

# Gibson's Fabulous Flat-Top Guitars: An Illustrated History and Guide

*By Eldon Whitford, Dan Erlewine, Dan Eriewine*

Who can forget the singular sound of the Everly Brothers' guitar in "Wake Up Little Susie" and "Bye Bye Love"? It was the sound of a Gibson flat top, one of the finest acoustic guitars ever produced. This great American icon is the subject of Gibson's Fabulous Flat Tops, a comprehensive book that chronicles the history of the Gibson company and the growth and development of their flat top guitars. It covers every model from 1918 to the present; includes over 100 color photos and 150 b&w ones; includes reminiscences from many of the well-known performers who play flat tops; and much more. 8-1/4 inch. x 11 inch..

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## Gibson's Fabulous Flat-Top Guitars: An Illustrated History and Guide Summary Details

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This volume offers a lavishly illustrated history of the Gibson company and its classic flat-top guitars. The book's release coincides with the company's centennial celebration. From the 1920s to the present, Gibson and its guitars have been a slice of Americana. Whether an established musician is Northern or Southern, urban or rural, white or African American, young or old, he or she has likely used a Gibson to create music. The book employs more than 200 photographs, many in color, and detailed text in chronicling the development and evolution of the instruments. Recommended for public and music libraries. --Eric C. Shoaf, Brown Univ. Lib., Providence

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From [Booklist](#)

In acoustic guitars, the Gibson brand name is an assurance of high quality. Due to haphazard serial numbering systems and inconsistent application of them, however, the comprehensive history of Gibson guitars that fans have long desired has not been forthcoming until now. Drawing on previous works that examined facets of the Gibson story as well as the authors' own research into primary sources, it is a combination of text and pictures that shows why "only a Gibson is good enough." The authors attempted to examine every Gibson model since the 1920s and succeeded so well that they describe even the Jumbo Deluxe, of which only three were made. They discuss the musical properties of individual models, and they chronicle illustrious owners and players of the various models, interviewing some. Their book would be worth having just for the pictures of the guitars and their owners, but the research, care, and affection that went into it make it more than a coffee-table denizen or nostalgia trove. It is a valuable historical document describing an important aspect of American pop culture. *Mike Tribby*

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