

# Basic Detail Report

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## Electric guitar

### Date

1952

### Primary Maker

Gibson, Inc.

### Description

The Gibson “Les Paul” is one of the most copied electric guitar models ever made. Introduced in 1952, it was Gibson’s first solid-body, electric Spanish-style guitar and was named for its endorser. The success of Fender’s Esquire and Telecaster models pushed Gibson into launching this competing product. In the first year-and-a-half of production, the guitar featured a trapeze-style tailpiece (string holder) patented by Les Paul. The solid-body Les Paul guitar, made from mahogany with a maple veneer, originally came in a gold metallic finish on the top with a clear lacquer on the back or, more rarely, with an all-gold finish, as on NMM 5916. The 1952 instruments

feature a modified version of the trapeze tailpiece-bridge combination that Les Paul (Lester Polfuss) patented in 1952. However, disputes with Gibson resulted in the strings being wrapped under the upper tailpiece bar rather than over the upper side, as Les Paul intended. This caused the strings to be difficult to damp with the player's hand, so it was replaced in 1954 with a top-mounted bridge and string holder.

### Dimensions

Overall length: 980 mm (38.6 in) Back length: 438 mm (17.25 in)