



**21 | Brothers In Arms – Dire Straits**

Darling of the CD generation

CDs were the new big thing, AOR ruled the radio waves and MTV was busy making superstars as Brothers In Arms hit the shops in 1985. Perfectly produced and crammed with fabulous guitar sounds – “Money For Nothing was just that old two-finger thing again,” said Knopfler of the album’s piece de resistance – it propelled Dire Straits right to the top of the world.

**20 | Yamaha Pacifica 112**

The new beginner standard

An ocean of entry-level potential, Yamaha’s guitar mag ad showing its all-solid Pacifica 112 against a well-known plywood rival turned a whole generation onto a brand that had hitherto seemed safe and, dare we say it, boring. Yam’s attention to detail in the set-up, and the quality hardware and electrics, made the 112 the no-brainer of 1993. It was £199 then and is still only £235 now, in significantly upgraded form!



**19 | Paul Reed Smith**  
Tenacity personified

Whether you see his guitars as the epitome of luxury luthiery, or overblown, over-adorned collectibles, nobody can deny Paul Smith’s influence on the guitar world. In 25 short years he has risen in common

parlance to position number three as part of the Gibson/Fender/PRS trinity. Smith’s love of the single-cutaway Gibson Les Paul Junior is well documented, some features of which found their way onto his seminal Custom model of 1985. Mixed with a more Fender-like double-cutaway body, with a carved maple top and a brilliant new non-locking vibrato, it was an evolutionary step that the conservative guitar market loved, against a backdrop of synths and all-out metal. Since then, Smith and his company have been unrelenting in refining their designs, making use of cutting-edge technology as well as constantly researching and investing in materials for hardware and pickups.

**18 | MP3s**

The revolution will certainly not be televised

It’s easy to take for granted just how much the way we listen to guitar music has changed in only the last five years. You can now carry your whole record collection in a pocket on a device the size of a chocolate bar. We’ve got MPEG-1 Audio Layer 3 to thank for it – now the standard method for digitally compressing audio data.

**17 | BOSS TU-2**

Mary Pluckins, step in tune

What’s the one thing every single guitarist, regardless of age or ability, can do to improve their playing instantly? Be in tune, of course! BOSS’s brilliant TU-2 debuted in 1998, a professional-grade pedal tuner with automatic chromatic, guitar, bass and flat modes, enabling you to tune quickly and silently on stage. Newer designs have come along, but the TU-2 remains perennially popular with both pros and amateurs alike.



**16 | Stevie Ray Vaughan**

The real Austin power who spawned endless wannabes

It’s been nearly 20 years since Stevie Ray Vaughan was killed – two decades of hindsight that confirm just what a stellar talent he was. His debut release with Double Trouble was Texas Flood in 1983, with two follow-ups just in time for the MTV explosion of the mid-1980s. He defined the spirited Texas blues style that’s been so heavily appropriated since, beating that down-tuned ‘62/’63 Strat with accuracy and attack unmatched by any of his forebears or progenies – one note and it could only ever be him. “I figure there’s no sense in going out there and not giving it what you’ve got,” as he told Guitarist in 1988. “By playing, you can make yourself feel better.”

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