

Guitarra! Spanish Music through the Centuries



The Vihuela

- One of the earliest known forms of the guitar. Dates from around 1500.
- Looks like the guitar but is much smaller.
- The strings were tuned in courses (pairs) to increase sound and the tuning was different.
- Was used to play solo or to accompany singers or other instruments.

<https://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/grovemusic/view/10.1093/gmo/9781561592630.001.001/omo-9781561592630-e-000029360>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z48fsHe9ONw>

Baroque Guitar



- Very similar to the vihuela, dates from the 1600s.
- Still very small in size, but they added the sound hole.
- Strings were also tuned in pairs, but the notes (tuning) were different.
- More ornamented, used mostly to accompany singers, storytellers and other musicians but can also be played solo.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Agi3pNRnZE>

The Romantic Guitar



- Looks more like the modern guitar, but still smaller. Dates from the 1800s.
- Single strings! Tuned in the same way than the modern guitar.
- Often used to accompany singers but more frequently used to play solos.
- Very ornamented designs. Lots of decoration!

<https://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/grovemusic/view/10.1093/gmo/9781561592630.001.001/omo-9781561592630-e-0000043006?rskey=Ct94FF&result=7#omo-9781561592630-e-0000043006-div1-0000043006.5>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49x9Csv4KPk>

The modern Classical Guitar



- The modern guitar dates from the late 1800s around 1890.
- Bigger in size and sound.
- Strings used to be made from animal intestines, before the invention of nylon which replaced them around 1945.
- Parts of the guitar are described like the human body: head, neck and body.
- Used to play solo, accompany singers or instruments and later in bands.
- Guitarists often borrow music from other instruments for performance, because the guitar has not been around as long.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOiqArLby5o>