



# R.L. Givens

## GUITARS

The 27, like all of Bob Givens' instruments, is powerful. Its lion in the peghead visually suggests what this guitar delivers, a royal sound which can be heard above the rest.

Bob uses the same construction techniques he has learned over the past 15 years on this guitar as on his other instruments. What makes this one different is the material choice for the sides and back, Koa. Koa is a hardwood which grows only in Hawaii. It looks similar to mahogany but has lots of beautiful iridescent grain patterns running through it. Martin used it on quite a few of their models in the 30's, but the supply went dry and it has been only in the past few years that another crop was harvested. Its density is heavier than mahogany but less than rosewood. This creates a guitar with the clarity of mahogany but more the sustain of rosewood. It has a very full sound but still lots of bite and amazingly loud.

The Dreadnaught shape directs it into the Bluegrass field, from which there are few to match it. But the sound still comes through for fingerpicking and rhythm guitar. Another incredible instrument from the shop of Bob Givens.



FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND DATING  
OF  
VINTAGE GUITARS, MANDOLINS AND BANJOS  
CATALOGS FROM THE COLLECTION OF STANLEY BURG

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.

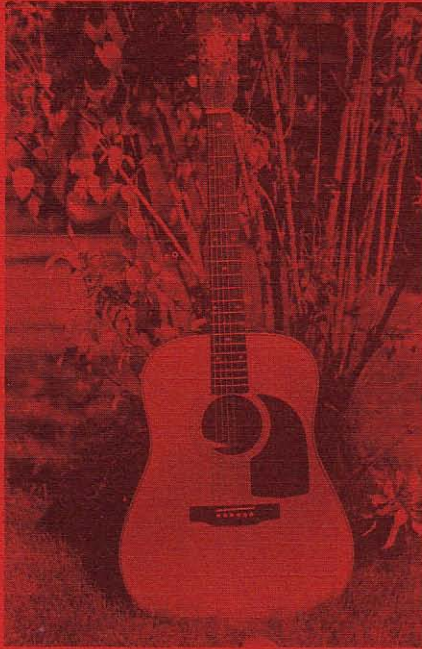
It is important to note that instrument catalogs are not always accurate in their

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.

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>





### Givens 27

Total length .....	40½"
Body width .....	20"
Upper bout width .....	11½"
Lower bout width .....	15½"
Upper bout depth .....	4 1/8"
Lower bout depth .....	4¾"
Fret board width	
at nut .....	1 11/16"
12th fret width .....	2 3/16"
14th fret width .....	2 5/16"
Scale length .....	25.4"

Sides and back are Koa, fingerboard and bridge are ebony, top sitka spruce, neck mahogany, nut and saddle ivory. Grover machine heads (adjustable neck).

Left-handed and sunburst available.

**Limited Lifetime Warranty**



**Guitars Friend**

RT. 1, BOX 200, SANDPOINT, IDA. 83864



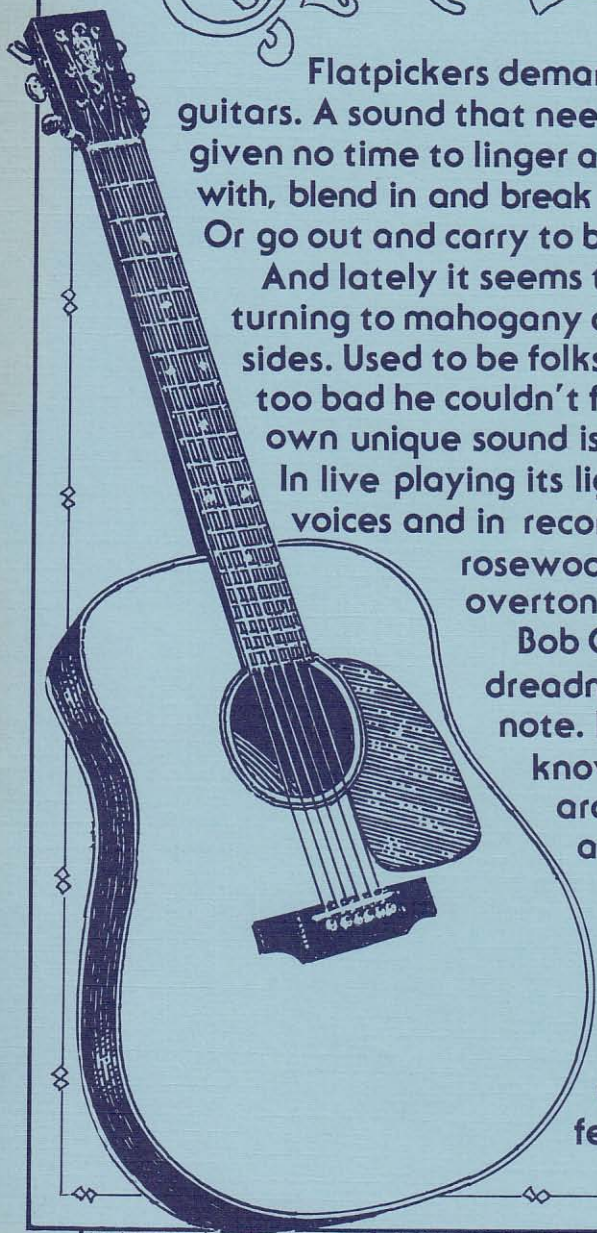
# GIVENS 18

Flatpickers demand an immediacy out of their guitars. A sound that needs to be chased out of the box, given no time to linger about. Out and away to meet with, blend in and break through the other instruments. Or go out and carry to be heard by all passing by.

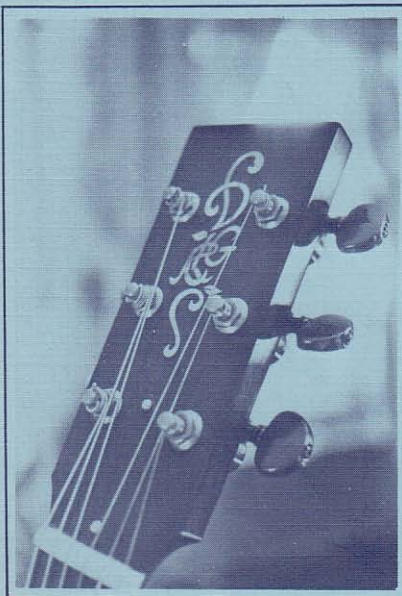
And lately it seems that more and more pickers are turning to mahogany as the wood for the back and sides. Used to be folks would see an 18 and say, "Oh, too bad he couldn't find a 28." Not anymore. It's own unique sound is being increasingly appreciated. In live playing its lightness goes well with most voices and in recording it reproduces better than rosewood with cleaner notes and less overtones.

Bob Givens builds a mahogany box dreadnaught which makes you take note. He is probably one of the best known Bluegrass instrument builders around. His mandolins are known and respected as the best and when he applies his knowledge and feel for instruments to guitars he comes up with some incredible ones.

His mahogany ones just ring out. The sound is strong but the feel is light, as mahogany should







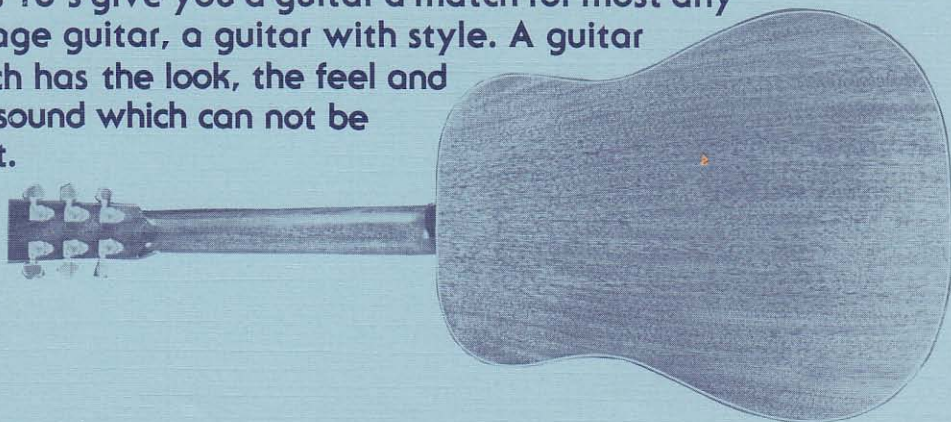
be. The story goes that Bob did extensive work on Norman Blake's 1938 D-18 and designed his 18 right after that using Norman's for design and inspiration. Bob brought it through.

Action is important. Given's play so easy it is hard to believe that the strings on it are medium, and it will handle heavies. With lights they play easy enough to satisfy the action nut. The neck feels flat and has lots of speed. Folks who play it immediately flip out over the feel. The guitar is versatile enough to suit the likes of a Bluegrass, finger-picker or just easy strummer.

What Givens is looking for is "well balanced tone". With his 18's he has achieved that. His many years and hundreds of instruments built has given him the know ledge to make predictable guitars. He knows how they are going to sound as he builds them and they are all good ones. Not a few great ones and then a few okay, but all excellent.

Dennis Coats, a local picker and teacher, has recorded a country-gospel album using for guitar exclusively his Givens 18. The album is great and the guitar is hot. If you want to hear a Givens at its best ask us about the album Gift of Love. Or order one for \$6.50 from us.

His 18's give you a guitar a match for most any vintage guitar, a guitar with style. A guitar which has the look, the feel and the sound which can not be beat.





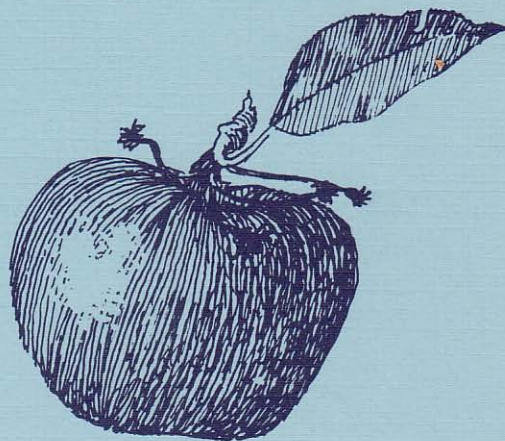


### Givens 18

Total length.....	40 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Body width.....	20"
Upper bout width.....	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Lower bout width.....	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Upper bout depth.....	4 $\frac{1}{8}$ "
Lower bout depth.....	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
Fret board width	
at nut.....	1 $\frac{11}{16}$ "
12th fret width.....	2 $\frac{3}{16}$ "
14th fret width.....	2 $\frac{5}{16}$ "
Scale length.....	25.4"

Sides and back are mahogany, fingerboard and bridge are ebony, top sitka spruce, neck mahogany, ivory nut and saddle. Grover machine heads.

Left-handed and Sunburst available  
Adjustable neck  
Limited Lifetime Warranty



**GUITARS  
FRIEND**



Route 1, Box 200  
Sandpoint, Idaho. 83864  
(208) 263-7640





*R.L.  
Givens*  
MANDOLINS

Bob's mandolins are magic. It is hard to believe that a new instrument could have so much the feel and sound of a vintage one. His mandolins do.

The A's have a resonance and sustain which is amazing, the sound just keeps on coming with a bass deep and clean. His F's are brighter having a snap and punch making this mandolin heard and felt at any picking session. One of Bob's greatest talents is his knowledge of how to make a mandolin sound sweet and clear at low volumes and then keep those same tonal qualities as it is played harder. The sound does not break up as the volume increases but keeps singing no matter how loud you get.

They sound great, play excellent and look incredible. What more do you want from a mandolin?



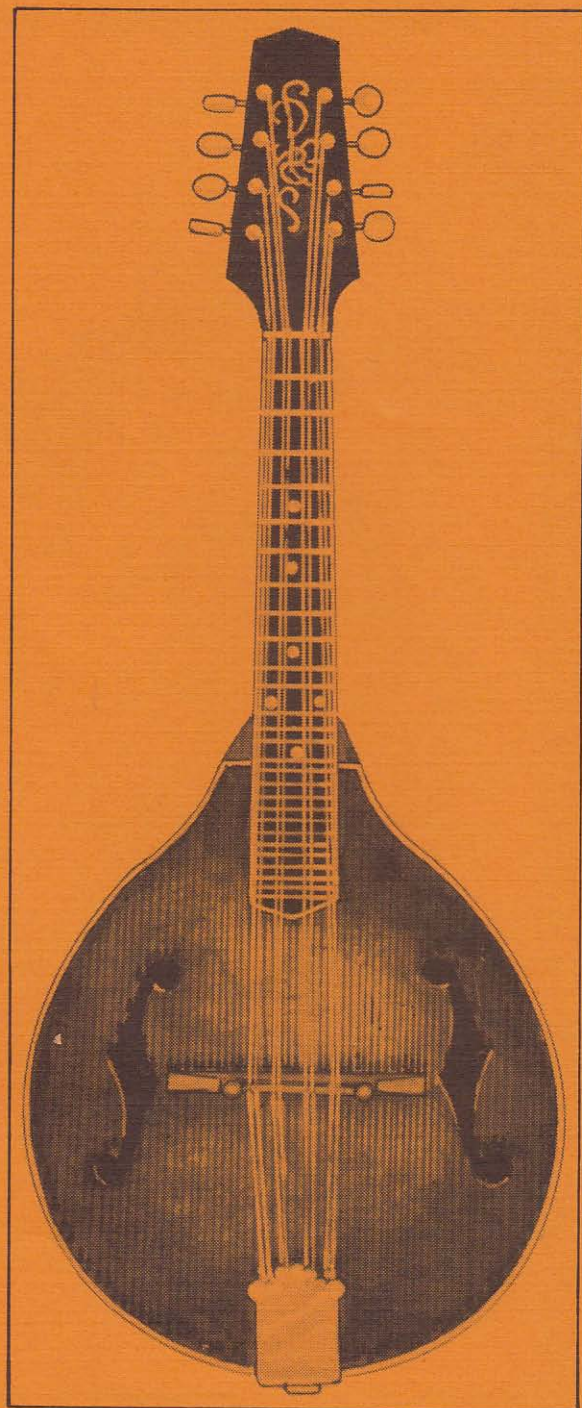
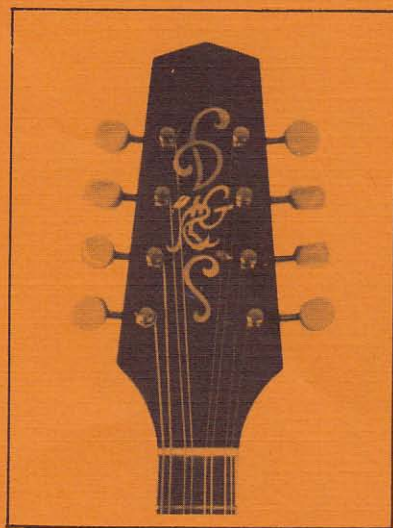
## Givens A model

Body width .....	10"
Body length .....	13 1/8"
Total length .....	26"
Body depth at side .....	1 11/16"
Head stock length .....	6 1/4"
Nut width .....	1 3/16"
12th fret width .....	1 9/16"
Scale .....	13 3/4"
weight .....	2 lbs.
frets .....	24

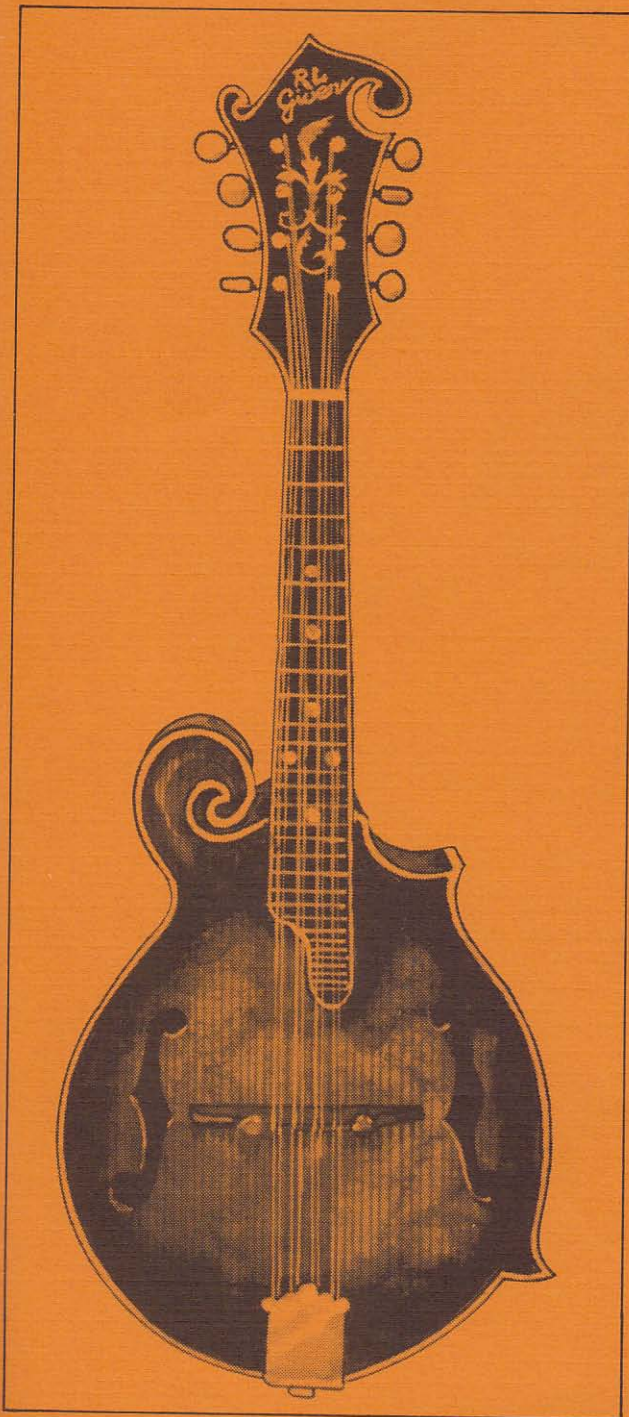
non-adj. neck

All have ebony fingerboard and ebony bridge, hand carved spruce top, hand carved maple back, maple sides, and all solid wood.

Limited Lifetime Guarantee.







## Givens F model

Body width .....	7 7/8"
Body length .....	12 7/8"
Total length .....	27 1/2"
Body depth at side .....	1 11/16"
Head stock length .....	8 1/2"
Nut width .....	1"
12th fret width .....	1 1/2"
Scale .....	13 3/4"
Weight .....	1 lb. 14 oz.
frets .....	29

non-adj. neck

All have ebony fingerboard and ebony bridge, hand carved spruce top, hand carved maple back, maple sides, and all solid wood.

Limited Lifetime Guarantee.







Bob Givens is a master when it comes to Bluegrass instruments. His working experience started in 1962 as a repair person in L.A. From then till 1966 his knowledge and reputation grew as he did over 300 5-string Mastertone conversions and about 10 D45 conversions. He then moved east to Nashville and became involved in mandolins, first with F5 conversions and then building them from start. He designed his A model and went into business with Tut Taylor trying to mass produce them. Givens calls that period his mass production disaster but learned that high production is just not where it is at with quality instruments. He moved west to the coast of Washington and got back into custom work and restoration. That was 1974 and

by that time he had built over 100 A's and lots of F's, making him one of the more experienced builders around.

We met Bob with our move to the Northwest, though we had heard lots of talk about his instruments before. We especially heard about him during the time we were going out on the festival circuit buying, selling, trading and learning about Bluegrass instruments. He decided that he wanted to go full time into instrument building but did not really want to deal with the selling end of it. We were only too glad to do that. We are now happy to be able to offer to you a steady supply of some of the finest Bluegrass instruments available, Bob Givens' instruments.



Guitars Friend  
Sandpoint,

Rt. 1, Box 200  
Idaho 83864



# PRICE PAGE

We think that these instruments are the finest ones available. We stand behind each one. We do not expect you to have to keep one if you were unsatisfied in any way. Let us know and we will get you what you want.

Guitars Friend has specialized in getting instruments out to be played, usually over long distances, for the past five years. We know the difficulties of buying an instrument sight and sound unseen. The correspondences both over the phone and through letters is continual. We love it. We also welcome folks to come up and visit our shop and workshops. Our customers do that often. Get in touch and we will try to help you out as best as possible. We are at your service. Glossy photographs are available of each instrument.

Please make all checks or money orders out to Guitars Friend, not to the individual guitar co. All prices include hardshell case and shipping charges within the continental U.S. If you live beyond that get in touch first. We do ship all around the world and close communication makes it easy.

Thanks. Hope that you will get a chance to pick on one of these some day.

## Franklin OM

- #1 Mahogany.....\$650
- #2 Indian rosewood .....\$750
- #3 Brazilian rosewood  
our original herringbone . \$925
- #4 Brazilian rosewood  
abalone 41 style..... \$1200

- Givens 18, mahogany ... \$700
- Givens 27, koa ..... \$825
- Givens A mandolin..... \$600
- Givens F mandolin . . . . \$1300

Jan. 1979

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