

Comprehensive Guitar Grading Rubric

Note to teacher: It is advised to break this comprehensive evaluation tool into smaller evaluations to be used for determining periodic progress as the project moves forward, in order to provide information to students, parents, and administrators about student progress, rather than grade all aspects of the guitar at the end of the course.

Name _____

Date _____

category	0	1	2	3	self evaluation	teacher evaluation
sanding	more than 8 areas of sanding scratches or machine tool marks	4-8 areas of sanding scratches or machine tool marks	less than 4 areas of sanding scratches or machine tool marks	no scratches, no machine tool marks (esp. end grain)		
paint/finish	more than 7 problem areas	4-7 problem areas	less than 4 problem areas	smooth, even, glossy finish, no runs, brush marks, drips, or bumpy surface		
frets seated	more than 7 frets not contacting the fretboard	4-7 frets not fully contacting the fretboard	less than 4 frets not fully, completely contacting the fretboard	all correct		
frets crowned	more than 7 frets not fully crowned	4-7 frets not fully crowned	less than 4 frets not fully crowned	all correct		
fret end flush and bevel	more than 7 frets not flush or beveled, or bevel to extreme	4-7 fret ends not flush or fully beveled or bevel too extreme	less than 4 fret ends not flush or beveled or bevel too extreme	all correct		
fret ends smoothed	more than 7 sharp ends	4-7 sharp ends	less than 4 sharp ends	all correct		
string nut installation	loose, wiggly, sliding, or rocking string nut	gap larger than .010 at one end of the nut/slot joint, but otherwise secure	minor gap at one end of the nut/nut slot joint, but otherwise secure	correct		
tuners installed correctly	has 4 or more problems: washer upside down, loose bushings, or tuners not straight	has 2-3 problems: washer upside down, loose bushing, or tuners not straight	may have 1 problem: washer upside down, loose bushing, or tuner not straight	all correct		
body neck joint	neck and body joint are not snug, except for a neck pocket shim	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> either tight or not tight	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> either tight or not tight	completely snug... neck/fretboard glue seam parallel to body		
strings installed correctly	5-6 strings incorrect	3-4 strings incorrect	one or two strings incorrect: either, too few wraps, untidy wraps, or string on wrong side of post	all correct		

string retainer bar or trees installed correctly	not installed (does not count against for angled headstock guitars)	screws not tightened and or screws contact strings	installed, but deflects string from straight line pull	correct		
in tune	4 or more out of tune	2-3 strings out of tune	1 string out of tune	in tune		
neck relief, less than .010	no neck relief or neck upbow	neck relief more than .020	neck relief more than .010 but less than .020	correct		
string heights at the string nut	two ore more are more than .010 too high or too low	more than two are to high or too low, within .010	one or two may be .010 too high or too low	all correct		
string heights at the last fret	two ore more are more than .010 too high or too low	more than two are to high or too low, within .010	one or two may be .010 too high or too low	all correct		
intonation (string lengths)	more than three strings are incorrect	up to three strings are incorrect	one string is too long or too short	all correct		
all frets play	more than 6 notes do not play correctly	between 4 and 6 notes do not play correctly	less than 3 notes do not play correctly	all notes play		
jack	can not plug guitar in	difficult to plug cord in to guitar	resistance to plugging cord in to guitar	plugs in very easily		
pickup heights	more than two height adjustments are off	two height adjustments are off	one pickup is set too high or too low on one side	even volume levels		
soldering technique	more than 5 poorly done connections, or two or more connections break	less than 5 connections dull, pitted, or blobs, or a connection breaks	less than 3 connections dull, pitted, or blobs	all connections smooth, shiny, and secure		
wiring - all controls work	nothing works, no sound when plugged in	there is a persistent buzz, or a control or one pickup does not work at all	everything works, but something is wired backwards, such as potentiometer or switch (but no buzzing)	everything functions properly		
screws	more than 5 screw heads not snug or damaged combined	3-5 screw heads not snug or are damaged combined	less than 3 screw heads not snug or are damaged combined	all screw heads snug, no screw heads are damage		

TOTAL _____

Comments