

Basic Detail Report



Electric guitar

Date

1939/05/11

Primary Maker

Harmony Company

Description

By the late 1930s, electric guitars were becoming more mainstream, with less expensive versions sold through mail order catalogs like Sears and Montgomery Ward. This \$67.50 Harmony electric guitar sold through Sears, Roebuck & Co. has a cheaper build quality for the body, but the pickup is well made and the design technologically advanced for its time. Stringing: six steel strings
Soundboard: pressed, arched, two-piece, quarter-cut spruce: wide grain Back: pressed, arched one-piece maple plywood with inked marks in imitation of narrow curl
Ribs: two-piece, slab-cut maple with inked marks in imitation of narrow curl Head and neck: maple Heel cap: none

Binding: white celluloid Fingerboard: rosewood; 19 nickel-silver frets; mother-of-pearl dots behind 5th, 9th, and 15th frets; two mother-of-pearl dots behind 7th and 12th fret; single white celluloid side dots behind 5th, 7th, 9th, 12th and 15th frets Nut: bone Bridge: two-piece rosewood (compensated) with nickel-plated screws for height adjustment Tailpiece: nickel-plated steel trapeze shape, secured to lower rib with four nickel-plated steel slotted flat head screws Tuners: two nickel-plated worm gear tuner sets with white celluloid heads Endpin: missing Soundholes: f-holes without binding Pick guard: black celluloid, mounted on guitar with nickel-plated steel bracket and two nickel-plated steel Philip's head screws Pickup: electromagnetic pickup incorporating a U-magnet with one pole joined to a metal bar, through which three screws extend into three coils to function as pole pieces. Three further screws through the coil are height-adjustable under the strings. The opposite pole of the U-magnet is in contact with a steel bar mounted closer to the bridge, magnetizing that portion of the strings with the opposite polarity, a feature found on several 1930s pickup designs. The pickup is built into a maple rectangular plate with rounded corners and dark-brown-varnished edges. This plate is affixed with two brass screws into a larger maple box with a U-shaped cutaway, which is in turn mounted on the main maple strut extending between the neck and end blocks. The pickup is covered with a nickel-plated brass plate secured to the maple mounting plate with two nickel-plated screws. The volume control is mounted in the lower treble bout and has a nickel-plated brass, cast knob. See photos in file. Lacquer: dark red-brown sunburst with craquelure Linings: kerfed maple Neck block: masonite with beveled edges End block: masonite with beveled edges Top bracing:

spruce longitudinal bars between f-holes Grafts: none Other: linen glued to inside of top around f-holes; three linen strips glued on inside of back at upper center and lower bouts; large maple strut between upper and lower blocks, with maple block mounts above and below strut, glued to each block, pickup mounted above strut in maple block

Dimensions

Total guitar length: 1004 mm (39 17/32") Back length: 491 mm (19-5/16") Upper bout width: 278 mm (12-19/32") Waist width: 232 mm (10-15/16") Lower bout width: 375 mm (14-3/4") Rib height (including edging) at heel: 83 mm (3-1/4") Rib height, at waist: 84 mm (3-3/16") Rib height, at end block: 87 mm (3-5/16") Head length: 163 mm (6-13/32") Head width, top: 71 mm (2-25/32") Head width, bottom: 60 mm (2-3/8") Neck length (nut to ribs): 354 mm (13-15/16") Neck width, nut: 43 mm (1-11/16") Neck width, heel: 56 mm (2-3/16") Soundhole length: 153 mm (6-1/32") Vibrating string length (nut to bridge edge): high E: 642 mm (25-1/4"); low E: 644 mm (25-11/32")