

How to choose correct size & type of Guitar?

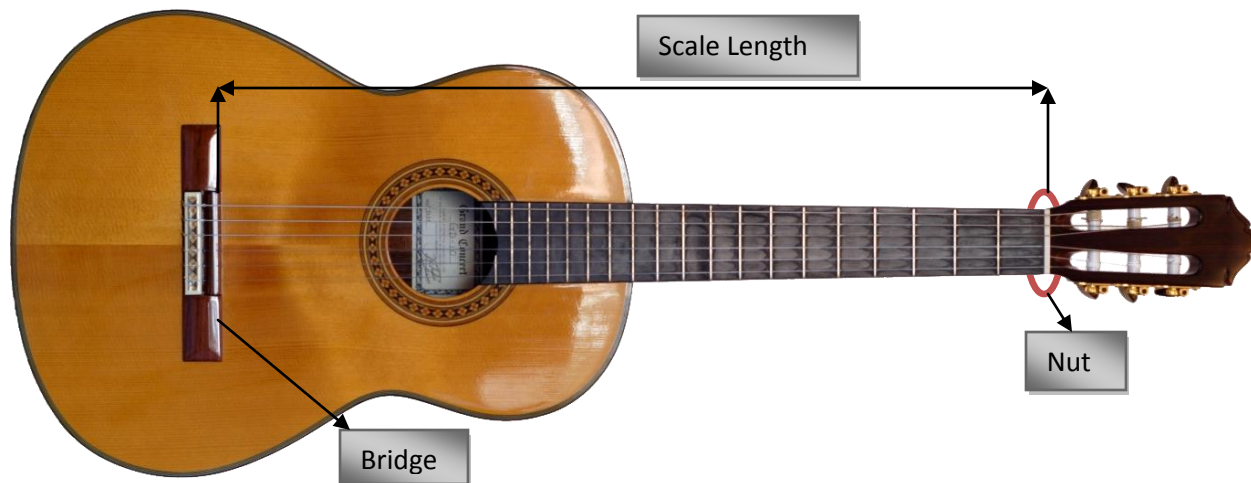
This Article will help you select the right guitar for a beginner of any age, height and ability. The importance of choosing the right style and size guitar for a beginner cannot be over-emphasized. Learning to play on the wrong guitar can lead to frustration with lessons, slow progress and even the development of poor technique. Since the guitar is such an easy instrument to learn to play, there is no reason for this to happen if one practices on the proper guitar.

Here is a quick, rough guide –

Guitar Student Size Chart

Age	Height of Player	Size of Guitar
4-6 Years old	3'3" to 3'9"	¼ size
5-8 Years Old	3'10" to 4'5"	½ size
8-11 Years old	4'6" to 4'11"	¾ size
11-Adult	5" or taller	4/4 size

The overall length of the guitar is **not** a good indicator of whether it is the correct size for the student. The only way to know the true size of a guitar is to measure its "scale length". The scale length of a guitar is measured from the "bridge" of the guitar to the "nut" of the guitar. See the example below



As you can see from the picture above, the scale length measures the part of the strings that actually vibrate when you pluck the string. This is the only relevant way to compare guitar sizes. A 38" classical guitar and a 41" steel string guitar can have the exact same "scale length" and both of them can be "full size" guitars. The only way to be certain what size they are is to measure the scale length.

Guitar Scale length Chart - lengths can vary slightly

4/4 full size	24.75" or 25.5"
3/4 size	22.75"
1/2 size	20.5"
1/4 size	19"

Guitar Type Size Chart - (common overall lengths)

	Classical (Nylon String)	Acoustic (Steel String)	Electric	Bass
4/4 full size	38"-40"	40"-42"	38"-40"	43"-46"
3/4 size	36"	38"	34"-36"	42"
1/2 size	33"	36"	33"	39"
1/4 size	31"	32"	31"	36"

The overall length of the guitar can vary widely depending on the style and overall design of the guitar. Knowledgeable dealers will list the size of the guitar as 4/4, 3/4, etc. and most will include the actual scale length measurement of the instrument.