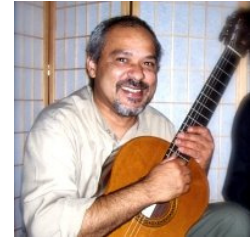




## Guitar Buying 101:

**Maurice Cahen shares tips based on decades of teaching experience.**



Buying a guitar can be a challenging task when you don't know much about it. It's very important you consult your teacher before purchasing it. To learn more about private guitar instruction, click [here](#).

### Starting Out

For my students I recommend a nylon string guitar, also known as "Classical" or "Spanish" guitar, which can be used for many styles of playing. You can either get a half, three-quarter or full-size depending on student age and size. Avoid steel string guitars for beginners (also known as Folk or Dreadnought guitar). The steel strings hurt finger tips, which can make students quit playing. Additionally, practicing on an acoustic instrument as opposed to an electric guitar develops strength and endurance. It's great playing an electric guitar, but I recommend daily practice on an acoustic instrument.

### New vs Used

Don't hesitate to purchase a second hand instrument in excellent condition as an instrument to learn on [note from the editor: this is great advice for all instruments]. They are usually cheaper and well seasoned. Conversely, don't buy an inferior or damaged instrument - that will be even more of an impediment in spite of the temptation to save money.

### Good Strings

For nylon strings, I recommend:

*D'addario Pro Arte nylon strings EJ46 Hard tension.* If that makes no sense, show this letter to the store clerk. They'll know what to do.

### Where to Buy Locally

[Mouradian Guitar](#) (very nice people!)

810 main Street, Winchester

[The Music Emporium](#) (high end instruments)

164 Mass Ave, Lexington

[Guitar Stop](#)

1760 Mass Ave, Cambridge

[Mr. Music](#) (great for second hand instruments)

128 Harvard Ave, Allston

### The Most Common Mistake

Never purchase an instrument before talking to your teacher. Stores try to sell a smaller size guitar than required for kids in order to have you come back and boost their sales.