

10 common fallacies about guitar playing:

1: you should learn on an acoustic guitar.

NO...better to start on an electric guitar as its easier to play, has lighter strings, lower action, and a smaller neck. Its also a little more interesting for younger players as you can add distortion and effects and keep the learner more interested.

2: the best way to 'get' a famous player's sound is buy a pedal that has player presets

NO.. although some multi effects DO have some famous presets it is far better to learn the correct technique rather than trying to copy the sound. Generally the sound of the most famous players comes from their fingers and their talent and choice of guitar and amp. Rarely do these guys use digital effects to create their sounds

3: you have to have a big amp to get a big sound

NO.... some of the most huge sounds that have been recorded have been done with smaller amps [10 -20 watt, tube] cranked up loud. Many famous bands have stacks of amps on stage that are empty of speakers and a small amp hidden behind the stack that is mic'd up into the PA system. Some players are also using digital re creations [POD, Digitech etc] of their amps in the studio but most purist players still use a real amp and analogue pedals.

4: you should use lots of 'string wrap or turns' around the machine[tuning] head to get stable tuning.

NO..although B.B. King does actually use this method the best way is to have about 3 'turns' of string on the machine head and about 3-4 turns on the higher strings. However the best way is to have NO turns of string at all , buy using locking machine heads such as spertzel or grover *machine head where the string is literally locked into place with no string wrap at all

5: single coil pick ups sound the best but they are too noisy

YES and Yes [possibly depending on your opinion] but there are many ways around this problem. the best way is to use hum cancelling single coil pickups such as "fender noiseless" or any of the di marzio or Seymour Duncan hum cancelling models that will sound JUST like a vintage strat but without the noise. The other way is to put a "dummy load" pickup in the guitar. IE: a pick up is wired in the guitar[sometime under the scratch plate of a strat type guitar] but does not produce any sound , it just cancels the hum and noise.

6: cheap cables are just as good as expensive ones and I save money

NO NO NO...it is way better to buy a good quality cable that has , quite often . a good guarantee. It will often last a long long time and the difference in the quality has a huge bearing on the actual sound produced by your guitar and amp. It is no use

having a great guitar and amp set up and use a low quality cable. Its like buying a Ferrari and putting re tread tyres on it. Always buy the best quality cable you can afford. Quite often you end up buying one good cable instead of cheap ones every 6 months , rendering them not cheap at all in the long run.

7:there is nothing you can do about strings rusting and losing their tone so may as well buy cheap ones or no name brands.

NO...there are several ways to make your string last longer.. the simplest is to always clean your strings after playing with a lint free cloth such as a handkerchief and use a string product such as “finger ease” or “fast fret” which coats the string with a protective chemical.

The other way is to use long life strings such as ‘elixir’ or similar brands which use a Teflon coating to prevent string corrosion and loss of tone. Yes these strings are three times more expensive but they do , in my experience last 8 times longer and rarely do they break as often as regular strings.