

The Martin OM-28V: A Guitar That Blends Vintage and Modern Design

The [Martin OM-28V acoustic guitar](#) is a popular instrument among guitar enthusiasts and professionals alike. Known for its vintage and modern design, it is considered to be one of the best guitars for fingerstyle playing, and its rich, warm tone makes it ideal for a wide range of musical styles.

With its sleek design and superior craftsmanship, the Martin OM-28V has a reputation as a high-end instrument that is well worth the investment. Whether you are a seasoned musician or just starting out, this guitar offers a unique blend of vintage and modern elements that make it a great choice for anyone looking for a high-quality acoustic guitar.



History and Design

The **Martin OM 28V** has a long and rich history, dating back to the 1930s when it was first introduced as an "orchestra model" guitar. Over the years, the guitar has undergone several design changes, but it has always maintained its reputation as a high-quality instrument with a unique sound and feel.

One of the most distinctive design features of the Martin OM-28V is its modified V-shaped neck, which provides a comfortable grip and enhances the guitar's overall playability. The guitar also features a solid spruce top, solid rosewood back and sides, and a modern belly bridge, which helps to enhance the guitar's overall tone and sustain.

The OM-28V is also known for its vintage aesthetic, which includes a herringbone top trim, a zigzag backstrip, and aging toner on the top, back, and sides. These design elements give the guitar a classic, timeless look that is highly sought after by many guitar enthusiasts.

Despite its vintage aesthetic, the Martin OM-28V is a highly versatile guitar that is well-suited for a wide range of musical styles. Its balanced tone and excellent projection make it ideal for fingerstyle playing and intricate chord progressions, while its clear, bright sound is well-suited for live performances and recording.

Overall, the Martin OM-28V is a testament to Martin's dedication to quality and craftsmanship. Its unique design, vintage aesthetic, and exceptional sound make it a top choice for serious musicians and guitar enthusiasts alike.

Sound and Performance

The **Martin OM 28V** is known for its exceptional sound quality and performance. Its balanced tone and excellent projection make it a popular choice for a wide range of musical genres, including folk, blues, and bluegrass.

The guitar's bright, clear sound is especially well-suited for fingerstyle playing and intricate chord progressions. The solid spruce top provides a clear and focused sound, while the solid rosewood back and sides add warmth and depth to the tone.

The guitar's modified V-shaped neck is also a notable feature that contributes to its comfortable and easy-to-play feel. The neck is made from select hardwood, providing stability and durability while also enhancing the guitar's overall tone.

Overall, the Martin OM-28V is a versatile and reliable guitar that delivers exceptional sound quality and performance. Its balanced tone and playability make it a great choice for both beginners and experienced guitarists who are looking for a high-quality instrument that can handle a wide range of playing styles.

Buying Guide

If you're considering purchasing a Martin OM-28V, there are several factors to consider to ensure that you make a wise investment. Here are some key things to keep in mind:

Condition

The condition of the guitar is perhaps the most important factor to consider when making a purchase. If you're buying a used guitar, make sure to thoroughly inspect it for any damage, such as cracks or dents, and check that all the parts are original and in good working order. If you're purchasing a new guitar, check for any defects or imperfections in the finish or construction.

Age

The age of the guitar can also affect its value and playability. Older guitars may have more wear and tear, which can impact their sound and playability. However, some vintage guitars may be highly sought-after and have a higher value than newer models.

Playability

The **Martin OM 28V** is known for its excellent playability, so it's important to choose a guitar that feels comfortable and easy to play. Make sure the guitar's neck feels comfortable in your hand and that the action (the distance between the strings and the fretboard) is not too high or too low.

Reputation of the Seller

It's important to choose a reputable seller when purchasing a **Martin OM 28V**. Look for authorized Martin dealers and resellers with positive reviews and a history of selling high-quality instruments. Avoid purchasing from unverified online marketplaces or individuals with little or no feedback.

Professional Inspection

To ensure that you're getting a quality instrument, it's always a good idea to have the guitar inspected by a professional luthier or guitar technician before making a purchase. They can check the guitar's overall condition, playability, and authenticity, and give you an estimate of any repairs or maintenance that may be needed.

By keeping these factors in mind, you can make a more informed decision when purchasing a Martin OM-28V and ensure that you're getting a high-quality instrument that will provide years of enjoyment.

Maintenance and Care

Maintaining your Martin OM-28V guitar is important to ensure it stays in optimal condition and retains its value. Here are some tips for proper maintenance and care:

1. Store it properly: When not in use, store your guitar in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight or sources of heat. This will help prevent warping or cracking of the wood.
2. Clean it regularly: Use a soft cloth to wipe down your guitar after each use, removing any dust or debris that may have accumulated. Avoid using harsh cleaning products or solvents that can damage the finish.
3. Change the strings regularly: Over time, guitar strings can become worn and lose their tone. It is recommended to change your strings every few months, or more frequently if you play often.
4. Use a humidifier: To prevent the wood from drying out and becoming damaged, use a guitar humidifier to maintain a consistent level of humidity. This is especially important if you live in a dry climate.
5. Have it serviced by a professional: It is recommended to have your guitar serviced by a professional luthier every few years to ensure that it stays in optimal playing condition. They can check for any issues and make any necessary adjustments or repairs.

By following these tips, you can help ensure that your **Martin OM 28V** guitar stays in great condition and continues to provide excellent sound quality and playability for years to come.

Comparison to Other Martin Guitars

The [Martin OM-28V is a unique guitar](#) in its combination of vintage and modern design elements, and it is often compared to other Martin guitars with similar features. One such guitar is the Martin HD-28V, which has a similar design but a slightly different tone and feel.

The HD-28V is a variation of Martin's classic HD-28 model, with some vintage design elements incorporated into its construction. Like the OM-28V, it features a solid spruce top and solid rosewood back and sides, but it has a different neck shape and a slightly brighter, more forward sound.

The HD-28V also features herringbone purfling on the top and a zigzag back strip, which are vintage design elements that are not present on the OM-28V. Additionally, the HD-28V has a wider fingerboard and a slightly larger body size, which may affect the feel and playability of the guitar.

Overall, both the OM-28V and HD-28V are excellent guitars with unique features and excellent

tone and playability. The choice between the two ultimately comes down to personal preference and playing style, as well as budget considerations. It is recommended to play both guitars and compare them side by side to determine which one is the best fit for your needs and preferences.



Famous Users

The **Martin OM 28V** has been played by a number of prominent musicians throughout the years, many of whom praise its tonal quality, playability, and unique design.

One of the most well-known users of the Martin OM-28V is singer-songwriter Jason Isbell, who has been playing the guitar for over a decade. Isbell is known for his powerful, emotionally charged lyrics and his intricate guitar playing, and the Martin OM-28V provides the perfect tonal palette for his musical style. In a 2013 interview with *Guitar World*, Isbell praised the guitar's

"round and warm" sound, noting that it allowed him to achieve a wide range of tones and textures in his playing.

Another musician who has made extensive use of the Martin OM-28V is bluegrass guitarist Tony Rice. Rice is widely regarded as one of the greatest acoustic guitarists of all time, and he has recorded numerous albums featuring the Martin OM-28V. Rice's playing style is characterized by his lightning-fast fingerpicking and intricate chord progressions, and the OM-28V's balanced tone and excellent projection make it a perfect match for his playing.

Folk musician Doc Watson is another famous user of the Martin OM-28V. Watson was a legendary guitarist, known for his intricate fingerpicking and soulful vocals, and he played the OM-28V throughout much of his career. Watson's use of the guitar helped to establish its reputation as a high-quality instrument, and his influence can still be heard in the playing of many contemporary acoustic guitarists.

Other notable musicians who have played the Martin OM-28V include singer-songwriter David Gray, bluegrass guitarist Bryan Sutton, and country musician Vince Gill. With its combination of vintage and modern design elements and its exceptional tonal quality, the Martin OM-28V has established itself as one of the most iconic and beloved acoustic guitars of all time.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Martin OM-28V is a remarkable acoustic guitar that combines vintage and modern design elements to create a unique instrument with exceptional sound quality and playability. Its balanced tone and excellent projection make it a great choice for a wide range of musical styles, from folk and bluegrass to rock and pop.

When purchasing a Martin OM-28V, it is important to consider factors such as the guitar's condition, age, and overall playability. It is also crucial to choose a reputable seller and to have the guitar inspected by a professional before making a purchase. Additionally, proper maintenance and care are necessary to keep the guitar in top condition, including storing it in a cool, dry place and cleaning it regularly with a soft cloth.

Compared to other Martin guitars, the OM-28V stands out for its unique design elements, including its modified V-shaped neck and vintage-style herringbone trim. While it is often compared to the Martin HD-28V, the OM-28V has its own unique sound and feel that sets it apart from other guitars in the Martin lineup.

Over the years, the Martin OM-28V has been used by a wide range of famous musicians, including Jason Isbell, Doc Watson, and Tony Rice. Its reputation as a top-tier acoustic guitar makes it a sought-after instrument among guitar enthusiasts and professionals alike.

If you are looking for a high-quality acoustic guitar with vintage and modern design elements and exceptional sound quality and playability, the Martin OM-28V is definitely worth considering. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned professional, this guitar is sure to impress with its

excellent tone and superior craftsmanship.