

12 String



HE TWELVE-STRING GUITAR HAS A RICH BUT DELICATE SOUND. THE STRINGS ARE ARRANGED IN SIX PAIRS IN A COMBINATION OF OCTAVE AND UNISON TUNINGS. It's played in the same manner as the standard guitar, as far as chords and scales and picking and strumming.

Nowhere is the Alvarez steel truss rod and magnesium U-channel more necessary in the neck than in a twelve-string guitar, because of the doubled string tension. The truss rod extends through the entire neck and heel and inner block, and is adjustable through the sound hole. The dovetailed heel helps keep the neck from pulling up in response to string tension.

The necks are solid Nato mahogany that has aged for at least two years to prevent warping. Well-seasoned wood means stability: the frets will stay in place and won't work loose or cause buzzing.



Dionisio Aguado (1784-1849) was Spain's most famous guitarist when he went to France to meet and play with Fernando Sor. They differed greatly in technique: "I could never abide guitarists who play with their fingernails," said Sor. Yet Aguado thought otherwise: "I prefer to play with the nails because the resulting sound is clear, metallic, and sweet. They enable very fast runs to be executed with great clarity."



Alvarez steel truss-rod/magnesium U-channel in the neck.



5021 Foxmore 12-string
Close-grained natural spruce top, mahogany back and sides with center inlay strip. Wood marquetry inlay around sound hole is diagonally inlaid in turquoise, black and gray.



5018 Sunburst 12-string
Spruce top with sunburst center which merges into a warm charcoal brown. Mahogany back and sides. Ivory bindings on body and fingerboard, with diamond snowflake fingerboard inlay. Ivory inlaid sound hole.



5054 Chorus 12-string
Premium spruce top. Indian rosewood back and sides have hints of silver streaks. Multi-layer celluloid bindings on body. Turquoise, gray and black sound hole inlay. Internal acoustic lacquer.

Aguado on the guitar: "It has a particular character: soft, harmonious, melancholy; sometimes it borders on the majestic, although it cannot rival the grandeur of the piano. On the other hand it offers a delicate charm, and its sounds can be modified and combined to give it a very mysterious character. It may be the best means of suggesting the illusion of an orchestra in miniature."

