

PRS PAUL
REED
SMITH
GUITARS®



PRS FLAGSHIP GUITARS:

A BUYER'S GUIDE TO THE PRS **CORE** SERIES

Explore our flagship Core guitars – built in Maryland, USA for discerning players



INTRODUCTION

For some of the finest guitars made in the USA, look no further than the PRS Core Series. These flagship Maryland-made instruments have been the foundation of the PRS lineup since 1985, pairing premium materials and exacting design with quality-driven craftsmanship. This guide will help you find which PRS Core guitar fits your style, whether it's the legendary Custom 24, the timeless and vintage-inspired McCarty, or one of our versatile and diverse Specialty or Signature instruments.





WHAT SETS PRS CORE GUITARS APART?



HERITAGE:

Core guitars are the “DNA” of PRS, and the foundational instruments of our brand. Paul Smith’s iconic PRS design has endured and evolved over the last 40 years to set the standard for what an electric guitar should be. PRS Core guitars incorporate modern innovations in guitar building while paying homage to the history and tradition of the instrument, continually pushing the envelope to create some of the best guitars available.



CRAFTSMANSHIP:

All Core guitars are built by skilled luthiers in Stevensville, Maryland, USA to the highest standards of quality and craftsmanship. Our team of experienced builders ensures that every Core guitar is an inspirational tool for creative expression – trusted by musicians around the world for their most critical moments in the studio and on-stage. From delicately crafted violin tops and expertly shaped neck profiles to meticulous fretwork and the intricate detail of our signature bird inlays, Core guitars embody the relentless pursuit of tone and quality that has come to define PRS.



MATERIALS:

A great guitar starts with great materials. PRS Core guitars feature premium woods hand-selected for tone and appearance, carefully dried to ensure stability and optimal resonance as well as an all-nitrocellulose finish, iconic bird inlays, exclusive Maryland-wound pickups (with American AlNiCo magnets), and proprietary top-of-the-line hardware.

THE DETAILS:

At PRS, details are everything. Core guitars are built following the “rules of tone” laid down by Paul Reed Smith himself. This means careful attention is paid to selecting and drying premium woods, carefully shaping the fretboard roundover and neck shape, meticulously designing each pickup, and refining PRS’s proprietary hardware for optimal resonance (down to removing metal plating on string contact points). The ultra-thin all-nitrocellulose finish further adds to the guitars’ resonance and feel, and the final setup and inspection are critical to ensure every component works in tandem to create the “secret sauce” needed to make a magic guitar. Core guitars all feature a violin-carved top, ergonomic recesses for the controls, the trademark PRS “scoop” body contour, and, depending on the model, PRS Phase III tuners with “wing” tuning buttons and proprietary pickup bobbins. Our patented Gen III bridge is the culmination of decades of engineering, providing industry-leading tuning stability and tone transfer, and our stoptail and two-piece bridges feature unplated brass at critical contact points for tone transfer from strings through the body of the guitar.



WHO ARE THESE GUITARS FOR?

PROFESSIONALS:

Whether in the studio tracking the latest record or on stage making the crowd go wild, professional guitarists rely on PRS Core guitars to get the job done at the highest level. Core guitars can be found in the hands of some of the most notable and respected icons of the music world.

COLLECTORS:

From the highly figured flame maple on a 10-top to the understated beauty of an exquisitely crafted violin carve, Core guitars are some of the most sought-after pieces for the discerning collector. They showcase the meticulous artistry and effortless playability for which PRS has become renowned.

ENTHUSIASTS:

PRS Core guitars aren't just for looks, they're instruments designed to inspire. Guitarists of all stripes deserve a great instrument to make great music, and the Core series brings world-class tone and playability to rigs and gigs of all kinds. PRS artists often attest to their PRS guitars "getting out of the way" so they can "just play." For players who don't want to fight their instrument, PRS Core guitars offer an irresistible playing experience.



KEY MODEL FAMILIES AT A GLANCE

PRS CUSTOM & STANDARD

24 FRETS

25" SCALE LENGTH

PRS PATENTED GEN III TREMOLO

DMO PICKUPS

(DYNAMIC. MUSICAL. OPEN.)

BALANCED TONAL RANGE & A VOCAL QUALITY

PHASE III LOCKING TUNERS

(WITH PROPRIETARY WING BUTTONS)

THE CUSTOM FAMILY OFFERS A VARIETY OF EXPANDED FEATURES

WITH THE CUSTOM 24-08, CUSTOM 24 FLOYD, & CUSTOM 24 PIEZO



CUSTOM 24

STANDARD 24



MCCARTY

MCCARTY 594

MCCARTY

22 FRETS

24.594" & 25" SCALE LENGTH

STOPTAIL & TWO-PIECE BRIDGES

MCCARTY III PICKUPS

FOR A VOCAL CLARITY AND FULL, WARM TONE

TRADITIONAL 4-KNOB CONTROL LAYOUT

(594 MODELS ONLY)

PHASE III NON-LOCKING TUNERS

(WITH PROPRIETARY WING BUTTONS)

THE ORIGINAL MCCARTY WAS THE FIRST GUITAR NAMED AFTER TED MCCARTY

SPECIALTY MODELS

22 FRETS

25" SCALE LENGTH

PRS PATENTED GEN III TREMOLO

**THREE-PICKUP DESIGNS FEATURING
PRS PROPRIETARY NARROWFIELD AND
TCI PICKUP MODELS**

**HUM/SINGLE/HUM AND
SINGLE/SINGLE/HUM
CONFIGURATIONS**

**PHASE III LOCKING TUNERS
(WITH PROPRIETARY WING BUTTONS)**

**COIL-TAPS AND EQ MINI-TOGGLE
SWITCHES PROVIDE ADDED VERSATILITY**



MODERN EAGLE V

STUDIO

SPECIAL SEMI-HOLLOW



MCCARTY 594 HOLLOWBODY II

HOLLOWBODY II PIEZO

HOLLOWBODY MODELS

22 FRETS

24.594" AND 25" SCALE LENGTH

STOPTAIL AND TWO-PIECE BRIDGES

MCCARTY III PICKUPS

FOR A VOCAL CLARITY AND FULL, WARM TONE

**EFFORTLESS ELECTRIC AND ACOUSTIC
SOUNDS FROM ONE INSTRUMENT**

**PRS'S CENTER-BLOCK BUILD DESIGNS GIVES
PLAYERS MORE CONTROLLED FEEDBACK**

CHOOSE BETWEEN **TRADITIONAL 4-KNOB
CONTROL LAYOUT AND TWO-PIECE BRIDGE,**
OR A **STOPTAIL-EQUIPPED MODEL FEATURING
THE PRS/LR BAGGS PIEZO SYSTEM**



SIGNATURE/ARTIST MODELS

PRS has a long history of working with some of the premier artists in the music world, from the first guitars Paul Smith built for Carlos Santana to our latest collaboration with progressive metal icon Mark Holcomb. Our Signature guitars are purpose-built with the artist in mind, bringing unique features and tones to the PRS catalog.

// DGT



22 FRETS & 25" SCALE LENGTH
PRS PATENTED GEN II TREMOLO

SIGNATURE VINTAGE-VOICED "DGT" PICKUPS & CONTROL LAYOUT

INDIVIDUAL VOLUME CONTROLS FOR EACH PICKUP WITH A PUSH/PULL MASTER TONE CONTROL FOR COIL TAPS

"DGT" NECK CARVE AND PRS JUMBO FRETS



// MARK TREMONTI



22 FRETS & 25" SCALE LENGTH

BRIDGE OPTIONS

PRS PATENTED GEN III TREMOLO W/
TREM-UP ROUTE & ADJUSTABLE
STOPTAIL BRIDGE

SIGNATURE "TREMONTI" PICKUPS

AGGRESSIVE BUT ARTICULATE, FEATURING
CERAMIC AND ALNICO MAGNETS

"TREMONTI" NECK CARVE



// SANTANA



24 FRETS
24.594" SCALE LENGTH
PRS PATENTED GEN III TREMOLO

"SANTANA" PICKUPS
FOR CLEAR, SMOOTH, VINTAGE TONE

"SANTANA" NECK CARVE
AND DEEP VIOLIN TOP CARVE

"PRE-FACTORY" HEADSTOCK SHAPE
WITH EAGLE INLAY AND OHM TRUSS ROD COVER



// MARK HOLCOMB



22 FRETS & 25.5" SCALE LENGTH
(PERFECT FOR DOWN-TUNING)

PRS PLATE-STYLE
STRING-THROUGH BRIDGE

MARK HOLCOMB SIGNATURE
SEYMOUR DUNCAN
"SCARLET" & "SCOURGE" PICKUPS

"MARK HOLCOMB" NECK CARVE
W/ EBONY FRETBOARD

FIGURED MANGO TOP
WITH SATIN NITRO FINISH



FAQ

Are all PRS Core guitars made in the USA?

Yes, all Core guitars are made in Stevensville, MD, steps away from the shores of the Chesapeake Bay.

What makes Maryland, USA-made PRS guitars special?

Maryland-made PRS guitars are some of the best instruments available today, showcasing the artistry and skill built over decades of guitar making. Utilizing proprietary pickups and hardware, PRS guitars made in Maryland showcase unparalleled quality and exceptional design aesthetics, fusing classic tones with modern versatility and flexibility.

Which PRS guitar is best for professionals?

PRS guitars at all levels are designed to meet the standards of the professional musician. At PRS we know that each player has their own preferences and requirements, and our guitars feature uncompromising quality and attention to detail in every model, at every price point.

What is the difference between Core, S2 Series, and SE Series?

Although all PRS guitars share similar DNA, each series has its own defining features and characteristics. Every PRS guitar made in the USA features MD-made pickups, an all-nitrocellulose finish, and proprietary PRS tuners and hardware.

The Core Series, made in Stevensville, MD, USA, is the foundation of PRS Guitars: the “core” of our lineup if you will. Core guitars showcase the premium features and appointments that PRS has developed over the past 40 years and stand as the benchmark for quality and tone that has come to define the brand. Core guitars all feature violin-carve tops, one-piece necks and backs, figured maple tops (the all-mahogany Standard 24 and the mango-top Mark Holcomb being the only current exceptions), and proprietary electronics and hardware. Trem-equipped models utilize the patented PRS Gen III tremolo, which features compound radius saddles, unplated brass contact points (block, intonation screws, height adjustment screws, and string slots), and a milled brass block for tonal fidelity and sustain.

The S2 series (shorthand for “Stevensville 2”) is the second line of PRS Maryland, USA-made guitars, reimagining the now-classic design and tonality of the Core series with a stripped-down feature set and aesthetic. This approach allows for a streamlined build process, resulting in a more economical guitar that still maintains a high standard of quality and tone. As of 2025 all S2 models ship with MD-made pickups and Phase III tuners, previously only available in the Core series. S2 guitars feature an all-nitrocellulose finish, bevel-carve tops, and scarf-joint neck construction. Trem-equipped models utilize the molded steel PRS Patented tremolo.

The SE Series is our overseas lineup, bringing PRS design and visual appeal to a more affordable price point. SE guitars feature a polyurethane finish, PRS-designed pickups, solid maple tops with figured veneers, and a shallow violin carve. Tremolo-equipped models utilize the molded steel PRS Patented tremolo.

MODEL COMPARISON CHART IS ON THE NEXT PAGE >>

MODEL COMPARISON

	CUSTOM 24	S2 CUSTOM 24	SE CUSTOM 24
TOP CARVE	Violin	Asymmetric Bevel	Shallow Violin
TOP WOOD	Highly Figured Maple	Figured Maple	Maple w/ Figured Maple Veneer
NECK WOOD	Mahogany	Mahogany	Maple
NECK STYLE	One-Piece	Scarfed	Multi-Ply
NECK SHAPE	Pattern Thin	Pattern Thin	Wide Thin
FRETBOARD WOOD	Rosewood	Rosewood	Rosewood
INLAY	Acrylic "J" Birds with Green Abalone Centers	Acrylic "Old School" Birds	Pearloid "Old School" Birds
HEADSTOCK LOGO	Signature, Inlaid	Signature, Decal	Signature "SE"
FINISH TYPE	High-Gloss Nitro	High-Gloss Nitro	Polyurethane
BRIDGE	PRS Patented Tremolo, Gen III	PRS Patented Tremolo	PRS Patented Tremolo
TUNERS	PRS Phase III Locking Tuners w/ Wing Buttons	PRS Phase III Locking Tuners w/ Wing Buttons	PRS-Designed Tuners w/ Wing Buttons
PICKUPS	DMO Treble & Bass	85/15 Treble & Bass	85/15 "S" Treble & Bass
CONTROLS	Volume, Tone, 5-Way Blade Switch	Volume, Tone, 5-Way Blade Switch	Volume, P/P Tone, 3-Way Blade Switch
STRINGS	PRS Signature 10-46	PRS Signature 10-46	PRS Classic 9-42
CASE	Hardshell Case	Premium Gig Bag	Gig Bag

PRS PAUL
REED
SMITH
GUITARS®
