

# Basic Detail Report

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## Guitar

### Date

1967 ca.

### Primary Maker

Gibson, Inc.

### Description

According to Marshall Grant (as recorded in the Sotheby's auction catalog), June Carter Cash (1929-2003) acquired this guitar to replace her 1961 Gibson ES-125 (acoustic /electric), which she had used in order to be heard over the band. She was "kidded" about the ES-125, so she switched to the Hummingbird, which then became one of her favorite guitars. June is shown with the guitar in a photo accompanying the article, "June Pride," in the September 18-24, 1999, issue of TV Guide. The Hummingbird model, introduced in 1960, was named for the delicate image of a hummingbird feeding on the nectar of a trumpet vine that appears on the transparent red celluloid pickguard. Stringing: six steel strings  
Soundboard: two-piece spruce, wide grain narrowing

toward the flanks Back: two-piece mahogany; no back stripe Ribs: two-piece mahogany; no end graft  
Head: mahogany stained black on face; inlaid with abalone geometric decorative device; black over white bell-shaped truss rod cover secured with black-painted steel Phillips head screws Neck: mahogany; integral with head; filled strap button hole on heel Heel cap: none; neck heel flush with back Binding: white celluloid; top trim comprised of black-white-black-white-black celluloid purfling strips; back trim comprised of black-white-black-white celluloid purfling strips Fingerboard: rosewood bound in ivoroid; 20 nickel-silver frets; mother-of-pearl split parallelogram inlays behind 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 12th, 15th, and 17th frets; single black celluloid side dots behind 3rd, 5th, 9th, 15th, and 17th frets; double black celluloid dots behind 7th and 12th frets Nut: white plastic Bridge: ebony with curved upper edge; adjustable, angled, white plastic saddle fastened to bridge with two slot-headed steel screws; black plastic bridge pins; single mother-of-pearl dots on each side of bridge pins Pegs: six gold-plated steel Kluson Deluxe worm-gear machine tuners with single-ring, tulip-shaped, marbled, off-white celluloid heads and worm gear mechanisms enclosed in rectangular covers Endpin: brass over chrome-plated steel; Phillips head screw through center Rosette: wide band of white and black striped celluloid (7 strips - white on outside) set in from inside edge, surrounded on outside with narrower band of white-black-white celluloid with natural wood in between Pick guard: thick, transparent red celluloid with scalloped outline, secured to top with

glue and six later black Phillips head screws, the engraved hummingbird, trumpet vine, and butterfly motif highlighted with off-white paint Varnish: thick nitrocellulose lacquer with some checking; removed from binding; fine swirled texture from polishing (scent of commercial guitar polish evident 12/7/04) Linings: kerfed mahogany Neck block: mahogany; chamfered corners End block: black-stained hardwood Top braces: spruce X-brace, the joint of main cross brace reinforced with white cloth; light hardwood bridge plate Back braces: light hardwood back graft does not extend to endblock; four spruce back braces

### **Dimensions**

Total guitar length: 1034 mm (40-3/4") Back length: 504 mm (19-27/32") Upper bout width: 292 mm (11-1/2") Waist width: 276 mm (10-7/8") Lower bout width: 402 mm (15-13/16") Rib height (including edging) at heel: 97 mm (3-13/16") Rib height, at waist: 107 mm (4-3/16") Rib height, at end block: 123 mm (4-27/32") Head length: 170 mm (6-7/16") Head width, top: 79 mm (3-3/32") Head width, bottom: 75 mm (2-5/16") Neck length (nut to ribs): 357 mm (14-1/32") Neck width, nut: 40 mm (1-9/16") Neck width, heel: 53 mm (2-3/32") Soundhole diameter: 102 mm (4") Vibrating string length (nut to bridge edge): high E: 640 mm (25-3/8"); low E: 646 mm (25-5/8")