

The electric guitar

The electric guitar may be the most important and popular instrument of the last century in world music. Its introduction brought a big change to musical technology and has shaped the sound and direction of nearly all modern musical styles.

The electric guitar was the result of guitarists' desire to play the guitar and hear it at a louder volume. This became more important when big bands were starting to form. It was obvious then, that the hollow body acoustic guitars struggled to be heard along with the other instruments. That's how electric guitars were invented in 1931.



Electric guitars today are made with solid, hollow and synthetic bodies. Using an instrument cable, the guitar is plugged into an amplifier. Without an amp, electric guitars make little musical sound. Most modern electric guitars have 6 or 7 strings. Electric guitars also have pickups which turn the string vibrations into an electric signal, sent through the guitar cable and into an amplifier.

Electric guitars are famous for their sound to be altered by effects pedals, processors, etc. and of course, their amplified sound. They have changed the music world forever and they are still among the most popular instruments in the world.

