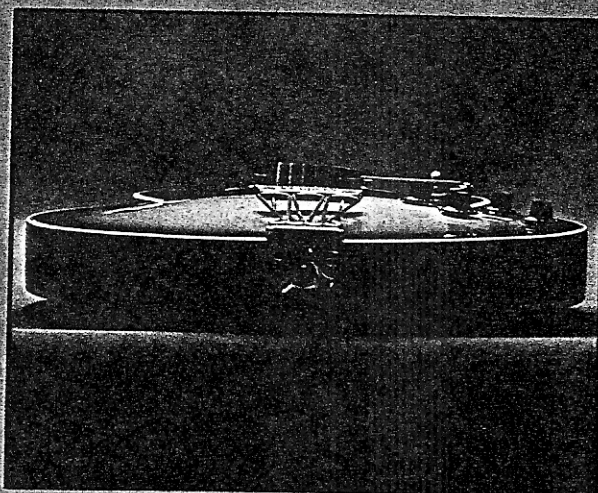
CONTROLS—The Howard Roberts Custom has an extremely sensitive tone control. And for extra fine tuning there's a separate midrange control. The volume control is positioned close to the playing area so it's easy to do those "rolls" Howard is famous for.



TAILPIECE—This beautiful gold-plated tailpiece also serves a very functional purpose. Its length is crucial to the overall string tension and scale length. Only the most precision craftsmanship can give the perfect tension and intonation that Gibson is famous for.



"F" SOUND HOLES & SELECT AGED SPRUCE—The "F" sound hole is a Gibson guitar innovation based upon Stradivarius violin construction. The spruce for many Gibson guitars is from trees 450 to 500 years old. Only the finest portion of the tree is used with straight, close, even grains.



CARVED TOP AND THIN LINE BODY DESIGN—Using the principles of fine violin construction, Gibson hand carves and graduates its guitars to exacting dimensions. This, combined with a comfortable thin body, gives the instrument a rich, distinctive tone quality.

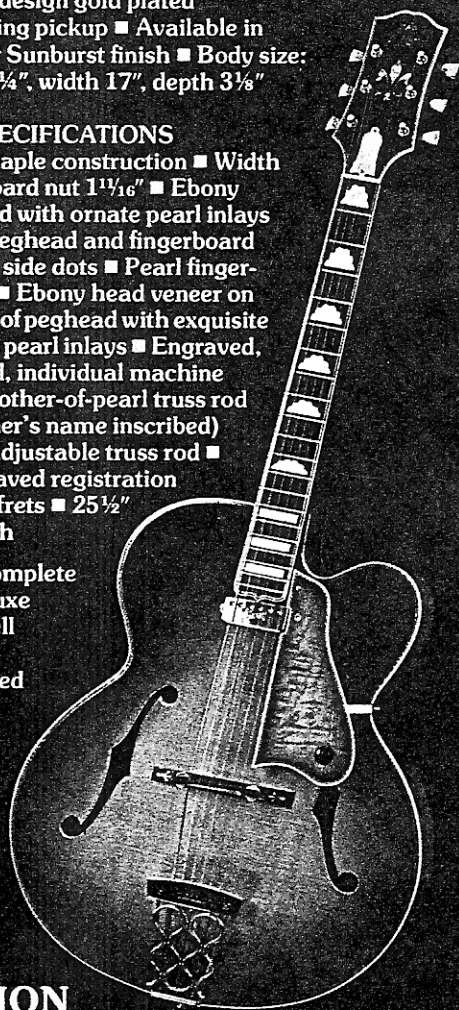
BODY SPECIFICATIONS

Carved and hand graduated spruce top tuned to a precise pitch for maximum acoustical resonance ■ Carved and graduated back of exquisitely figured maple ■ Solid maple matching rims ■ Graceful Venetian cutaway ■ Top and back bound in multiple black/white binding ■ Bound "F" holes ■ Adjustable ebony saddle with ebony bridge base perfectly fitted to the top for maximum acoustical results ■ Ornately inlaid with mother-of-pearl ■ Gold plated tailpiece ■ Bound, matching wood grain pickguard with volume potentiometer installed ■ Acoustic and electronic components perfectly matched for the finest in natural acoustical reproduction ■ Special design gold plated Humbucking pickup ■ Available in Natural or Sunburst finish ■ Body size: Length 20¼", width 17", depth 3⅛"

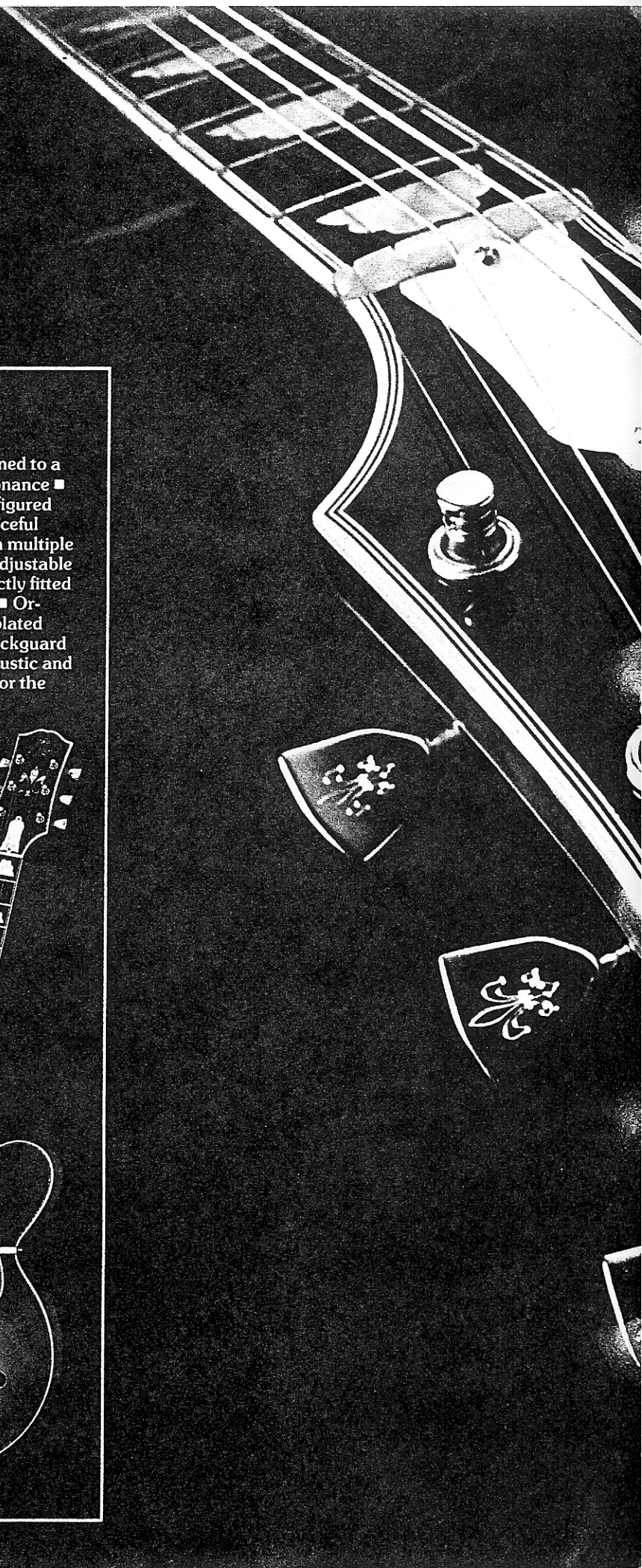
NECK SPECIFICATIONS

Five-ply maple construction ■ Width at fingerboard nut 1⅞" ■ Ebony fingerboard with ornate pearl inlays ■ Bound peghead and fingerboard with white side dots ■ Pearl fingerboard nut ■ Ebony head veneer on either side of peghead with exquisite fleur-de-lis pearl inlays ■ Engraved, gold plated, individual machine heads ■ Mother-of-pearl truss rod cover (owner's name inscribed) ■ Gibson adjustable truss rod ■ Pearl engraved registration plate ■ 20 frets ■ 25½" scale length

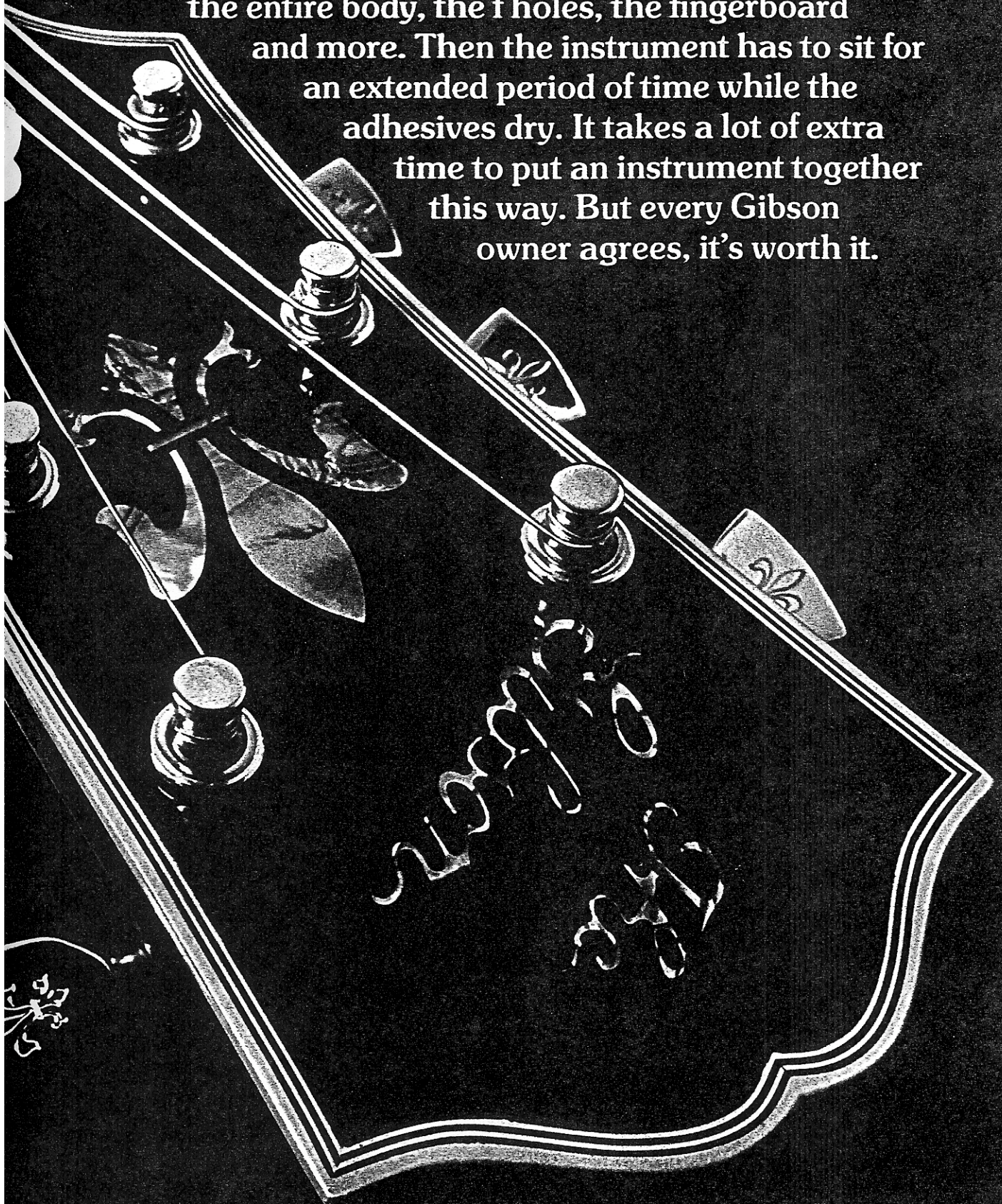
Citation complete with deluxe hard shell faultless plush lined case



CITATION



Modern adhesives are available that dry solid in minutes. But Gibson still employs the same slow drying adhesives that have proven with time to be the best. And in order to use these adhesives, we have to bind each assembly — the entire body, the f holes, the fingerboard and more. Then the instrument has to sit for an extended period of time while the adhesives dry. It takes a lot of extra time to put an instrument together this way. But every Gibson owner agrees, it's worth it.



BODY SPECIFICATIONS

Custom carved spruce top ■ Carved maple back
■ Solid maple matching rims ■ Graceful Venetian cutaway ■ Top and back bound in multiple black/white binding ■ Bound "f" holes ■ Adjustable ebony saddle with ebony bridge base contoured to outside top dimensions for maximum acoustical resonance ■ Gold plated tailpiece ■ Deluxe bound pickguard
■ Available in Natural or Sunburst finish ■ Body size: Length 21³/₄", width 18", depth 3³/₈"

NECK SPECIFICATIONS

Five-ply maple construction ■ Width at fingerboard nut 1¹/₁₆" ■ Ebony fingerboard with divided pearl block inlays ■ Bound peghead and fingerboard with white side dots ■ Pearl inlaid head veneer ■ Deluxe, gold plated, individual machine heads ■ Gibson truss rod with custom truss rod cover ■ 20 frets ■ 25¹/₂" scale length

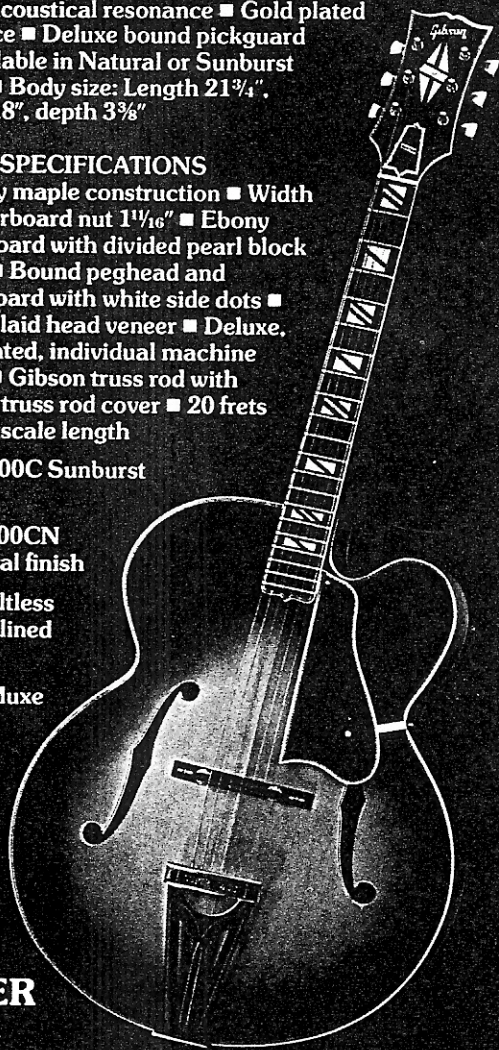
Super 400C Sunburst finish

Super 400CN Natural finish

400 Faultless plush lined case

ZC-4 Deluxe zipper case cover

**SUPER
400C**



BODY SPECIFICATIONS

Custom carved spruce top ■ Carved maple back
■ Solid maple matching rims ■ Graceful Venetian cutaway ■ Top and back bound in multiple black/white binding ■ Bound "f" holes ■ Adjustable ebony saddle with ebony bridge base contoured to outside top dimensions for maximum acoustical resonance ■ Gold plated tailpiece with contrasting silver plated center-piece ■ "L-5" engraving ■ Deluxe bound pickguard ■ Available in Natural or Sunburst finish ■ Body size: Length 21", width 17", depth 3³/₈"

NECK SPECIFICATIONS

Five-ply maple construction ■ Width at fingerboard nut 1¹/₁₆" ■ Ebony fingerboard with pearl block inlays ■ Bound peghead and fingerboard with white side dots ■ Pearl inlaid head veneer ■ Deluxe, gold plated, individual machine heads ■ Gibson truss rod with custom truss rod cover ■ 20 frets ■ 25¹/₂" scale length

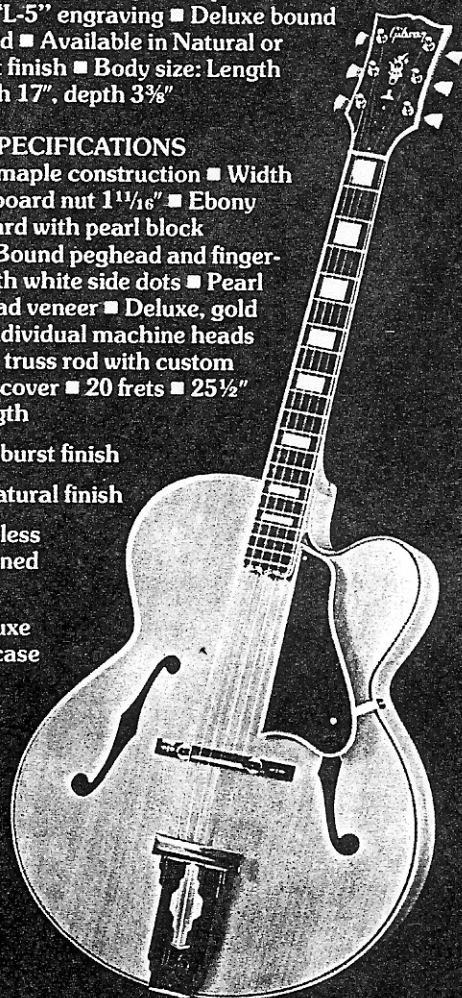
L-5C Sunburst finish

L-5CN Natural finish

600 Faultless plush lined case

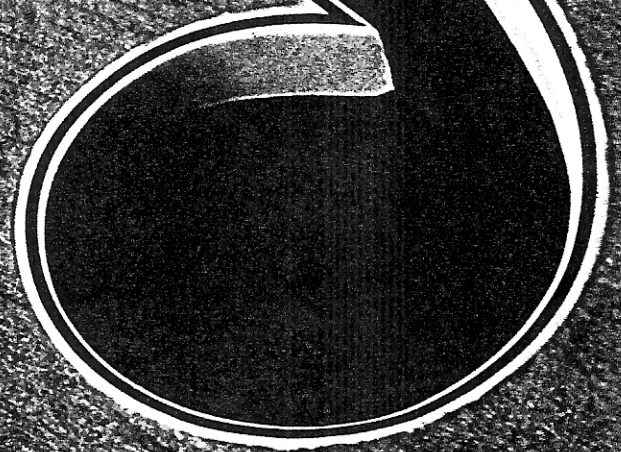
ZC-6 Deluxe zipper case cover

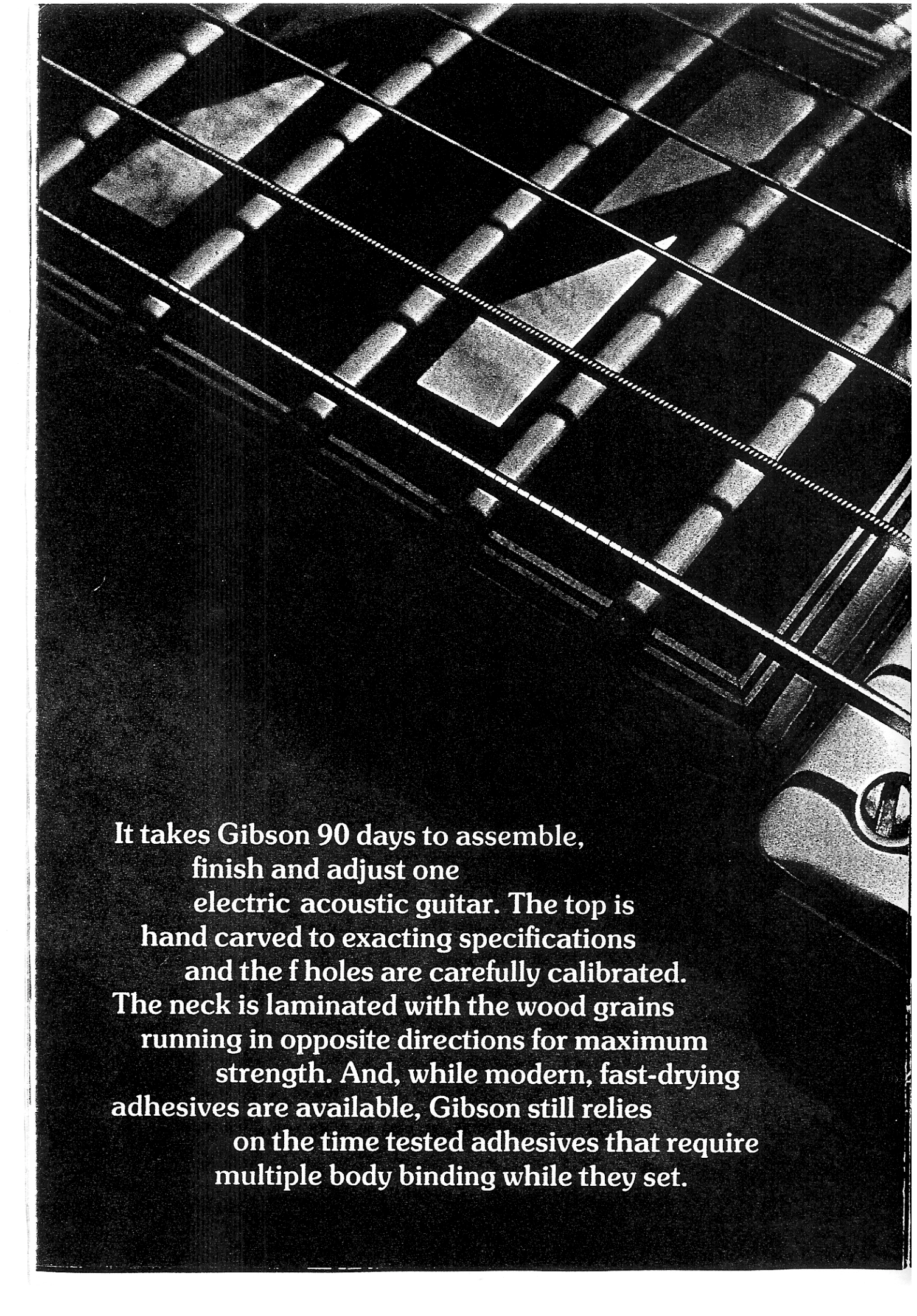
L-5C



Every Gibson instrument is unique in that it's designed with a musical purpose in mind.

There are all kinds of guitarists so we make all kinds of guitars — with one tailpiece for heavy gauge strings and another for extra light strings; short necks for easy chording and long necks for high flying leads; stop tailpieces if you strum the strings one way and extended tailpieces if you strum them another. So don't just shop around for a Gibson, shop around for that one specific Gibson that fits you like a glove.





It takes Gibson 90 days to assemble, finish and adjust one electric acoustic guitar. The top is hand carved to exacting specifications and the f holes are carefully calibrated. The neck is laminated with the wood grains running in opposite directions for maximum strength. And, while modern, fast-drying adhesives are available, Gibson still relies on the time tested adhesives that require multiple body binding while they set.

BODY SPECIFICATIONS

Custom carved spruce top ■ Carved maple back
■ Solid maple matching rims ■ Graceful Venetian
cutaway ■ Top and back bound in multiple black/
white binding ■ Bound "f" holes ■ Adjustable ebony
saddle with ebony bridge base contoured to outside
top dimensions ■ Gold plated tailpiece with "Johnny
Smith" ebony centerpiece ■ Deluxe bound pickguard
■ JS model available in double or single pickup
version ■ JSD: Two powerful, gold plated Gibson
Humbucking pickups with custom bound pickguard;
Two volume, two tone and one pickup selector
switch installed on pickguard; Rear pickup
mounted to pickguard ■ JS: One powerful, gold
plated, Gibson Humbucking pickup with volume
potentiometer installed on pickguard ■ Available
in Natural or Sunburst finish ■ Body size:
Length 20½", width 17", depth 3⅛"

NECK SPECIFICATIONS

Five-ply maple construction ■ Width
at fingerboard nut 1¾" ■ Ebony
fingerboard with pearl block inlays ■
Bound peghead and fingerboard
with white side dots ■ Pearl inlaid
head veneer ■ Deluxe, gold plated,
individual machine heads ■ Gibson
truss rod with custom truss rod cover
■ 20 frets ■ 25" scale length

JSD Double pickup –
Sunburst finish

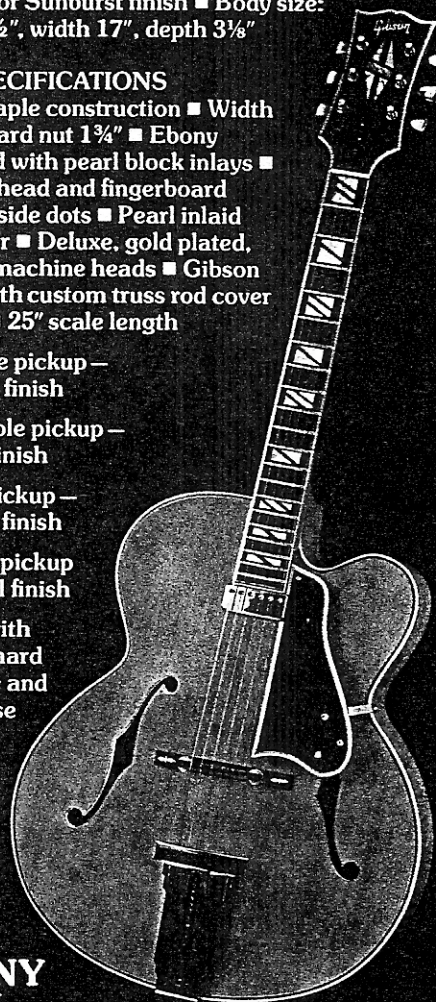
JSDN Double pickup –
Natural finish

JS Single pickup –
Sunburst finish

JSN Single pickup
– Natural finish

Complete with
faultless hard
shell case and
zipper case
cover

**JOHNNY
SMITH**



BODY SPECIFICATIONS

Custom carved spruce top ■ Carved maple back ■ Solid maple matching rims ■ Graceful Venetian cutaway ■ Top and back bound in multiple black/white binding ■ Bound "f" holes ■ Adjustable ebony saddle with ebony bridge base contoured to outside top dimensions ■ Gold plated tailpiece ■ Deluxe bound pickguard ■ Two gold plated, Gibson Humbucking pickups with individual volume and tone controls ■ 3-position toggle switch for pickup selection (individual or both pickups simultaneously) ■ Available in Natural or Sunburst finish ■ Body size: Length 21 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", width 18", depth 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ "

NECK SPECIFICATIONS

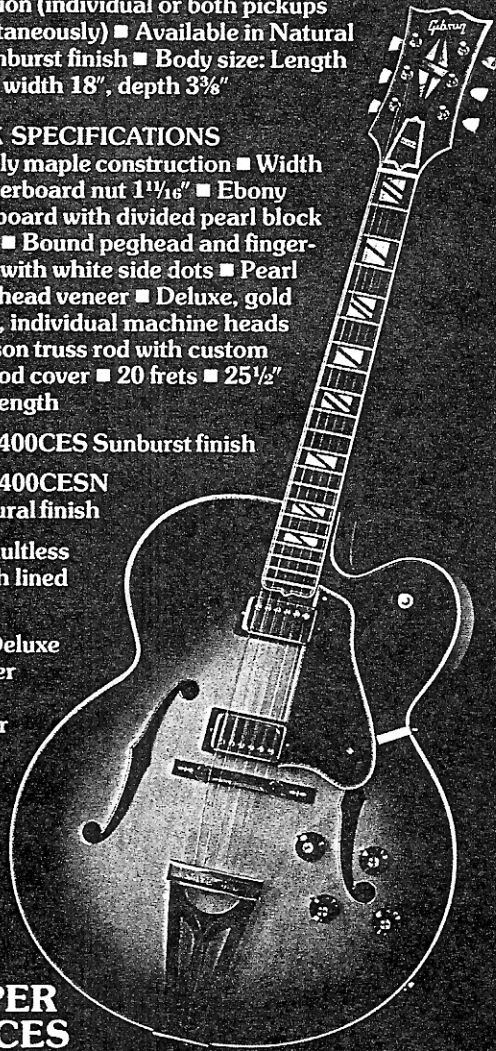
Five-ply maple construction ■ Width at fingerboard nut 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ " ■ Ebony fingerboard with divided pearl block inlays ■ Bound peghead and fingerboard with white side dots ■ Pearl inlaid head veneer ■ Deluxe, gold plated, individual machine heads ■ Gibson truss rod with custom truss rod cover ■ 20 frets ■ 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ " scale length

Super 400CES Sunburst finish

Super 400CESN
Natural finish

400 Faultless
plush lined
case

ZC-4 Deluxe
zipper
case
cover



**SUPER
400CES**

BODY SPECIFICATIONS

Arched maple top ■ Matching maple rims ■ Arched maple back ■ Florentine cutaway ■ Oval sound hole with multiple purfling ■ Adjustable ebony saddle with ebony bridge base contoured to outside top dimensions ■ Chrome plated tailpiece with Howard Roberts rosewood centerpiece ■ Deluxe fingerrest ■ One chrome plated, "Super Humbucking" pickup mounted to end of fingerboard ■ Individual volume mid-range and treble roll-off controls ■ Available in Sunburst or "Cherry Wine" finish ■ Body size: Length 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", width 16", depth 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ "

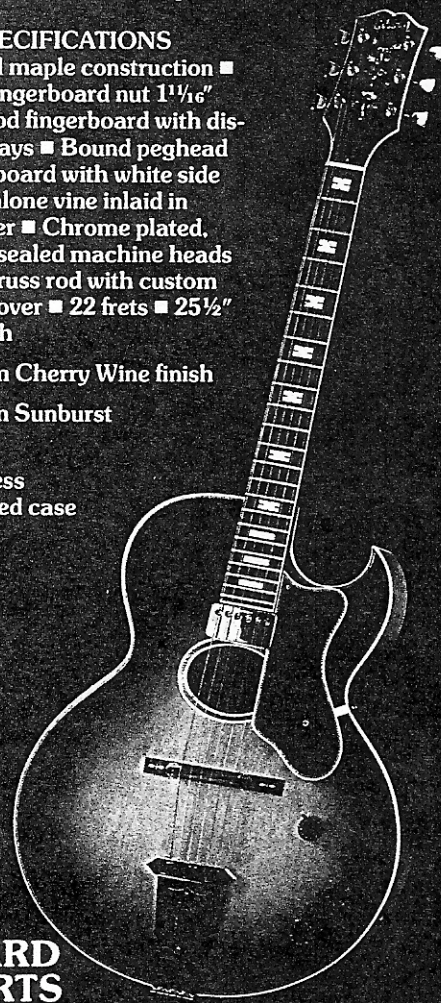
NECK SPECIFICATIONS

Laminated maple construction ■ Width at fingerboard nut 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ " ■ Rosewood fingerboard with distinctive inlays ■ Bound peghead and fingerboard with white side dots ■ Abalone vine inlaid in head veneer ■ Chrome plated, individual sealed machine heads ■ Gibson truss rod with custom truss rod cover ■ 22 frets ■ 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ " scale length

HR Custom Cherry Wine finish

HR Custom Sunburst
finish

515 Faultless
plush lined case



**HOWARD
ROBERTS**

BODY SPECIFICATIONS

Custom carved spruce top ■ Curly maple back and rims ■ Graceful Venetian cutaway ■ Top and back bound in multiple black/white binding ■ Bound "f" holes ■ Ebony bridge and saddle ■ Gold plated tailpiece ■ Deluxe bound pickguard ■ Two powerful Humbucking pickups with individual volume and tone controls ■ 3-position toggle switch for pickup selection (individual or both pickups simultaneously) ■ Available in Natural or Sunburst finish ■ Body size: Length 21", width 17", depth 2 1/4"

NECK SPECIFICATIONS

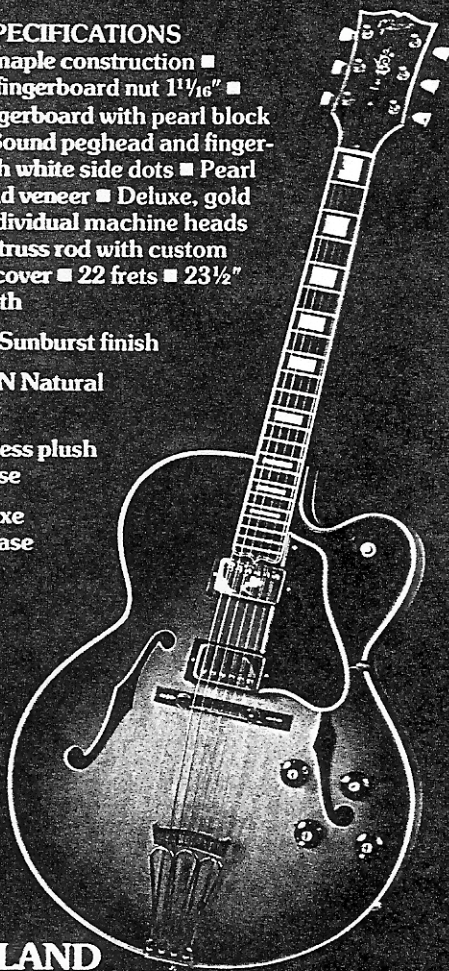
Five-ply maple construction ■ Width at fingerboard nut 1 1/16" ■ Ebony fingerboard with pearl block inlays ■ Bound peghead and fingerboard with white side dots ■ Pearl inlaid head veneer ■ Deluxe, gold plated, individual machine heads ■ Gibson truss rod with custom truss rod cover ■ 22 frets ■ 23 1/2" scale length

Byrdland Sunburst finish

Byrdland N Natural finish

603 Faultless plush lined case

ZC-3 Deluxe zipper case cover



BYRDLAND

BODY SPECIFICATIONS

Arched maple top ■ Matching maple rims ■ Arched maple back ■ Florentine cutaway ■ Body binding on top and back ■ "f" sound hole design ■ Adjustable rosewood bridge saddle with rosewood bridge base contoured to outside top dimensions ■ Chrome plated tailpiece ■ Black fingerrest with white revealed edge ■ Two powerful, chrome plated, Gibson Humbucking pickups with individual volume and tone controls ■ 3-position toggle switch for pickup selection (individual or both pickups simultaneously) ■ Available in Natural or Sunburst finish ■ Body size: Length 20 1/4", width 16", depth 3 3/8"

NECK SPECIFICATIONS

Laminated mahogany construction ■ Width at fingerboard nut 1 1/16" ■ Rosewood fingerboard with distinctive position marker inlays ■ Inlaid head veneer ■ Chrome plated, individual machine heads ■ Gibson truss rod with custom truss rod cover ■ 20 frets ■ 24 3/4" scale length

ES-175D

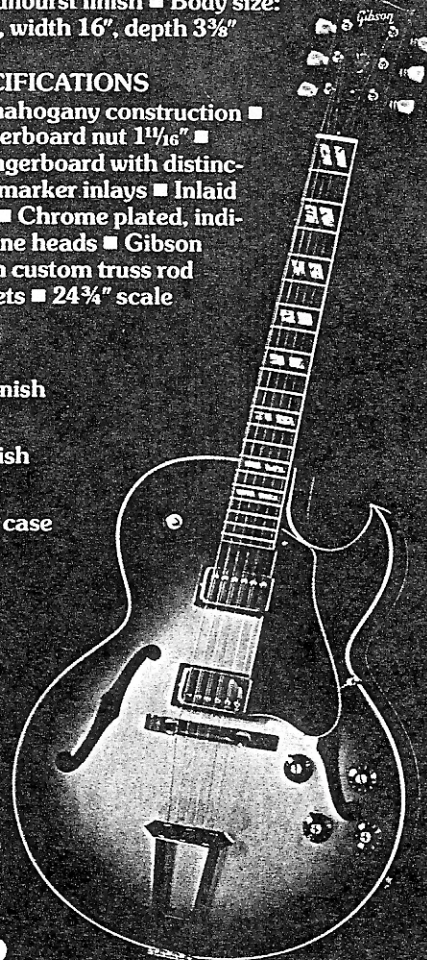
Sunburst finish

ES-175DN

Natural finish

515 Faultless

plush lined case



ES-175D

BODY SPECIFICATIONS

Custom carved spruce top ■ Carved maple back ■ Solid maple matching rims ■ Graceful Venetian cutaway ■ Top and back bound in multiple black/white binding ■ Bound "f" holes ■ Adjustable ebony saddle with ebony bridge base contoured to outside top dimensions ■ Gold plated tailpiece with contrasting silver colored centerpiece ■ "L-5" engraving ■ Deluxe bound pickguard ■ Two Gibson Humbucking pickups with individual volume and tone controls ■ 3-position toggle switch for pickup selection (individual or both pickups simultaneously) ■ Available in Natural or Sunburst finish ■ Body size: Length 21", width 17", depth 3"

NECK SPECIFICATIONS

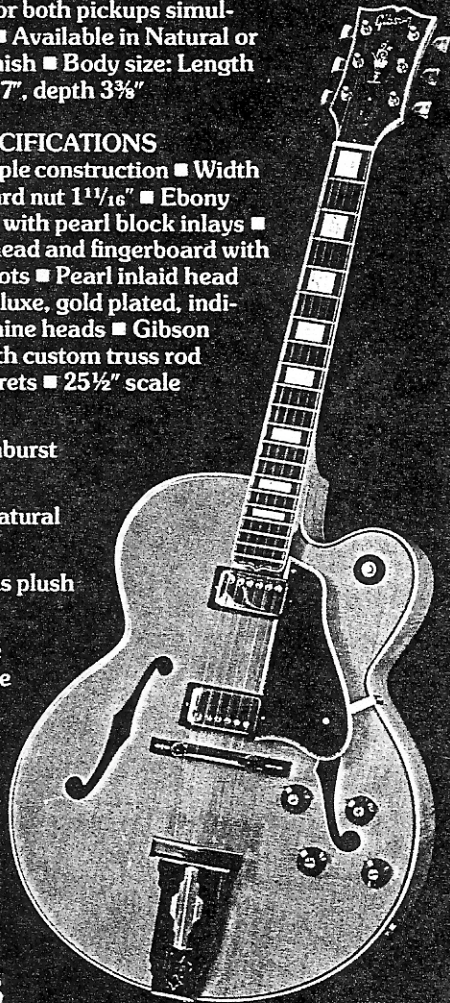
Five-ply maple construction ■ Width at fingerboard nut $1\frac{11}{16}$ " ■ Ebony fingerboard with pearl block inlays ■ Bound peghead and fingerboard with white side dots ■ Pearl inlaid head veneer ■ Deluxe, gold plated, individual machine heads ■ Gibson truss rod with custom truss rod cover ■ 20 frets ■ $25\frac{1}{2}$ " scale length

L-5CES Sunburst finish

L-5CESN Natural finish

600 Faultless plush lined case

ZC-6 Deluxe zipper case cover



L-5CES

BODY SPECIFICATIONS

Arched maple top ■ Matching maple rims ■ Arched maple back ■ Double Venetian cutaway ■ Adjustable, chrome plated, tune-o-matic bridge ■ Chrome plated tailpiece ■ Black fingerrest with white revealed edge ■ Two chrome plated Gibson Humbucking pickups with individual volume and tone controls ■ 3-position toggle switch for pickup selection (individual or both pickups simultaneously) ■ Available in Walnut or Natural finish ■ Body size: Length $19\frac{1}{4}$ ", width $15\frac{7}{8}$ ", depth 3"

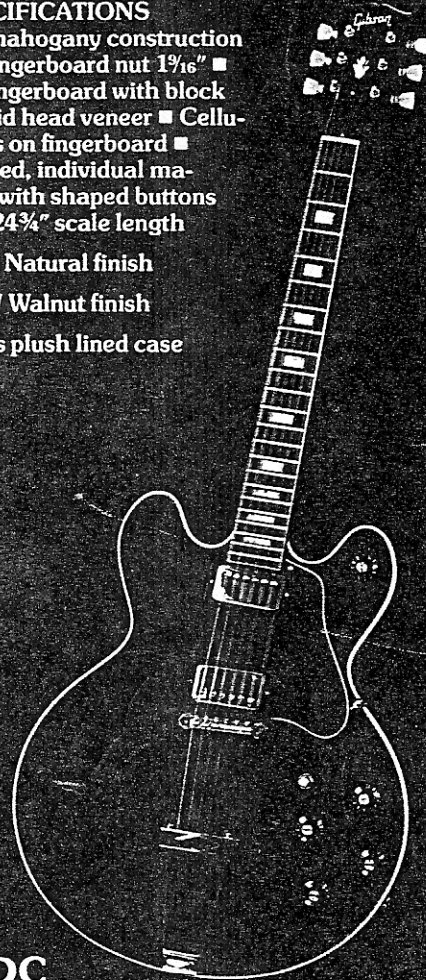
NECK SPECIFICATIONS

Laminated mahogany construction ■ Width at fingerboard nut $1\frac{1}{16}$ " ■ Rosewood fingerboard with block inlays ■ Inlaid head veneer ■ Celluloid side dots on fingerboard ■ Chrome plated, individual machine heads with shaped buttons ■ 22 frets ■ $24\frac{3}{4}$ " scale length

ES-150DCN Natural finish

ES-150DCW Walnut finish

515 Faultless plush lined case



ES-150DC

Gibson

A Product of Norlin Music, Inc., 7373 North Cicero Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois 60646

To improve the design, quality and performance of our instruments and to make use of the best available materials at all times, we reserve the right to change specifications without notice.

838427

BODY SPECIFICATIONS

Custom carved spruce top ■ Carved maple back ■ Solid maple matching rims ■ Graceful Venetian cutaway ■ Top and back bound in multiple black/white binding ■ Bound "f" holes ■ Adjustable ebony saddle with ebony bridge base contoured to outside top dimensions ■ Gold plated tailpiece with contrasting silver colored centerpiece ■ "L-5" engraving ■ Deluxe bound pickguard ■ Two Gibson Humbucking pickups with individual volume and tone controls ■ 3-position toggle switch for pickup selection (individual or both pickups simultaneously) ■ Available in Natural or Sunburst finish ■ Body size: Length 21", width 17", depth 3 3/8"

NECK SPECIFICATIONS

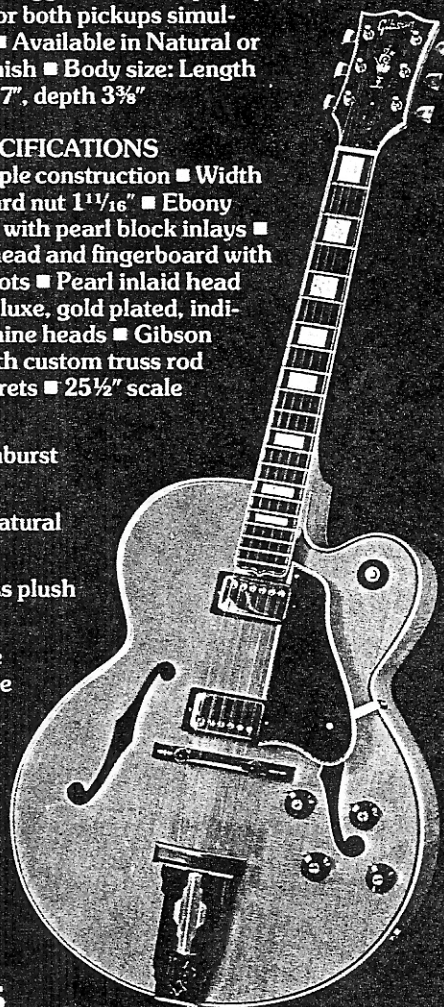
Five-ply maple construction ■ Width at fingerboard nut 1 1/16" ■ Ebony fingerboard with pearl block inlays ■ Bound peghead and fingerboard with white side dots ■ Pearl inlaid head veneer ■ Deluxe, gold plated, individual machine heads ■ Gibson truss rod with custom truss rod cover ■ 20 frets ■ 25 1/2" scale length

L-5CES Sunburst finish

L-5CESN Natural finish

600 Faultless plush lined case

ZC-6 Deluxe zipper case cover



L-5CES

BODY SPECIFICATIONS

Arched maple top ■ Matching maple rims ■ Arched maple back ■ Double Venetian cutaway ■ Adjustable, chrome plated, tune-o-matic bridge ■ Chrome plated tailpiece ■ Black fingerrest with white revealed edge ■ Two chrome plated Gibson Humbucking pickups with individual volume and tone controls ■ 3-position toggle switch for pickup selection (individual or both pickups simultaneously) ■ Available in Walnut or Natural finish ■ Body size: Length 19 1/4", width 15 7/8", depth 3"

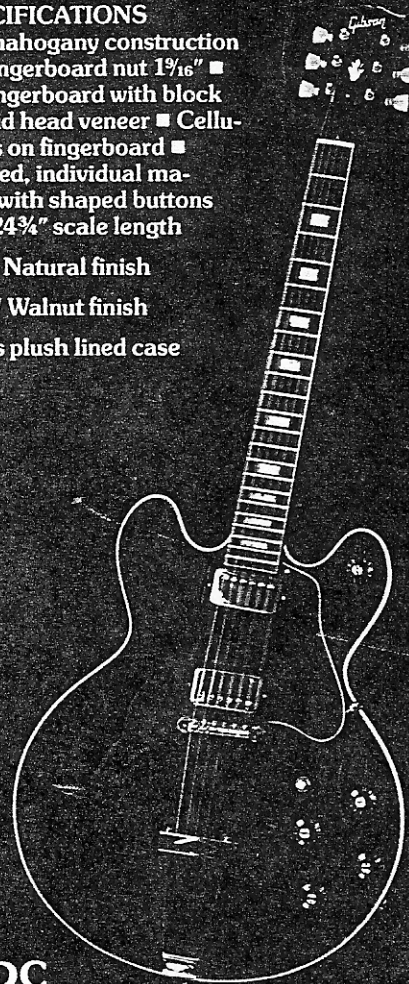
NECK SPECIFICATIONS

Laminated mahogany construction ■ Width at fingerboard nut 1 1/16" ■ Rosewood fingerboard with block inlays ■ Inlaid head veneer ■ Celluloid side dots on fingerboard ■ Chrome plated, individual machine heads with shaped buttons ■ 22 frets ■ 24 3/4" scale length

ES-150DCN Natural finish

ES-150DCW Walnut finish

515 Faultless plush lined case



ES-150DC

Gibson

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