

Silver Lake Vintage Guitars

37 Warren Street London S1T 6AD



1956 ES-5N Switchmaster Blonde

1956 ES-5N Switchmaster Blonde (First Variant)

Records show that seven Sunburst three P90 Switchmasters were shipped by Gibson in 1955.

1956 saw the introduction of the Blonde ES5 Switchmaster and 39 were shipped that year. 1957 saw the introduction of the PAF humbucker version which replaced the three P90 model. In view of the shipping records there were only 39 Blonde P90 Switchmasters (the first variant) ever shipped making this a very rare guitar indeed.

Gibson has always had innovation at the heart of guitar design. Always trying to anticipate the needs of musicians and the constant progress of the popular music industry. you only have to look at all the various models the Gibson designers have produced over the years. for instance the Lloyd Loar L5 in the 1920's, The LES PAUL Goldtop standard from 1952 sporting the Long trapeze tailpiece seen earlier on the ES225 from the 1940's which was in its self the first thinline semi acoustic later to become the blue print for its 3 series guitars eg. Es 335 355/45 the byrd land and so on. Just think what people would have said when the Futurama - Explorer - and Flying V appeared in music shops in 1958. We didn't have colour TV's until the 1960's !!! and we in the UK, due to an embargo, couldn't get American guitars anyway.

In the Switchmaster Gibson tried to build on the ES 5 with its 3 P90's and individual volume controls from the 1940's into the "ultimate session guitar with the most tonal variety possible having individual tone and volume controls for each of the three picks with a master sliding switch to isolate each pickup and an ALL setting to be able to select all of the three pickups together. It was once said "you need a pilots licence to play a switchmaster "

However if you've ever had the chance to play one of these you pretty much can get any tone that you want they really are amazing guitars. With musicians and writers having a recording studio in their lap top all you need is a Switchmaster and its "Happy Days"

Price: TBC

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