

TELE FACTS	YEAR(S)	NOTE
First Tele prototype?	1949	two known prototypes - Snakehead (pine) & natural w/ off-position Tele bass control plate (ash)
First Esquire model?	1950	March-October 1950 - one- and two-pickup models; officially became the one-pickup model in early 1951
First Broadcaster model?	1950	October; took over the two-pickup Esquire model
First "Nocaster" model?	1951	February; took over the two-pickup Broadcaster model due to Gretsch drum set (Broadcaster) complaint; clipped Broadcaster waterslides
First Telecaster model?	1951	August; took over the two-pickup "Nocaster" model
Used slotted screws?	1949-53	phased out for Phillips screws in 1953 models
Used "Blackguard" body with channel route?	1951-69	
Used pine wood?	1949-50	1949 prototypes and early 1950 Esquires; no Broadcasters, "Nocasters", or Telecasters were made from pine in the early 1950s
First used white pickguard?	1954	previous exceptions
First used 3-ply pickguard?	1959	
First used 8-hole pickguard?	1959	
First used neck pickup mounting holes?	1968	Thinline model
First used rosewood fretboard?	1959	
First used 22-fret neck?	1984	
Used V-back necks?	1949-51	and 1955-57
Used brass straight non-grooved saddles?	1950-53	
Used steel straight non-grooved saddles?	1949-50	and 1954-58
Used threaded steel saddles?	1958-68	
First used grooved saddles?	1968	
First used 60s bridge (3-saddle, straight 'Fender' stamp)?	1959	transitioned in the following years from the slanted 'Fender' plate
First used 70s 6-saddle bridge?	1976	
Used ash tray bridge cover?	1949-83	
Used 50s vintage "spaghetti" headstock waterslide?	1950-65	silver/black
Used "transition" headstock waterslide?	1966-67	gold/black
Used 70s headstock waterslide?	1968	gold/black
Used flat-pole bridge pickups?	1949-54	and 1974-on
Used staggered-pole bridge pickups?	1955-73	and 1982-on

TELE FACTS	YEAR(S)	NOTE
Used white cotton thread bridge pickups?	1955-72	
Used black cotton thread bridge pickups?	1953-54	and 1973-on; used black tape 1949-52
First used 3 single-coil pickups?	1990	James Burton Signature model
Used "Broadcaster Harness"?	1950-52	1-neck pu bass no tone, 2-neck pu natural no tone, 3-blend 2 pu tone=blend
Used "Transition Harness"?	1953-67	1-neck pu bass no tone, 2-neck pu natural w/ tone, 3-bridge pu w/ tone
Used "Standard Tele Harness"?	1967-on	1-neck pu w/ tone, 2-2 pu w/ tone, 3-bridge pu w/ tone
Used vintage 3-way switch tip?	1950-56	and used on various subsequent models
First used top hat 3-way switch tip?	1956-85	also used the vintage tip on certain models in this timeframe
Used dome knobs?	1949-56	wide variations
First used flat top knobs?	1956	wide variations
Used split-post tuners?	1950-67	
Used circle string guides (B-E)?	1950-56	made switch to butterfly style guide in mid-1956; added second butterfly guide (D-G) in 1972
First offered "custom" colors?	1960	blonde (butterscotch & beige) was standard color 1950-74; "custom" colors were offered pre-1960 via special request or for established artists
BONUS-First PAF pickups?	1955	Patent Applied For (Seth Lover for Gibson)
BONUS-First Soapbar pickups?	1946	or P-90; single coil (Gibson); replaced the Charlie Christian "bar" pickup
BONUS-First mini humbucker pickups?	mid-1950s	(Epiphone); used in Gibson Les Pauls in 1969
BONUS-First Bigsby vibrato?	late-1940s	exact first year unknown
BONUS-First Fender Stratocaster?	1954	
BONUS-First Gibson Les Paul?	1952	