

# Grateful Dead Guitar Anthology: Exploring the Legendary Instruments Behind the Iconic Band



**Grateful Dead Guitar Anthology** by Grateful Dead

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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The Grateful Dead, renowned for their eclectic blend of genres and improvisational prowess, were not only musical innovators but also guitar aficionados. Their collective arsenal of instruments, each with its own unique story and sound, played a pivotal role in shaping the band's legendary sound.

### **Jerry Garcia's "Wolf"**

Garcia's most iconic guitar, the "Wolf," was a heavily modified 1957 Fender Stratocaster. It was named after a painting by Bob Thomas, which Garcia saw in a dream and decided to recreate on the guitar's body.

The Wolf featured several notable modifications, including a custom paint job, Alembic pickups, and a sustainer circuit. Garcia used the Wolf extensively from the late 1970s until his death in 1995.



## **Bob Weir's "Tiger"**

Weir's signature guitar, the "Tiger," was a 1952 Fender Telecaster. It was named for its distinctive tiger-striped finish, which Weir had applied himself.

The Tiger was known for its bright, twangy sound, which complemented Weir's rhythm playing style. He used the guitar extensively throughout the Grateful Dead's career.



### **Phil Lesh's "Heartbreaker"**

Lesh's main bass guitar was a custom-built Alembic, known as the "Heartbreaker." It was a fretless bass with a distinctive double-cutaway body.

The Heartbreaker produced a deep, resonant sound that anchored the Grateful Dead's rhythm section. Lesh used it throughout the band's career, from the early 1970s until his retirement in 2015.



### **Brent Mydland's "Hammond B3"**

Mydland, who joined the Grateful Dead in 1979, played a Hammond B3 organ as his primary instrument. His B3 was known for its warm, soulful sound that added a unique dimension to the band's music.

Mydland's B3 playing was particularly prominent during the band's "Brent era" from the early 1980s until his death in 1990.



## **Bruce Hornsby's "Piano"**

Hornsby, who joined the Grateful Dead in 1990, played a Yamaha C7 grand piano as his primary instrument. His piano playing brought a new level of sophistication and elegance to the band's sound.

Hornsby's piano was featured prominently on the Grateful Dead's studio albums and live performances from 1990 until the band's final show in 1995.



## **The Significance of the Guitars**

Beyond their technical specifications and unique stories, the Grateful Dead's guitars had a profound impact on the band's sound and legacy.

Garcia's Wolf became an extension of his musical personality, allowing him to explore a wide range of sounds and styles. Weir's Tiger provided a

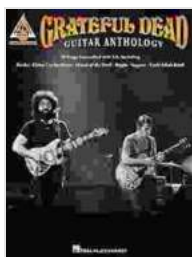
steady rhythmic foundation for the band, while Lesh's Heartbreaker anchored the rhythm section.

Mydland's Hammond B3 and Hornsby's piano expanded the Grateful Dead's musical palette, adding new layers of texture and complexity to their sound.

Together, these instruments played a vital role in creating the Grateful Dead's unique and enduring sound that continues to captivate fans around the world.

The Grateful Dead's guitars were more than just instruments; they were extensions of the band members themselves. Each guitar had its own story, its own sound, and its own unique contribution to the Grateful Dead's legendary legacy.

By exploring the Grateful Dead Guitar Anthology, fans can gain a deeper understanding of the band's music and the iconic instruments that helped shape it.



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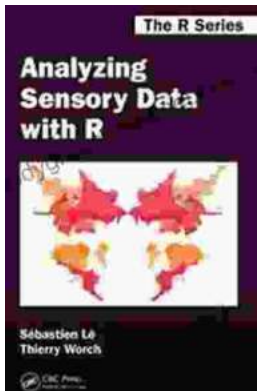
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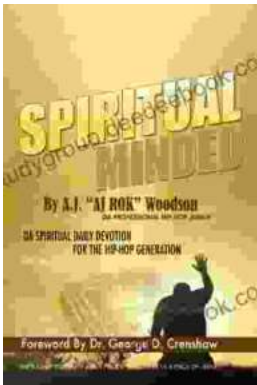






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