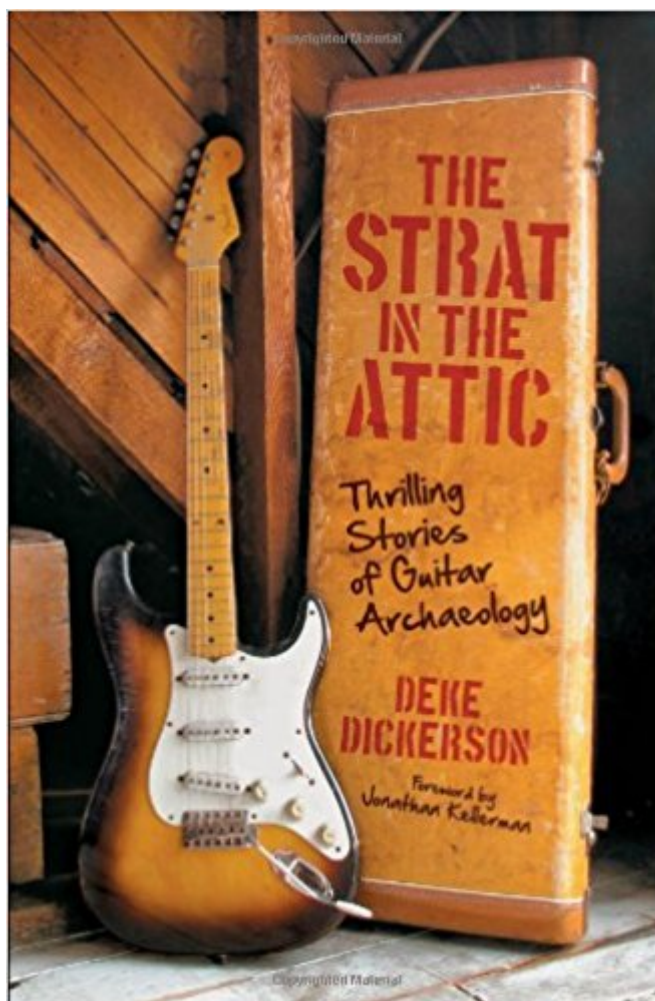


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# Strat In The Attic: Thrilling Stories Of Guitar Archaeology



## Synopsis

Guitar sleuth and music-history detective Deke Dickerson tells the true tales behind 48 rare-guitar and amplifier finds that will make any player or collector green with envy. A hoarder's attic stuffed with nearly 600 vintage guitars still in their boxes. A mint 1954 Fender Telecaster tucked under a bed in a family friend's house. Jazz legend Charlie Christian's Gibson ES-250, spotted in a magazine ad. A rare-as-hen's-teeth Shoreline Gold '56 Fender Stratocaster hidden in attic for 30 years! These are just some of the stories to which Dickerson treats readers. These days, baby boomers who wish they'd been rock 'n' roll stars have shot the vintage guitar market into the stratosphere. And just as with classic valuable automobiles, finding that holy grail of a guitar stashed away beneath a bed, in a closet, in the dusty corner of a guitar shop, or up in an attic is something that all guitar aficionados dream of. Here are some of those stories, related in compelling fashion by the author and illustrated with images of the rare finds.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Deke Dickerson... This guy is of an altogether 'nother breed. He coined the term for his particular case of severe OCD "Guitararchaeology." This man will track a guitar for literal years. He will fly to small towns on the basis of a rumor. He will pore over sales records from guitar manufacturers and retailers from decades ago, looking for a scrap of a clue, he will wait years for an owner to finally give in and sell. Okay, here's who Deke Dickerson is, encapsulated in just one of his dozens of amazing and thoroughly entertaining stories..." - HuffingtonPost.com 'A real treasure trove'"This

marvelous book [is] a perfect amalgam of precisely the kind of juicy details and vivid descriptions of rare and idiosyncratic instruments that guitar freaks crave and the compelling stories of the people whose lives have become enmeshed with these six- (and four- and eight- and twelve-) string masterpieces. On top of that, it's a great read. Deke Dickerson's love for guitars and his genius for finding some of the rarest birds in the musical aviary is matched by his not inconsiderable writing chops. The man knows how to tell a great story." ?" from the foreword by Jonathan Kellerman"(Deke Dickerson is) a gifted musician, writer, archivist and sleuth "œ clearly a hillbilly renaissance man "œ and knows how to spin an engaging yarn. The Strat in the Attic is a well written, high quality, full color book that will engage any active or armchair fan of electric guitars." - All Music Books.com

"This marvelous book is a perfect amalgam of precisely the kind of juicy details and vivid descriptions of rare and idiosyncratic instruments that guitar freaks crave and the compelling stories of the people whose lives have become enmeshed with these six- (and four- and eight- and twelve-) string masterpieces. On top of that, it's a great read. Deke Dickerson's love for guitars and his genius for finding some of the rarest birds in the musical aviary is matched by his not inconsiderable writing chops. The man knows how to tell a great story. Jonathan Kellerman "œ It's every guitarist's wildest dream: You go to a garage sale and stumble upon a 1954 Stratocaster that was just pulled out of an attic "œ and the price tag reads a mere \$50. You peruse the want ads and can't believe your eyes as you read, "œold 1959 Les Paul, \$100. "œYour neighbor happens to mention she has a mint Fender Broadcaster that's been gathering dust under a bed for 50 years and she wants to be rid of it. Here are believe-it-or-not stories of guitar archaeology! Guitar sleuth and music-history detective Deke Dickerson tells true tales of thrilling rare guitar finds that will make all guitarists green with envy "œ and dream of that next rare discovery.

I am neither a guitarist or guitar collector but decided to pick up this book due to the positive reviews, my previous experience with Deke's music/writing and my general love of classic California country music. I'm not surprised about the wide spread on the reviews posted because (as many have mentioned) this isn't really a guitar book. Instead it a compilation of stories about notable guitar finds told through the lens of Deke's life with a heavy dose of music history mixed in. Knowing Deke's leanings as a classic country/rockabilly freak, it should be obvious that most of these

"notable guitars" aren't Strats....in fact, many of these guitars and musicians aren't very well known...unless you are a fan of Classic California Country and roots music in general...IF YOU ARE, I think you will find this book an extremely enjoyable read.its fun accessible and very easy on the eyes....the book itself is a beauty...it's sort of a mini coffee table book...it's the size of a normal trade hardcover, but there is no dust cover (the cover you see is printed directly on the binding) and it is CHOCK FULL of great pictures...it is perfect for just picking up and reading one chapter at a time...it has been my go to book for Sunday readings the past two weeks...so unless you are digital dominant, I wouldn't opt for the Kindle edition...PS: Volume 2 is coming out in a few weeks and I plan to pick that one up too!

I'm not especially big on guitar books -- I've got a stack of 'em, I'll admit right now, but I sure as hell don't keep 'em out where people'll see 'em -- but this baby's an absolute wonder in every way. Much like the esteemed Deke Dickerson himself, this has oodles for everybody: gorgeous color pix for the guitar-porn dork, extensive technical insight for the techie dweeb, and great, untold behind-the-scenes performer stories for the drooling R&R/R&B/C&W fan. I fit into all three of those categories to varying extents, making this an absolute trifecta of excellence. An incredible bargain even above the list, and its current price is a steal on the Federal level. Amazing job, Deke, and hope there's more to come!

Let's talk books. You know -- those bound paper stacks with words printed in ink? This is a gorgeous little book! The cover has the photos and artwork beautifully printed - no need for a dust jacket. The size is about 11 inches by 7 inches - a welcome and usefully holdable size compared to the normal coffee-table book sizes most guitar books gravitate toward. The paper is semi glossy and robust. Each page is lovingly adorned with a high quality rare photo or long forgotten ad copy or logo from guitars long ago, and the text flows around the graphics. It's a beautiful presentation and a wonderful way to mix a modest amount of graphic content with lots of text content. I wish more collector books were in this style and size.Ok, so the stories: There's scads of absorbing, exciting and interesting short stories, all true, about rare old guitars and their lucky discoverers. Dickerson has a simple, clear writing style that suits the subject matter and never distracts from the story. Tons of personality in these stories -- I love how the author gets into the personalities of the folks who had kept these rare guitars, often not knowing quite what they owned, GREAT Christmas gift for that guitarist in the family.

Fist, let me say that anything less than a 5 star review for this book is ridiculous. Deke Dickersons love of the guitar, his knowledge of its history and his ability as a storyteller shine like a beacon for guitar nuts. I have been playing and studying guitar for 57 years. I own hundreds of books about music and musicians...this book is one that I can find no fault with. Highly entertaining ,incredibly informative...I cannot put it down.

Bought this as a gift for my husband, and he is really enjoying it. Lots of good stories and photos, very entertaining and well written. Nice looking, well made book.

If you have even a mild case of G.A.S. (Guitar Acquisition Syndrome) or an interest in vintage guitars you will LOVE this book. I've long been a fan of Deke's music (and he's great in person too) so reading this book was like sitting down with a fellow guitar geek over a beer and swapping "the one that got away" stories. Like you would expect from any obsessed collector, Deke goes beyond the mere pursuit of rare guitars and gets into the history of the instruments and the people that created them. But this isn't a book of cold, hard facts. Deke tells the stories in an entertaining and sincere way. In the cold winter and hot summer months between local vintage guitar shows reading this book is a good way to scratch that rare guitar itch. Every serious fan of guitars knows exactly what I mean. If you read or subscribe to Vintage Guitar magazine you will love this book. PS: Strat In The Attic volume 2 is also available and is just as fun to read.

Deke whacks this book out of the park. For a non-fiction book on a very linear subject, his writing is stellar and his story telling is superb. Even if you don't care much for guitars or don't know anything about the subject, the book is engaging and has some great storytelling. Without spoiling the book, Deke tells the stories almost as though he is handing them down to you by word of mouth. However he is an excellent writer and the way he articulates his thought and story is absolutely top notch. Oh yes, if you like guitars, this book is ridiculously cool. It brings to light guitars that you might never have thought of or seen and discusses players and their reasoning behind picking esoteric brands of guitars (and does a great job discussing their builders as well). Yes, I know the above is a run-on sentence! Still, the book has all that and some well placed pictures as well. At the very least, this book will tell you some great stories. But even better, it will introduce you to music, instruments and people that shouldn't be forgotten in the sands of time and the ever changing markets of music. Worth every penny!

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