

READY, STEADY, GO



Welcome to the wonderful world of assembling guitar kits!

Assembling a guitar kit is a great way to get to know the inner workings of the electric guitar. It also diminishes some of the unnecessary mystique and voodoo clouding the processes applied when building instruments, and helps you appreciate fully the craftsmanship of "real" luthiers.

I've written this book from the standpoint of an amateur. I will show you how you can succeed in assembling a well-playing instrument with only a minimum amount of tools and woodworking skills required.

Advice:

If you're a complete novice to handling, say, a power drill, I'd strongly recommend you first practice on cheap wood cutoffs, before drilling your first holes into your guitar kit!



Guitar kits are available in all shapes and sizes on the Internet – most are actually produced in China, but some more expensive ones can also come from places like the USA.



For this project I've selected a set-neck kit from ML-Factory (a German vendor of Far Eastern kits), which offers two advantages:

- •It is a complete kit, so the novice doesn't run the risk of ordering the wrong parts.
- •The kit comes with the neck already glued in, which takes care of one crucial, but fiddly step for you.

Still, it is a very good idea to check for missing or damaged parts, before you proceed.

Everything is in order here!

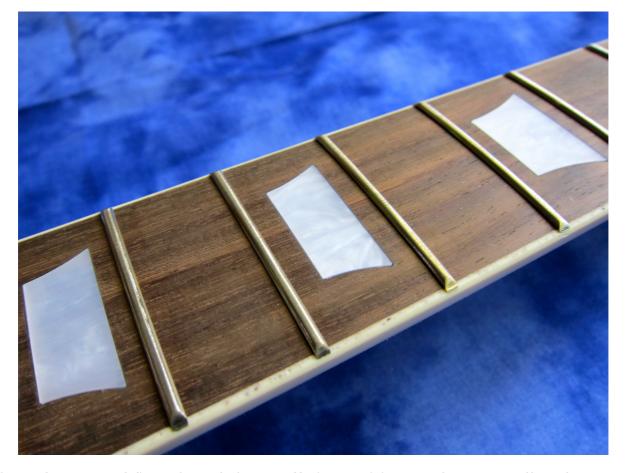


The kit guitar has a three-piece mahogany body, topped with some lighter-coloured wood, which in turn sports a beautiful ash veneer, as well as multiple binding.





The mahogany neck features a separate headstock, glued on just beneath the bottom tuner holes. The headstock's front is spruced up by a mahogany veneer and multiple black-and-white binding.



The bound rosewood fingerboard shows off nice position markers, as well as decent fretwork (apart from the sharpish fret ends).

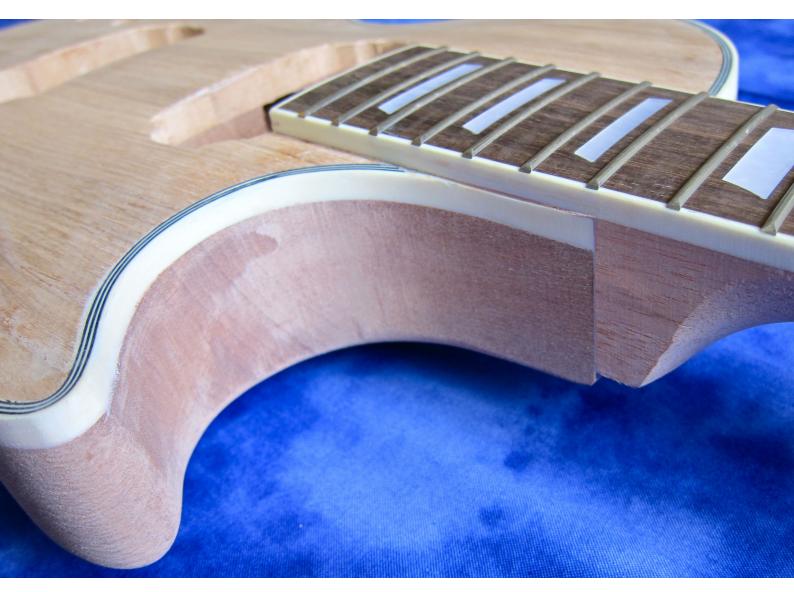


The pickup routs look a bit rough, but the untidy edges will be covered by the pickups and their bezels.





The control cavity and the cylindrical switch cavity look much cleaner, but we will have to add the ledges for their respective covers ourselves.



There are some rough edges here and there, which will have to be smoothed over using sandpaper, but overall the quality on offer is astoundingly good for the very modest price of this kit.

