



By [Ronny North](#)

I'm going to address something in my column today that I'm sure most guitar players experience. Sometimes I just wake up and I feel like playing a different guitar. I go through phases where I play guitars with [Floyds](#) on them and times when I use non-trem guitars.

Well. I've recently resigned myself to the fact that I'm a Floyd guy. All my current live guitars all have Floyds on them. They just stay in tune better than anything out there. As much as jump around I can't take any chances with tuning when I'm playing live. You do have to make sure you stretch the strings out enough before you go on but once you do a Floyd will keep you in tune. I seldom have to mess with my tuning when I play (a great thing). That being said I have so many guitars with Floyds that I sometimes switch it up a bit and pull an old guitar out of retirement that has a Floyd on it.

I pretty much have all my old guitars so I have quite a selection to choose from. I used to drive my guitar tech crazy because we would have everything sounding great for a few months and I would decide to try out a different guitar. The great thing about that is sometimes the feel and sound of one of your old guitars might inspire you to come up with some new licks or songs (it has happened a few times). The downside to using the old guitars is that they're not so easily replaceable and are a little more fragile. Mine also have sentimental value to me.

I still have my first good guitar - an Ibanez Iceman. My stepmom bought it for me when I was 15. I played all my first backyard parties and shows on the Sunset strip with it. I recently got it out after not seeing it for several years. I was actually toying around with starting to use it for a couple songs in our set. It's pretty beat and I think I might be using it for an upcoming photo shoot we're doing. It was originally black when I got it. The guitar was purchased at the now defunct Cerritos Music in Cerritos California where I attempted to take some guitar lessons. I had the great idea in 94' to have a friend strip it down to bare wood since it was really chipped up. I left it like that for a while then decided to torch it with a blow torch (I've done several of my guitars to date). Well it now looks pretty cool.

My point is that variety can give you a new look on things and sometimes open up your creativity. I know that some of the big guys do the same thing. I recently saw George Lynch play and he was back to using a couple of his old guitars. It was great to see them in use again and they did sound great. He used his original Tiger Charvel for most of the set. It is cool to go back to something that feels familiar to your hands. I myself have gone back to using my old custom made guitars from San Diego. I'm using a White one for standard tuning, a purple flame top one for down tuned stuff and a Minarik Diablo for a back up. All guitars have original

Floyds on them. The purple one is tuned down a whole step and has Graphtech Floyd saddles on it and a D tuner so I can drop the low E to D.... Mix it up a bit and see what happens.....

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plays his own

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of instrumental guitar rock and is fast becoming a So Cal guitar hero. He has appeared in several national and international music publications, including this one each week.