

GUITARS FOR THE STARS

From 1974 to 1979 Travis Bean made electric guitars with necks fashioned out of aluminium. These guitars had an ability to sustain notes and a richness of tone that some likened to that of a piano or harp.

Rock stars who used these aluminium necked instruments included Jerry Garcia (The Grateful Dead), Keith Richards and Bill Wyman (The Rolling Stones), Joe Perry (Aerosmith) and Roger Fisher (Heart). The 1978 sales brochure also listed as devotees; Beach Boys, Earth Wind & Fire, Emerson Lake & Palmer, and Jefferson Starship.

The guitars sold in the 1970's for \$US1000. In 2007 a cream-coloured Travis Bean electric guitar once owned by Jerry Garcia sold at auction for \$US312,000.

