

The Sounding Board™

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MARTIN GUITAR COMPANY • VOLUME 1 • AUGUST 1996



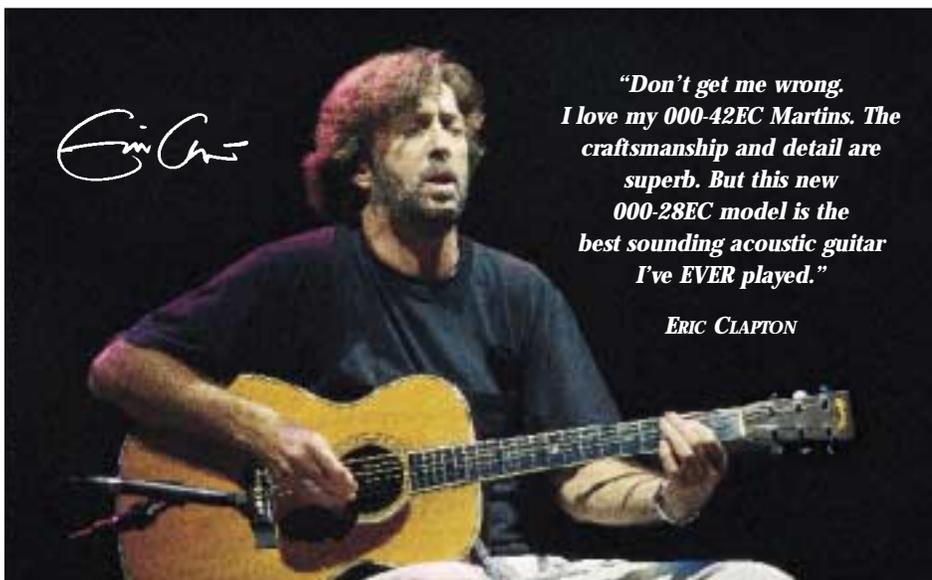
MARTY STUART TEAMS UP WITH C. F. MARTIN IN DESIGN OF HD-40MS COUNTRY BLUEGRASS FLATPICKER'S LIMITED EDITION

C. F. Martin & Co. is proud to announce an exciting design collaboration with country music legend Marty Stuart. Prototypes of the Marty Stuart HD-40MS signature model were unveiled at the NAMM (National Association Of Music Merchandisers) summer trade show in Nashville, Tennessee. Marty's goal in working with Martin on this project was to create an instrument that would capture the essence of what a country bluegrass flatpicker's guitar should be.

Among the many Martin guitars that Marty Stuart owns, are the original Dreadnought models owned by Lester Flatt and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

NEW ERIC CLAPTON 000-28EC SIGNATURE MODEL MARTIN GUITAR UNVEILED AT NASHVILLE NAMM



"Don't get me wrong. I love my 000-42EC Martins. The craftsmanship and detail are superb. But this new 000-28EC model is the best sounding acoustic guitar I've EVER played."

ERIC CLAPTON

Perhaps no other musician has so profoundly influenced rock and acoustic blues players than legendary British guitarist Eric Clapton. From his early work in the Yardbirds, Cream, Derek & The Dominos, through his more recent Grammy award-winning

MTV Unplugged project, Eric has continually redefined the art of guitar. In recognition of this major talent, the Martin Guitar Company is proud to announce an exciting second design collaboration with Eric Clapton. As

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

The logo for Martin & Co. features the company name in a stylized, cursive font with a small 'C' and 'F' inside the 'M'. Below the name, it says "EST. 1833".

5 • 4 • 3 • 2 • 1
LOW ACTION



We've instituted some exciting new procedures at Martin that are yielding unprecedented playability and action. String tension simulators are being utilized during final fret honing, which produces an exceptionally true playing surface. After final inspection and stringing, each guitar is put on the shelf (like a fine bottle of wine) for a 14 day waiting period. This allows each instrument to settle in under string tension. After this period, the guitar is reinspected and adjusted if necessary to insure that your Martin guitar plays "like butter"! ❖



CHRIS'S COMMENTS

Dear Martin Enthusiast:

WELCOME TO THE PREMIER ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER. We've been very busy here in Nazareth thanks to the growing world wide interest in acoustic music. Ideally you should come and visit us. We give tours at 1:15 p.m. on week days (excluding holidays).

We are hard at work improving the Martin guitar. How can you improve a time tested product like ours? Carefully. We are America's oldest guitar company. We evolve our instruments according to the demand of our customers (you). Today we are making Martin guitars with the easiest, fastest action ever. Combined with our time tested designs, we are able to



Martin's newly expanded guitar and string making facility just north of Nazareth, PA

produce a modern American icon. We know that you hold us to a very high standard. Your demanding passion for our product drives us to make the best guitars we have ever made. Not only has the quality and playability

improved, but so has the affordability. In fact, our entire "1 Series" line of guitars, including the new "DM" model, have become very popular and represent very good value.

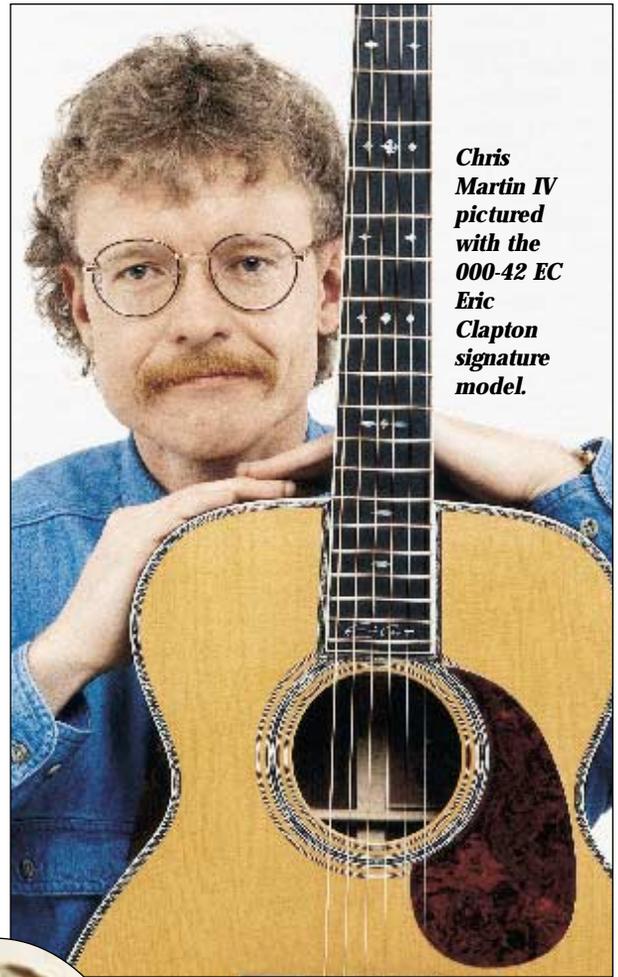
We're excited about the development of our Vintage and Golden Era® series. Today we are building authentic re-creations of many of our popular vintage guitars.

Perhaps one of our most interesting new products is the Martin MTV-1 Unplugged® guitar. MTV Unplugged® has been a significant catalyst for the increasing appreciation of the acoustic guitar. The guitar we designed is unique in that it combines mahogany with rosewood for the back and sides. The mahogany on the treble side accentuates the high and mid-range while the rosewood on the bass side accentuates the deep booming bass expected of the Martin Dreadnought.

I'm running out of space and I feel like I've only just begun. I'd be interested in knowing what you would like me to talk about in my column. Please let me know.

C. F. Martin IV

Chairman & CEO, The Martin Guitar Company



Chris Martin IV pictured with the 000-42 EC Eric Clapton signature model.



Chris Martin's great great great grandfather, C. F. Martin, Sr., founder of C. F. Martin & Co.

The Sounding Board™

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PRINTING

The Martin Print Shop



LETTERS

Dear Mr. Martin,

I am sending you the words and music to a song I wrote expressing my feelings about my new Martin 000-16T. I hope that you enjoy the song as much as I enjoy my new guitar:

“Made To Be Played”

©1995 EARL W. CHANCELLOR

*With silver, steel and ebony
my slender neck is graced.
With leather, beads and sequins
my little strap is laced.
Pretty lines go round my curves,
send the light away.
Put your arms around my neck
and on your lap I'll lay.*

*I was made to be played.
I was made to be played.
I was made to be played.
Play me now.*

*Don't leave me in the attic,
or the closet all alone.
Don't trade me at the pawn shop
for a fiddle or a gun.
Don't put a case around me
or send me far away.
Put your arms around my waist
and on your lap I'll lay.

When I am old and weathered
and the lines begin to show,
Don't send me off to be among
some friends I'll never know.
Hear me singing sweetly,
let me whisper in your ear.
Take me in your loving arms
and hold me very near.*

Chorus

Sincerely,
Earl Wesley Chancellor
Ukiah, California ❖



100% Recycled

Dear Mr. Martin,

I recently had my D-18 repaired at your facility. I had high expectations because of your reputation for quality and craftsmanship. I was however not prepared for the magnificent job done by your repair department. They far exceeded any expectations that I had. Through their skill and craftsmanship they have restored an instrument that is both beautiful to look at and a pleasure to play and hear. I cannot find words to express how happy I am with the repair work that was done. I don't know if you can find the person or persons that actually did the work, but if possible I would like to express my gratitude for an outstanding job. I truly appreciate their efforts.

Sincerely,

Kevin R. O'Brien

Salamanca, New York ❖

Dear Mr. Martin,

I recently saw an ad in Guitar Buyer's Guide, 1995-1996 edition for Taylor guitars. It told how an individual went into the store intent on purchasing another brand of guitar. He played the Taylor and bought it.

I too recently went into a music store intent on buying either a Taylor or a Collings guitar. I played both of them and was impressed with the sound and quality that was present in both of them. I then noticed a guitar in a display case. I asked to see it. It was a Martin D-28. I played it and immediately forgot about Taylor, Collings, and every other guitar in the store. I could not believe the sound that came

out of that guitar. The quality and workmanship were exceptional. I could not put it down even to pay for it! So to make a long story short, the guy in the ad should have picked up a Martin D-28. I'm glad I did.

Sincerely,

Victor M. Robinson

Palmdale, California ❖

Dear Mr. Martin,

On March 4, I purchased the Eric Clapton Signature Model 000-42EC at my local Martin dealer in Appleton, Wisconsin. This is an extremely beautiful guitar, and I consider it to be more an investment than a purchase. My compliments go out to you and your company for assembling such a fine instrument. Eric Clapton happens to be my favorite guitarist, which makes the instrument even more special to me.

I am also pleased that part of the purchase price was used to support the Eric Clapton Charitable Trust for children.

Very truly yours,

Dean High

Vice President/Resident Mgr.

Merrill Lynch

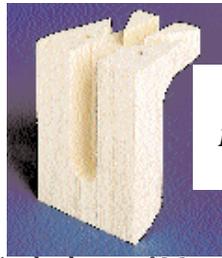
Appleton, Wisconsin ❖

We Would Love To Hear From You!

Send Your Letters To:

Your Name Address City, State, Zip Country	Place Stamp Here
<p>Dear Mr. Martin C. F. Martin & Co. P. O. Box 329 Nazareth, PA 18064-0329 USA</p>	

WHAT'S IN A BLOCK ?



**Patented
"1 Series"
Neck Block**

At the heart of Martin's patented "1 Series" neck to body geometry is the unique front block pictured above. This complex component is contoured from laminated alder for perfect stability. Diagonal notches cut into the top surface of the block are designed to support the ends of the A-frame braces that add significant rigidity to the soundhole area. The mortise joint, which accepts the neck, is cut on a computer controlled milling machine (CNC) for a highly precise fit. CNC machines are great for producing complicated parts like the front block, but it still takes human hands and great skill to complete the hundreds of assembly operations involved in making a Martin guitar.

Our neck attachment does in fact utilize a brass screw and threaded insert during the process of securing the neck in place, but unlike other "bolt-on" neck designs that rely on a "bolt", the "1 Series" necks that utilize our patented technology are glued in place. The brass screw serves the purpose of providing clamping pressure during glue-up, since there is no other effective method of pulling a mortise joint tight to the body. After the neck is glued, the brass screw could, for all practical purposes, be removed and discarded. Instead, we have chosen to leave it in its concealed position for extra strength directly behind the serial number plate, which is visible through the soundhole.

It is our firm belief that this neck joint provides optimum strength and stability to this high stress area while preserving the glued wood to wood contact of the neck to body junction. It is also our conviction that the integrity of this glue joint contributes significantly to resonant tone from the neck.

That's just one of the reasons why the "1 Series" and "16 Series" Martin guitars sound so much better than the conventional "bolt-ons" offered by many other manufacturers. ❖



New DM

NEW MARTIN DM SWEEPS THE NATION

C. F. Martin has expanded its innovative and patented "1 Series" line of guitars. Among the new models are the affordable DM model which represents the lowest priced acoustic guitar in Martin's line.

Other additions include the D12-1 12-string model, the DC-1 cutaway model, and the 00-1 & 00-1R Grand Concert small-bodied models. The D-2R draws its inspiration from Martin's legendary D-28, and the D-3R has appointments that closely resemble Martin's D-35.

The "1 Series" models were conceived to provide high quality solid top guitars at an affordable price. They currently represent the lowest priced solid top Martin guitars in the marketplace. ❖



000-16TR

SWEET LITTLE SIXTEENS

Martin has expanded its "Style 16" models, which incorporate many of the unique technological advances developed in Martin's innovative and patented "1 Series" guitars. Among the new models are the D-16T, 000-16T and 000C-16T cutaway which feature solid mahogany back and sides. The D-16TR and 000-16TR feature East Indian rosewood back and sides. All of the "16 Series" models incorporate Martin's new extra low profile neck, designed for easy playability, player comfort, and fast action. Herringbone marquetry is featured around the circumference of the soundhole rosette and down the center seam of the back.

The "16 Series" models were conceived to provide high quality all solid wood guitars at an affordable price. They represent the lowest priced all solid wood Martins in the marketplace. ❖

**GEIB™ STYLE
DELUXE VINTAGE
HARDSHELL CASES**



The Geib Case Company made cases for Martin instruments during the 40's and 50's. Those old original cases are bringing top dollar on the vintage market. The reason: they're beautiful cases, and they're well made. After a great deal of research and thorough inspection of several vintage cases, Martin has reintroduced a Geib Style™ Deluxe Vintage Hardshell Case. These fine cases are included with the purchase of each Vintage Series Martin guitar, and they are available as an upgrade to standard "600 Series" cases at an additional charge. Martin Geib Style™ Cases feature vintage shape, deep textured black exterior, 5-ply laminated wood shell, vintage green crushed velvet interior, padded stitched leather handle, antique white stitching, brass plated hardware, and a keyed lock. The cases are currently available in three sizes: #533 (fits OM or 000 14-fret models), #540 (fits Dreadnought 12-fret models), and #545 (fits Dreadnought 14-fret models). ❖

**At Martin,
We've Learned A
Great Deal In
163 Years!**

*Vintage Series
OM-28VR*



**VINTAGE SERIES
PAYS TRIBUTE TO
MARTIN HERITAGE**

We've learned that allowing the past to repeat itself is often a good thing. The Martin Vintage Series instruments draw their inspiration from the elegant vintage designs, specifications, and appointments of the now legendary Martin pre-World War II era guitars. Crafted with exquisite detail and sensitivity to tradition, this new series includes the 14-fret D-18VM and 12-fret D-18VMS mahogany models, the 14-fret HD-28VR and 12-fret HD-28VS herringbone models, the smaller bodied OM-28VR herringbone orchestra model, and the new Eric Clapton 14-fret 000-28EC Signature model. (See cover story)

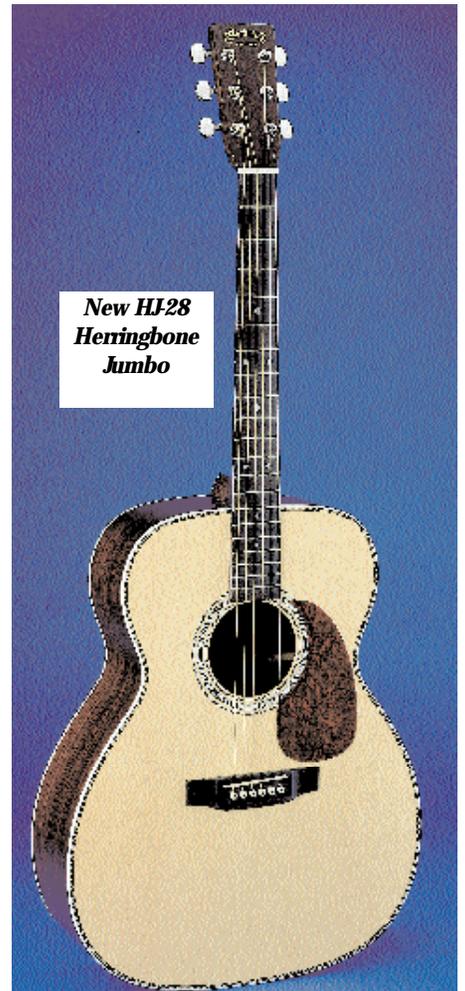
Vintage Series models share

common features: an old style squared and tapered headstock shape, a modified V-shaped neck, period fingerboard inlays, vintage style tuning machines, forward shifted scalloped X-bracing, a polished and beveled tortoise color pickguard, and a deluxe 5-ply "Geib Style™" hardshell case. ❖

**NEW & UPGRADED
MODELS FOR
MARTIN JUMBOS**

Upgrades to Martin's J-40 include the addition of an abalone pearl soundhole rosette, a headstock bound in white, a headplate inlaid with the abalone pearl "C. F. Martin" letters, and a tortoise color pickguard. Other upgraded "40" models include the black J-40BK, the J12-40 12-string, and the JC-40 cutaway. The new Herringbone Jumbo HJ-28 combines Martin's Jumbo size with the popular visual appointments found on the famous Herringbone HD-28 model. ❖

*New HJ-28
Herringbone
Jumbo*



A LITTLE TRAVELING MUSIC

How To Travel With Your Martin Guitar

BY DIANE PONZIO

Most guitar owners will be adamant about keeping their guitar on the back seat of their car versus the trunk, imagining the worst case scenario of being rear ended on the highway. There are even better reasons. The temperature in the trunk is more extreme, and extreme climactic changes can cause wood cracks and lacquer checks. The car interior is always more comfortable. Hence, your first basic rule of thumb, is keep your instrument where you yourself are comfortable. I'm sure you wouldn't choose the trunk of a black car in July, or the trunk of a white car in sub-zero weather for that matter! Once you arrive, allow the guitar to acclimate. That is, let it sit in the closed case in your new environment for a half an hour or so before playing.

For those of you who travel on planes with your Martin, try with sincere and charismatic style, to avoid checking your guitar as luggage. Most planes now have overhead compartments that can easily accommodate a guitar in a hardshell case. What I do is try to always pre-board, and politely ask attendants if they would be willing to find closet space if the case doesn't fit in an overhead. However, on really small aircraft like the popular new shuttles, you may have no choice. In some situations, you may be allowed to hand carry your guitar to the steps of the plane, where an attendant will hand load it while you watch. It's always smart to ask if this is possible before checking your guitar in as baggage. I recommend, whether you check your instrument or not, to prepare your guitar for air travel in the following manner:

- Take out the endpin (if there is one and if it is not glued in place).
- Tune each string down one whole step (DGCFFAD).
- Lock the case and add the key to your keychain.
- If you must check it in, ask the airline check-in person to put some "FRAGILE" stickers on it, and request personal handling. (You may be asked to sign a liability release.)
- Make sure you have a luggage tag with your name, address, and phone attached to the case handle.

Most airlines seem happy to accommodate guitarists in transit. A pleasant and polite demeanor will always aid your cause.

Diane Ponzio, pictured above right, is a guitarist, singer and songwriter who specializes in contemporary pop-jazz. When she's not traveling, she's based in New York City. ❖



"Thank You, Republic Airlines"

WORDS AND MUSIC
©1983 TOM PAXTON

The neck on Tom Paxton's M-38 Martin guitar was broken during air transit. Of course, the airlines made him sign a release before he boarded. When he saw the damage, he told them, "I'm going to write a song about you guys." and he did:

*Thank you, Republic Airlines
for breaking the neck
on my guitar.*

*I arrived to do a concert
with the Kingston Trio.
Opened my guitar case
with a smile "gone Rio"!*

*Thank you, Republic Airlines.
What a joy to
the musician you are.*

*Oh, you treat each piece of
baggage like a child of your
own. When you come across an
instrument, it drops like a stone.
May you waken every morning
with a new broken bone,
like you broke the neck
on my guitar.*

*There could be
no greater satisfaction than if...
you should be the next
to go the way of Braniff !*

David Thompson Jr. (pictured at right) is an airline pilot with a passion for guitar playing. In between flights, David relaxes with his Martin Backpacker® guitar. Here he is perched inside a DC-10 jet engine "cowling". Please don't try this at home!

It is reassuring to know that there are avid guitar aficionados like David working with the airline companies. Perhaps the fact that so many pilots and flight attendants are also musicians will give an added sense of comfort to Martin owners who need to fly with their instruments. ❖



NEW PACKAGE AND
NEW TECHNOLOGY
FOR MARTIN STRINGS



If you're used to buying Martin Strings in the old black and orange package with the hand logo, you should know that we've upgraded to a completely new package like the one pictured above. Sets are color coded by gauge and style, and the individual string sizes are printed on the front of the pack for player convenience.

If You Haven't Picked Martin Strings Lately, It's Time You Did!

But that's not all we've done. We've been working very hard to insure that Martin incorporates the most advanced technology into the production of our vast line of fretted instrument strings. If raw materials hold



Martin employee Dave Collins performs tensile strength testing on musical string wire using the new Instron® machine.

up to the extreme tension analysis that we put each spool through, then and only then are they selected to become Martin strings for your instrument.

Last year, we installed a new Instron® Tensile Strength Testing Machine and computer interface. These high-tech tools alert us if any string wire is out of specification, while also tracking wire performance automatically to assure the finest, most consistent quality.

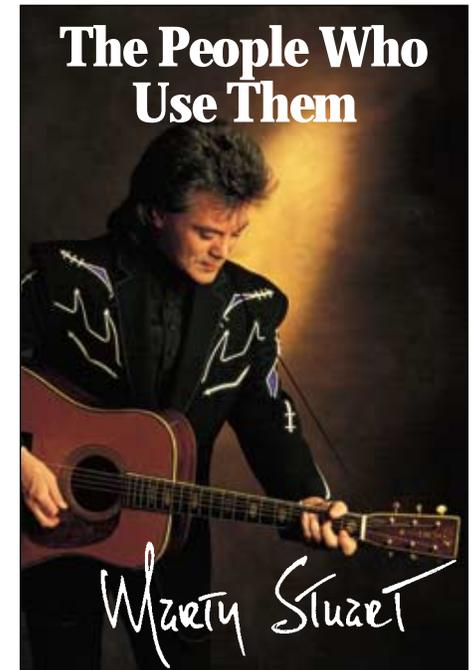


Martin employees utilize state-of-the-art digital string winding equipment to apply the wrap material to the core wire during the making of Martin strings. This equipment is too important to string quality to entrust to outside vendors. That's why we have our own dedicated machinists that constantly create new designs and upgrades to these critical tools.

We have also installed highly advanced, state-of-the-art controls on our string winding equipment to precisely monitor critical wire tension during the wrapping process. Our string winding technology allows us to achieve the tolerances demanded by today's sophisticated musicians.

To stay ahead of our competitors, our in-house guitar players make more than 1200 blind-folded evaluations of tone, sustain, and string life before any specification changes are made to our strings. More than 200 Martin employees are dedicated to making the best strings available. ❖

MARTIN STRINGS



MARTY STUART.

WHEN YOUR AUDIENCE COMES TO HEAR YOU PICK, YOU PICK YOUR STRINGS VERY CAREFULLY. THAT'S WHY MARTY STUART USES MARTIN STRINGS ON HIS ACOUSTIC GUITARS. WHETHER HE'S GOT YOUR FOOT STOMPING TO HIS HILLBILLY ROCK, HANDS CLAPPING TO SOME TRADITIONAL BLUEGRASS, OR BREAKING YOUR HEART WITH A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY BALLAD, THE TONE AND CLARITY OF HIS STRINGS ARE CRUCIAL TO HIS SOUND. WHEN ITS TIME TO RESTRING YOUR INSTRUMENT, USE MARTIN MARQUIS®, MARTIN STRINGS®, MARTIN PHOSPHOR BRONZE, OR MARTIN CRYOGENIC. AFTER ALL, THE BEST STRING WITH THE BEST !

MARTIN STRINGS
Because Your Music Deserves The Best.

Choosing The Right Martin For You

WHAT'S YOUR BUDGET?

Note: Suggested Retail Price is Martin's List Price. Martin dealers determine their own selling prices. For prices on the Martin guitar of your choice, please contact your local authorized Martin dealership.

Suggested Retail Price	"1 Series" Guitars	"16 Series" Guitars	Standard Series Guitars	Vintage Series Guitars
\$7,500			D-45	
\$6,000				
\$5,000			D-42	
\$4,000			D-41	
\$3,800				
\$3,600				HD-28VS
\$3,400			J-40BK	000-28EC
\$3,200			J-40 JC-40 J12-40	HD-28VR OM-28VR
\$3,000			HD-35 M-38 BC-40	D-18VMS
\$2,800			MC-28 HD-282R B-40 HJ-28 HD-28 DC-28 OM-28	
\$2,600				D-18VM
\$2,400			D12-28 M-36 D-35 000-28	
\$2,200			J-18 D-28	
\$2,000			000-18 OM-21 D-18	
\$1,800	D-3R D-2R	000C-16T D-16TR 000-16TR		
\$1,600		D-16T 000-16T		
\$1,400	00-1R			
\$1,300	000-1R DC-1 D-1R D12-1			
\$1,200	00-1			
\$1,100	D-1 000-1			
\$1,000				
\$900	DM			
\$800				

Best Selling Martin Models

1. . . .DM
2. . . .D-1
3. . . .D-28
4. . . .HD-28
5. . . .D-1R
6. . . .D-35
7. . . .000-1
8. . . .000-1R
9. . . .D-42
10. . . .D-18

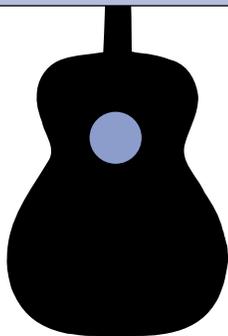
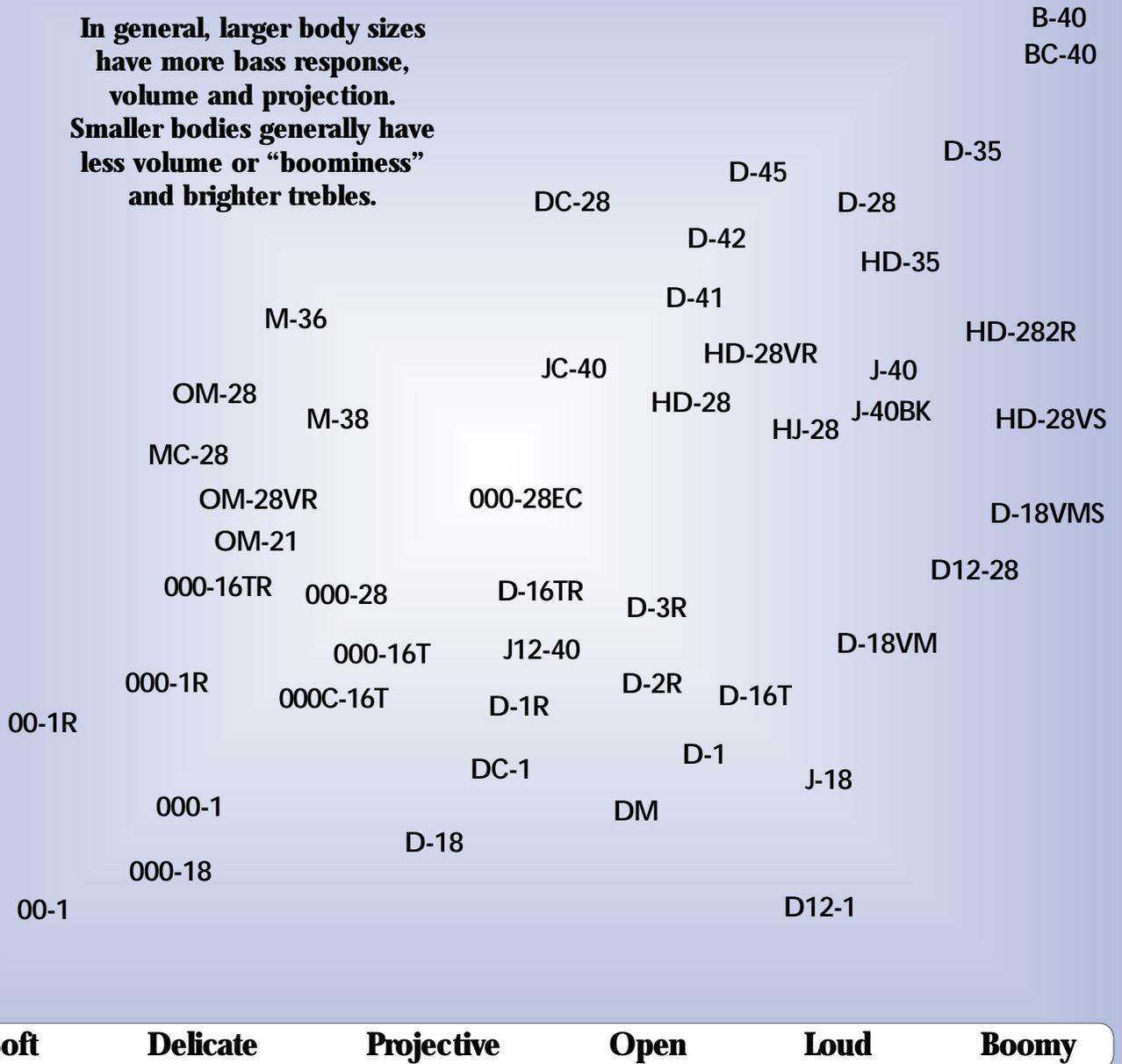
Zeroing In On The Tone You Want

WHAT'S YOUR SOUND?

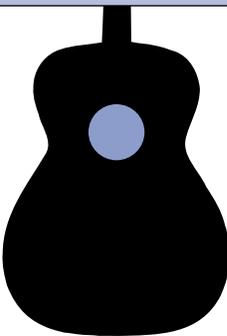
Note: Tone is very subjective. This chart represents general opinion based on the editor's personal experience with the models designated. The chart has been provided to help the guitarist understand the effect of different sizes, shapes, woods, and bracing patterns on tone.

Trebly Bright Crisp Clear Balanced Rich Warm Resonant Bassy

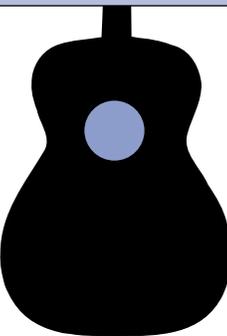
In general, larger body sizes have more bass response, volume and projection. Smaller bodies generally have less volume or "boominess" and brighter trebles.



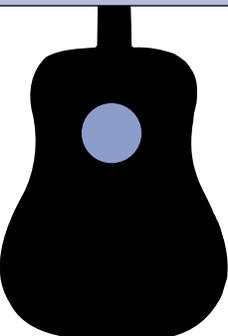
14-fret 00 Grand Concert



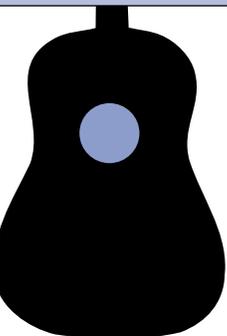
14-fret 000 or OM



14-fret Jumbo (D-depth) or M (000 depth)



14-fret Dreadnought



12-fret Dreadnought

CLAPTON 000-28EC

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER)

part of the company's new vintage inspired line of stock models, Martin will be handcrafting a numbered series of special 000-28EC Eric Clapton signature model acoustic guitars.

The smaller "000" body size with a short 24.9" scale length is particularly popular among fingerstyle and blues guitarists who prefer a delicate and balanced tone. The 000-28EC model draws its inspiration from the extremely popular 1995 Limited Edition 000-42EC Eric Clapton signature model. 461 of these special guitars were offered and they sold out immediately. Guitarists that missed out on the 000-42EC due to limited numbers or budget considerations, should love the 000-28EC. The 000-28EC is similar to the 000-42EC in body size, shape and choice of tonewoods, but the appointments are quite different.

Crafted with solid woods throughout, the sides and back are constructed from premium grade solid East Indian rosewood and the top is bookmatched from select quartersawn Sitka spruce. The rosette as well as the perimeter of the soundboard are inlaid with finely patterned herringbone wood marquetry, and the body is bound with grained ivoroid.

A genuine ebony fingerboard features the pre-war Style 28 snowflake pattern in abalone pearl. Eric Clapton's signature is inlaid in mother of pearl between the 19th and 20th frets. Each 000-28EC will bear an interior label individually numbered.

The 000-28EC is tastefully appointed with a hand beveled and polished tortoise colored pickguard. Vintage style nickel-plated open-gear tuning machines are equipped with unique vintage "butterbean" knobs. The squared headstock bears Martin's tasteful but elegant old style decal logo.

A Deluxe Vintage Series Geib Style™ Hardshell Case is included with the purchase of each 000-28EC instrument. These beautiful cases feature vintage shape, deep textured black exterior, 5-ply laminated wood shell, vintage green crushed velvet

interior, antique white stitching, brass plated hardware, and a keyed lock.

After the first prototype was submitted to Eric Clapton for his evaluation, his reaction was: "Don't get me wrong. I love my 000-42EC Martins. The craftsmanship and detail are superb. But this new 000-28EC model is the best sounding acoustic guitar I've EVER played."

In short, this is a very special guitar. Just like the man who inspired it. ❖

MARTY STUART

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER)

Hank Williams, Sr. In designing his own specific signature model, Marty wished to combine the tonal and playability aspects of these famous and priceless vintage instruments, with his own unique ornamentation ideas.

The neck shape is borrowed from Marty's "Hank Williams Sr." D-45. This unique neck incorporates an extremely fast and sleek extra low profile at the 1st fret, blended with a more traditional rounded shape as you approach the 12th fret.

Fingerboard inlays were derived from an original drawing by Marty Stuart which incorporates five country logotypes that he has personalized through the years: steer horns, horseshoes, dice, hearts, and flowers. These inlays are beautifully executed with 103 individual pieces of mother of pearl, gold pearl, black pearl, abalone shell, and recomposite stone. Marty Stuart's distinctive signature is inlaid at the final fret in abalone pearl.

One of the most interesting design elements of the HD-40MS is the "herringbone pearl" rosette. Marty Stuart challenged Martin to create this unique rosette in abalone to compliment the fine pattern of Martin's pre-war herringbone wood marquetry which trims the perimeter of the top on this model.

A solid Sitka spruce top is lightly braced with Martin's pre-war forward shifted scalloped X-brace pattern. East Indian rosewood is selected for the sides and the two piece back, which is demarcated with a fine patterned herringbone back inlay strip. The fingerboard, headstock and body are

bound in grained ivoroid with matching end piece and heel cap. A tasteful "C.F.Martin & Co." gold foil logo is lacquered under a highly polished headplate. Tuning machines are gold plated vintage style with open gears and "butterbean" knobs.

Each Marty Stuart HD-40MS is offered with a Geib Style™ Deluxe Vintage Hardshell Case. In addition, one of Marty Stuart's favorite thin black leather guitar straps has been replicated faithfully, complete with a tastefully tooled three piece sterling silver buckle set.

The HD-40MS will be limited in number to a total of 250 instruments, each individually numbered with its sequence in the edition. An interior label bears the authentic signature of Marty Stuart and C. F. Martin IV, Martin's Chairman and CEO, who represents the sixth generation of Martin family members to manage the instrument making firm.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the Marty Stuart HD-40MS Limited Edition guitar will benefit one of the charities close to Marty's heart, specifically The Oglala Lakota College District Learning Center Fund. ❖

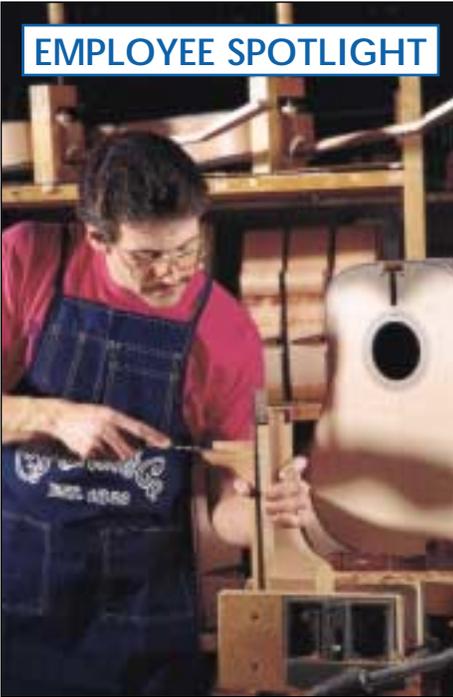
Martin Web Site Up And Running.

The C. F. Martin World Wide Web site went on line on December 4th, 1995 and the response has been fantastic.

The internet site features a complete catalog of Martin instruments, historical information about the company and the Martin family, information about Martin's "Guitarmaker's Connection" division, press release archives, a Martin event calendar, technical information about Martin Strings, news about new Martin products, and a means for signing on to Martin's mailing list. In the coming months, the site will continue to evolve with new and exciting information. Check it out now !

<http://www.mguitar.com>

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Tim Teel has been hand fitting guitar necks at Martin for 10 years. This is a procedure that requires great skill and an extremely sharp chisel. In his spare time, Tim makes the actual chisels that he and his co-workers use to shave a precise fit in the neck dovetail area. The handles are lathe turned from exotic woods and inlaid with abalone pearl shell in an assortment of Style 45 designs. It's a small thing, perhaps, but it shows the pride that our employees take in quality and craftsmanship. ❖

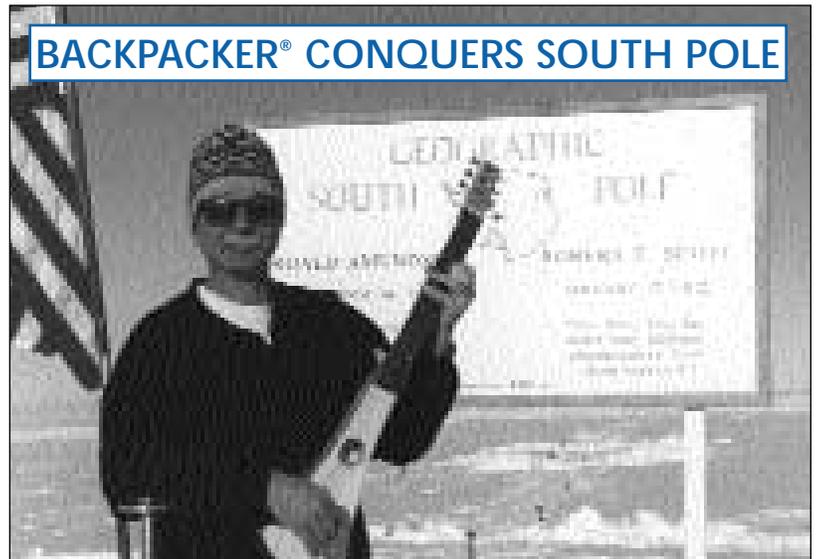


MARATHON MAN

John Saylor has been running the Boston Marathon for nearly 15 years, but his 1996 running, which was the historical 100th Anniversary of the Boston Marathon, was the first time he did the entire distance with his Martin Steel String Backpacker® guitar. He finished with flying colors with a time of 3:16:22. John is an avid guitar player and professional performer with his dancing blues band “The Purple Valley” in Ithaca, New York. During the day, he heads up the Engineering Library at Cornell University. Along the route, John became known as “The Guitar Man”, and a few hundred of his fellow Marathoners signed the Backpacker®, which is now on display with his finisher’s medal and bib number at the Martin Museum in Nazareth. ❖



BACKPACKER® CONQUERS SOUTH POLE



For the past three years, **Harry Egeland** has worked in Antarctica. One season, he lugged a full size guitar with him, but under the circumstances, it was just too much. He was particularly glad to acquire his Backpacker® guitar, which he took with him “everywhere”, including his three month stint at the South Pole station, elevation 12,000 feet (pictured above). In spite of the brutal weather conditions, his Backpacker® still stays in tune, plays and sounds great. As Harry says: “The size and weight makes the Backpacker® an added joy in my arsenal of portable hobbies.” ❖

**If Our Tools Are
This Beautiful,
Imagine How We
Use Them!**

*Tim Teel's
beautifully
handcrafted chisels.*

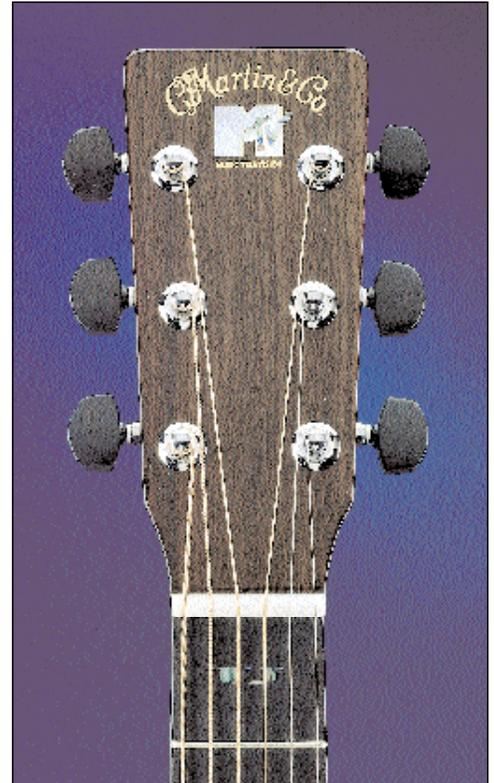
BACKPACKER® AT MOUNT EVEREST

Backpacker® Guitars Show Up In The Coolest Places.

This Martin Backpacker guitar made it to the **Mount Everest** Base Camp on the Central Ronbuk Glacier in Tibet. In the cold but peaceful elevation of 17,200 feet, Joe Blackburn, expedition photographer, and the other members of the Seven Summits Expedition took time to relax with music and song before continuing their trek to the summit. In March of 1994, a miniature version of the Martin Backpacker was the first guitar to ride aboard the **Space Shuttle**, or as we like to say: "To Boldly Go Where No Guitar Has Gone Before."

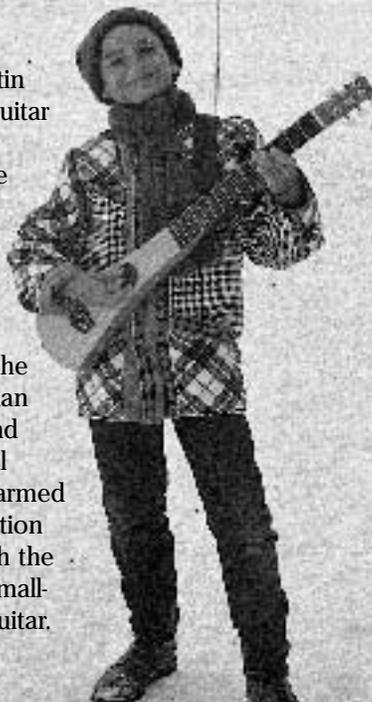


The 1996 Limited Edition MTV-Unplugged® Guitars are hitting the stores in full force. Guitar players have been giving the MTV-1 model rave reviews both for the extraordinary tone and inlay designs, as well as the unique visual appeal of mixed mahogany and rosewood back and sides.



BACKPACKER® AT THE NORTH POLE

Our Martin Backpacker guitar made a long journey to the **North Pole**. Even at this very cold and remote place, members of the popular Russian bluegrass band "The Cheerful Diligence" warmed fellow expedition members with the tone of this small-sized travel guitar.



Ideana & Clarence Yoder commissioned Bontrager Pools, Inc., to build this special guitar shaped swimming pool at their home in Goshen, Indiana. The pool is fashioned after a Custom Martin Dreadnought with diamond and square inlays. Fret markers denote pool depth and different colored marble tiles are used to create the various colors of the pickguard and bridge. Ideana has five Martins and her daughter plays at the Martin Bluegrass Theatre at Opryland in Nashville.