



1959 Fender Stratocaster Sunburst

Date

1959

Primary Maker

Fender

Medium

Wood; Metal; Plastic

Description

1959 Fender Stratocaster, serial number 47738, in 3-tone Sunburst finish with Rosewood "slab board" fingerboard with clay dot inlays. Pots read "304-5948" for the 48th week of 1959. It has no neck or body date. All original parts and finish. In a vintage brown Tolex Fender hardshell case. Fender introduced the Stratocaster model of guitars in 1954 after two years of design work by founder Leo Fender. The Stratocaster introduced several new design elements that have now become standard on electric guitars. Its double-cutaway body style was

considered futuristic for the time, with an almost horn-like appearance. The guitar's neck was more contoured than previous electric guitars, which provided better playability. Its use of three pickups also allowed for more tonal versatility compared to previous electric guitars that utilized one or two pickups. Lastly, its vibrato system - with integrated "tremolo bridge" - provided a simplified method for pitch changing. This was the first year Stratocasters used a thicker Brazilian Rosewood fingerboard, known as the "slab board." The thicker slab board was used until 1963 when Fender changed the fretboards to a rosewood veneer to save money. Fender first offered the Stratocaster in this three-tone sunburst pattern. The company expanded the color offerings as the Strat's popularity grew. Stratocasters paved the way for the use of the electric guitar in popular music. Numerous famous guitarists have used Stratocasters, but the most notable among them are Buddy Guy, Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix, Jeff Beck, and John Mayer.