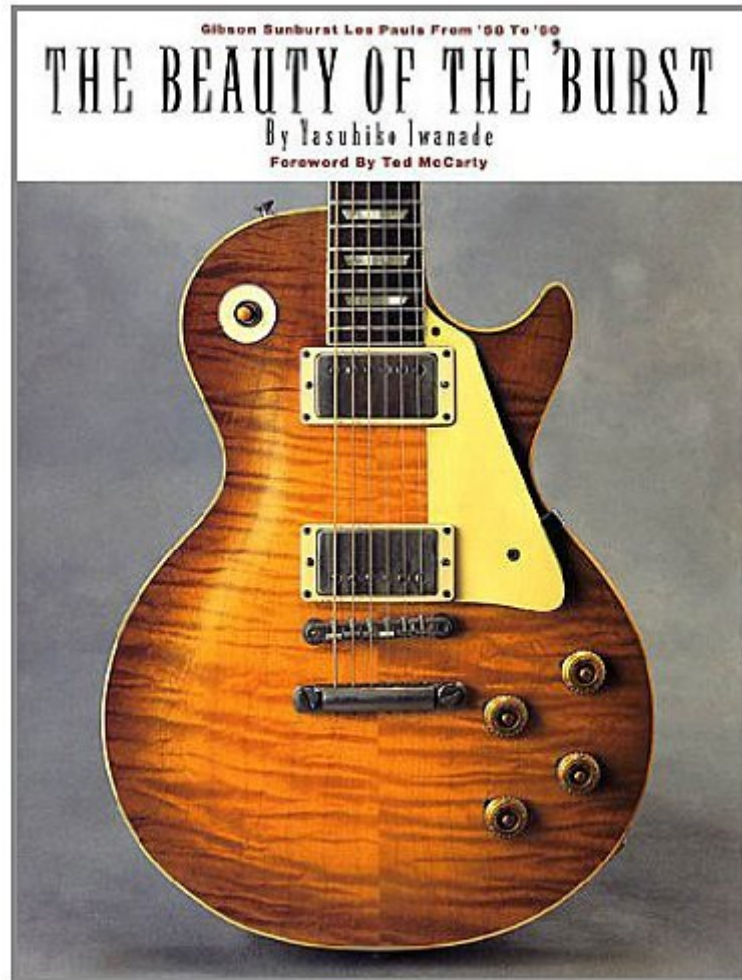


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The Beauty Of The 'Burst



Synopsis

Finally, the long-awaited English edition of this historic Japanese book is here! The Beauty of the 'Burst pays tribute to Gibson's magnificent Sunburst Les Pauls made between 1958 and 1960, the most highly prized solidbody electric guitars ever. The magnitude of their value is directly related to their look (outrageous wood patterns, or "figured" timber), since non-players are paying top dollar for them. The book features lavish full-color photos of these beautiful instruments throughout; the guitars of famous players; a foreword by Ted McCarty; a bio of the author, world renowned collector Yasuhiko Iwanade; and the "Science of the Burst" section with over 30 pages of detailed reference facts on every facet of the guitar, including colors, wood figure, pick-ups, hardware and qualities of "voice." This may be the closest guitarists will ever be able to get to these incredibly collectible beauties! 216 pages, 8-1/2 inch. x 11 inch. Softcover

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is hands down the best book on 58'-60' 'Bursts there is. Tons of info, gobs of gorgeous photos...you name it...its' all here and then some. Price is also fair, for what you get...quite alot. This book completely documents 50 or so sunbursts with a front shot, back, close-up front and back head stock shot, and an angled shot of the top that best highlights the flame. All specs are recorded on

each example (nut width, weight, etc.) If you have any other Burst books (Vic Dapras' and a couple other come to mind) you must get this one. It's as good as it gets (so far)

This book is a one-trick pony, but it nails its subject matter cold. If you know anything about the vintage guitar market you already know that the Gibson Les Pauls made between 1958 and 1960 are some of the most valuable and highly sought after instruments ever made. The people that collect them are absolute freaks when it comes to amassing encyclopedic knowledge of every minute detail that relates in any way to the construction and performance of these guitars. This book is tailor-made for those 'Burst-a-holics. The book is also a terrific coffee table book for any guitar collector, or enthusiast who shares the love and interest of high-end collectors for this celebrated model but doesn't have a few million dollars in spare cash kicking around the house to build a collection of 'bursts. The photographs are magnificent and the book on the whole does a marvelous job of entertaining and informing. It's like buying a multi-million dollar guitar collection for the price of the book. You don't get to play them and hold them, but you sure can look at them and learn all there is to know about why they play and sound the way they do. Functional sculpture . . . that's what a vintage Les Paul really is and this book does both the art and the craft of the historic '58-'60 Les Pauls justice.

What I admire most about this outstanding book is that the author takes a back seat to the guitars themselves; and let's face it, long after we're gone these fantastic instruments will be valued and treasured. This book could only have been created by someone who really loves the old Les Paul, and turning the pages makes me love them too. I only wish the page size was maybe 4 or 5 times as big! This is a very special book, and I appreciate the intelligence of the author in presenting these guitars in the way that he has.

'Beauty of the Burst' is hardly a deserving title. Given the reputation in collector/enthusiast circles this book has, it should be re-titled 'Bible of the Burst'. A picture tells a thousand words. Importantly, whilst there is significant text examining the technical aspects of the 'Bursts, the real emphasis in BOTB is upon glorious photographs of these mythical guitars. This is an honest representation of these much-debated guitars, as beauty is surely in the eye of the beholder (and the buyer), and BOTB, whilst classifying figure differences, etc. by no means attempts to define 'THE' 'Burst above all others. Indeed, these photographs indicate just how varied the guitars from '58-'60 were... Simply put, the Old Testament and the New Testament of 'Burst documentation rolled into one.

Mostly a bunch of pictures from one guy's collection - but it is a great collection and a lot of great pics. There are also a lot of specs and descriptions of the various burst patterns, for the nerdy side of us LP fans, players and collectors (although I sure won't be collections any late 50's bursts, I wish lol). I enjoyed some of the history of the LP books I read more.

If you have ever stopped dead in your tracks at the sight of a flame top Les Paul, unable to move until you had taken in its breathtaking beauty, prepare to kiss two full days goodbye. Iwanade has succeeded in presenting more mouthwatering photos of these treasures of the fifties than a Les Paul nut can handle. After the first fifty pages you are on Sunburst overload. Your senses are so befuddled that you feel \$30,000 isn't that much money, after all. These guitars vary in condition from scum city (just about all of the guitars from Slash's collection) to so mint that you become convinced that someone has secretly invented the time machine. Another variable is the tops. Iwanade presents Pauls ranging from almost plain to neurotically curled. To those blind to the overt power and sexuality of a vintage Les Paul, I would suggest a book documenting the development of the Fender Jaguar. But for those who would sell an internal organ for a piece of vintage history like this, there isn't a better book on the market.

Great book but most pictures are very similar; this is basically a logging of these bursts for just the few years when they actually ended production of the first Les Paul and tried to only make the SG style in it's place, then everyone discovered the guitar so they brought it back!

If you're an electric guitar player....or a woodworker, or even someone who appreciates fine "art", this is a wonderful book. Very high quality photography of a wide assortment of the most iconic, collectible electric guitar on earth. Now if someone could come up with a version using 3D photography so those who have not seen the "movement" in the flame (grin highlights) of a really pretty top in person! Still this is an amazing compilation, and a must-have for 'burst owners. I bought a used copy that looks absolutely brand new, with no signs of wear or page creases.

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