

Basic Detail Report



Guitar

Date

1953

Primary Maker

Gibson, Inc.

Description

The J-185, a guitar with a narrow-waisted body shape known as the "jumbo," was first offered in 1951. It features a lightly figured maple back and ribs that bring out the classic, shaded, lacquer finish described in a catalog of the period as the "Gibson Golden Sunburst." Stringing: six steel strings Soundboard: two-piece spruce: wide grain broadening toward the flanks Back: two-piece, slab-cut maple with faint, narrow curl and pith flecks; no back stripe Ribs: two-piece, slab-cut maple with faint, narrow curl and pith flecks; no end graft Head: mahogany veneered with black lacquered maple; mother-of-pearl "Gibson" and geometric crown inlay; black-overwhite celluloid bell-shaped truss rod cover secured with nickel-plated steel phillip's-head screws Neck: mahogany;

integral with head Heel cap: none; neck heel flush with back Binding: white celluloid; with two-ply black and white celluloid trim Fingerboard: rosewood bound in white celluloid; 19 nickel-silver frets; imitation mother-of-pearl plastic split-parallelogram inlays behind 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 12th, 15th, and 17th frets; single imitation tortoise-shell celluloid side dots behind 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 15th, and 17th frets; double imitation tortoise-shell celluloid side dots behind 12th fret Nut: translucent white plastic Bridge: rosewood with curved upper edge; single mother-of-pearl dots inlaid beside E-string bridge pins; mother-of-pearl Maltese crosses inlay at each end of bridge; angled, translucent white plastic saddle; white plastic bridge pins Tuners: six Kluson gold-plated steel worm-gear machine tuners with enclosed mechanisms; tulip-shaped, marbled white plastic heads Endpin: white plastic Rosette: five ply (white-black-white-black-white) celluloid purfling strips set in from inside edge Pick guard: imitation tortoise-shell celluloid Lacquer: dark red-brown sunburst with craquelure Linings: kerfed mahogany; 10 spruce reinforcement grafts with tapered ends glued to inside of ribs, perpendicular to top and back Neck block: mahogany End block: mahogany Top braces: spruce X-brace, the joint of main cross brace reinforced with white cloth; transverse and finger braces with tapered ends; maple bridge plate Back braces: maple back graft; four spruce back braces with tapered ends

Dimensions

Total guitar length: 1030 mm (40-9/16") Back length: 513 mm (20-3/16") Upper bout width: 294 mm (11-19/32") Waist width: 236 mm (9-9/32") Lower bout width: 411 mm (16-3/16") Rib height (including edging) at heel: 99 mm (4-29/32") Rib height, at waist: 109 mm (4-9/32") Rib height, at end block: 123 mm (4-27/32") Head length: 169 mm (6-21/32") Head width, top: 78 mm (3-1/16") Head width, bottom: 69 mm (2-23/32") Neck length (nut to ribs): 350 mm (13-25/32") Neck width, nut: 42 mm (1-23/32") Neck width, heel: 54 mm (2-1/8") Soundhole diameter: 101 mm (3-31/32") Vibrating string length (nut to bridge edge): high E: 632 mm (24-7/8"); low E: 635 mm (25")