

Choosing Guitar Strings

Robert Higginbotham

Guitars come in many forms and styles, but all are either 1) steel string or 2) nylon string.

Nylon strings are used on ‘classical guitars’ designed to play classical music on guitar. These strings are much easier on the fingers than steel strings. The sound is typically more ‘mellow’ than steel strings.

Steel strings are used on steel string guitars, and on all electric guitars. Steel strings typically have a “brighter” sound and are not generally used in classical music on the guitar. Steel strings on acoustic guitars typically use a thicker gauge than steel strings on electric guitars.

The type of string you use will depend on whether you have a classical or steel string, or electric guitar.



Classical Guitar



Steel String Guitar



Electric Guitar

There are countless strings on the market from many manufacturers. For reviews of the different brands I refer you to Google and any of your friends that are familiar for information.

It is important to understand that strings come in gauges from light to heavy. In other words from thin to thick. In general, thicker strings generate more sound and may have a ‘deeper’ tone. Many folks consider them physically harder to play. Many folks consider thinner strings easier to play and/or prefer the tone on their instrument.

Using a particular string from a particular manufacturer is a personal choice. You are encouraged to try different brands and gauges. Use your curiosity, over time find what you like.

For more comprehensive information I refer you to start with these articles:

<https://www.gearank.com/articles/guitar-string-types>

<https://www.wikihow.com/Choose-Guitar-Strings>