

# Martin OM-28V vs. Gibson J-200: Comparing Two Iconic Acoustic Guitars

Acoustic guitars are some of the most popular musical instruments in the world, and for good reason. They have a warm, natural sound that appeals to a wide range of players and styles. However, with so many different types and models of acoustic guitars available, it can be difficult to know which one is the right choice for you. In this comparison, we will take a closer look at [two iconic acoustic guitars: the Martin OM-28V](#) and the Gibson J-200.

First, we will describe the key features and specifications of each guitar in sections #2 and #3. This will include details on the body shape, tonewoods, neck profile, fingerboard material, and scale length of each guitar. We will also highlight the unique selling points of each guitar that set them apart from other acoustic guitars.

Next, in section #4, we will compare and contrast the sound and tone of the **Martin OM-28V** and the Gibson J-200. We will describe the differences in the tonal characteristics of each guitar, such as the brightness, warmth, sustain, and projection.

In section #5, we will evaluate the playability of each guitar. This will include factors such as the neck shape, action, and string spacing that impact the playability of the guitars. We will also provide insights into which guitar may be better suited for certain playing styles.

Section #6 will examine the design and craftsmanship of each guitar. We will evaluate the attention to detail and quality of workmanship in each guitar, and discuss any unique design elements that contribute to the aesthetic appeal of the guitars.

In section #7, we will analyze the pricing and overall value of the **Martin OM-28V** and the Gibson J-200. We will discuss whether the price of each guitar is justified based on the features, sound, and craftsmanship. We will also provide insights into which guitar may be a better value for different types of players.



In section #8, we will compare and contrast the Martin OM-28V and the Gibson J-200 with other iconic acoustic guitars, such as the Martin D-28 and the Taylor 814ce. We will provide insights into how the Martin OM-28V and the Gibson J-200 stand out among other iconic guitars in terms of sound, playability, design, and value.

Finally, in section #9, we will summarize the key points of the comparison between the Martin OM-28V and the Gibson J-200. We will provide a recommendation based on the analysis and insights presented in the outline, and encourage readers to further research and test the guitars before making a purchase decision.

## **Martin OM-28V: Features and Specifications**

The Martin OM-28V is a high-end acoustic guitar that is part of Martin's Standard Series. It is a vintage-inspired model that draws on the design and materials of classic pre-war Martin guitars. Here are some of the key features and specifications of the Martin OM-28V:

**Body Shape:** The Martin OM-28V has a 14-fret "orchestra model" body shape that is smaller than the dreadnought shape but larger than the parlor shape. This size and shape make it comfortable to play while still producing a full and balanced sound.

**Tonewoods:** The top of the Martin OM-28V is made of solid Sitka spruce, which is a common choice for acoustic guitar tops due to its strength and resonance. The back and sides are made of solid East Indian rosewood, which is known for its warmth and depth of tone.

**Neck Profile:** The neck of the Martin OM-28V is made of select hardwood and has a modified V profile, which is a vintage-inspired shape that provides a comfortable grip for the fretting hand.

**Fingerboard Material:** The fingerboard of the Martin OM-28V is made of solid ebony, which is a

dense and durable wood that provides a smooth playing surface.

**Scale Length:** The scale length of the Martin OM-28V is 25.4 inches, which is a common length for acoustic guitars. This length provides a balanced tension across the strings and allows for easy fingering and chord changes.

**Unique Selling Points:** The Martin OM-28V is known for its vintage-inspired design and high-quality materials. It features scalloped X-bracing, which is a traditional bracing pattern that allows the top to vibrate more freely and produce a more complex tone. The guitar also has herringbone purfling, which is a decorative inlay that adds to the aesthetic appeal of the guitar.

Overall, the **Martin OM-28V** is a well-crafted and versatile acoustic guitar that is ideal for players who want a vintage-inspired sound and design. Its combination of solid spruce and rosewood tonewoods, modified V neck profile, solid ebony fingerboard, and scalloped X-bracing make it a powerful and dynamic instrument that can handle a wide range of playing styles.

## Gibson J-200: Features and Specifications

The Gibson J-200 is a classic acoustic guitar that has been played by some of the most famous musicians in history, including Elvis Presley and Bob Dylan. It is known for its large size and powerful sound, as well as its striking design. Here are some of the key features and specifications of the Gibson J-200:

**Body Shape:** The Gibson J-200 has a 16-inch wide jumbo body shape, which is one of the largest body shapes available for acoustic guitars. This size and shape give the guitar a rich and full sound with plenty of volume and projection.

**Tonewoods:** The top of the Gibson J-200 is made of solid Sitka spruce, while the back and sides are made of solid maple. This combination of tonewoods produces a bright and articulate tone with plenty of definition and clarity.

**Neck Profile:** The neck of the Gibson J-200 is made of maple and has a rounded profile, which provides a comfortable grip for the fretting hand.

**Fingerboard Material:** The fingerboard of the Gibson J-200 is made of solid rosewood, which is a dense and durable wood that provides a smooth playing surface.

**Scale Length:** The scale length of the Gibson J-200 is 25.5 inches, which is slightly longer than the scale length of the **Martin OM-28V**. This length provides a slightly tighter tension across the strings and can help to produce a brighter tone.

**Unique Selling Points:** The Gibson J-200 is known for its striking design features, including its large jumbo body shape, ornate pickguard, and floral inlays. The guitar also features a unique cutaway design that allows for easier access to the higher frets, which is unusual for a jumbo-sized guitar.

Overall, the Gibson J-200 is a powerful and versatile acoustic guitar that is ideal for players who want a large, bold sound and a unique visual style. Its combination of solid spruce and maple tonewoods, rounded neck profile, solid rosewood fingerboard, and jumbo body shape make it a commanding and expressive instrument that can handle a wide range of playing styles.

## Sound and Tone

When it comes to choosing an acoustic guitar, sound and tone are often the most important factors. In this section, we will compare and contrast the sound and tone of the Martin OM-28V and the Gibson J-200.

**Martin OM-28V Sound and Tone:** The Martin OM-28V has a warm and balanced tone that is well-suited to fingerstyle playing and lighter strumming. The solid Sitka spruce top and solid East Indian rosewood back and sides produce a rich and complex tone with plenty of sustain and clarity. The guitar's scalloped X-bracing pattern helps to enhance the guitar's natural resonance and projection, resulting in a full and dynamic sound.

The Martin OM-28V has a slightly scooped midrange, which gives it a balanced and smooth sound that is not too bright or too dark. This makes it a versatile instrument that can handle a variety of playing styles, from delicate fingerpicking to more aggressive strumming.

**Gibson J-200 Sound and Tone:** The Gibson J-200 has a powerful and bold sound that is well-suited to strumming and flatpicking. The solid Sitka spruce top and solid maple back and sides produce a bright and articulate tone with plenty of projection and definition. The guitar's jumbo body shape and large soundhole contribute to its volume and bass response.

The Gibson J-200 has a pronounced midrange and treble, which gives it a bright and punchy sound that cuts through in a band setting. This makes it a great choice for players who need a guitar that can stand out in a mix and hold its own against other instruments.

**Comparison:** Overall, the **Martin OM-28V** and the Gibson J-200 have very different sound and tonal characteristics. The Martin OM-28V has a warm and balanced sound that is well-suited to fingerstyle playing and lighter strumming, while the Gibson J-200 has a powerful and bold sound that is better suited to more aggressive strumming and flatpicking.

The Martin OM-28V has a slightly scooped midrange, which gives it a balanced and smooth sound, while the Gibson J-200 has a pronounced midrange and treble, which gives it a bright and punchy sound. The choice between these two guitars will ultimately depend on the player's individual preferences and playing style.

## Playability

In addition to sound and tone, playability is an important factor to consider when choosing an acoustic guitar. In this section, we will evaluate the playability of the Martin OM-28V and the Gibson J-200.

**Martin OM-28V Playability:** The Martin OM-28V has a comfortable and playable neck that is well-suited to a variety of playing styles. The modified V profile of the neck provides a comfortable grip for the fretting hand, while the solid ebony fingerboard provides a smooth and responsive playing surface.

The action (string height) of the Martin OM-28V is set at a medium level, which makes it easy to fret notes and chords without excessive finger pressure. The string spacing is also comfortable, with enough room for fingerpicking and strumming.

The smaller body size and narrower waist of the Martin OM-28V make it a comfortable guitar to play for extended periods of time, and the balanced tone makes it a versatile instrument that can handle a wide range of playing styles.

**Gibson J-200 Playability:** The Gibson J-200 has a larger body size and a wider waist than the Martin OM-28V, which can make it a bit more challenging to play for some players. However, the rounded neck profile provides a comfortable grip for the fretting hand, and the solid rosewood fingerboard provides a smooth and responsive playing surface.

The action of the Gibson J-200 is also set at a medium level, which makes it easy to fret notes and chords. However, the wider string spacing can make fingerpicking and more intricate playing styles a bit more challenging.

The jumbo body size and large soundhole of the Gibson J-200 provide plenty of volume and projection, making it a great choice for players who need a guitar that can fill a room with sound.

**Comparison:** The **Martin OM-28V** and the Gibson J-200 have different playability characteristics due to their different body sizes and shapes. The Martin OM-28V is a more comfortable guitar to play for extended periods of time, with a smaller body size and narrower waist that make it easier to hold and play. The Gibson J-200, on the other hand, has a larger body size and wider waist that can make it more challenging to play for some players, but also provides a commanding presence and plenty of volume and projection.

The choice between these two guitars will depend on the player's individual preferences and playing style. Players who prefer a more comfortable and versatile guitar may prefer the Martin OM-28V, while those who need a guitar with a bold and powerful presence may prefer the Gibson J-200.

## Design and Craftsmanship

Design and craftsmanship are important factors to consider when choosing an acoustic guitar. In this section, we will examine the design and craftsmanship of the Martin OM-28V and the Gibson J-200.

**Martin OM-28V Design and Craftsmanship:** The **Martin OM-28V** is a beautifully designed guitar with a vintage-inspired look and feel. The solid Sitka spruce top and solid East Indian rosewood

back and sides are finished with a high-gloss nitrocellulose lacquer that provides a rich and lustrous appearance. The herringbone purfling and ivoroid binding add to the aesthetic appeal of the guitar.

The craftsmanship of the Martin OM-28V is exceptional, with attention to detail evident in every aspect of the guitar's construction. The scalloped X-bracing is carefully hand-shaped and positioned for optimal resonance and projection, while the neck joint is precision-cut for a tight and secure fit. The guitar's overall fit and finish is of the highest quality, with no visible flaws or imperfections.

**Gibson J-200 Design and Craftsmanship:** The Gibson J-200 is a visually striking guitar with a unique and recognizable design. The solid Sitka spruce top and solid maple back and sides are finished with a high-gloss nitrocellulose lacquer that provides a shiny and eye-catching appearance. The ornate pickguard and floral inlays add to the guitar's visual appeal.

The craftsmanship of the Gibson J-200 is also exceptional, with careful attention to detail evident throughout the guitar's construction. The binding and inlay work is precise and well-executed, while the neck joint is solid and secure. The guitar's overall fit and finish is of a high standard, with no visible flaws or imperfections.

**Comparison:** Both the Martin OM-28V and the Gibson J-200 are well-crafted and visually appealing guitars, with attention to detail evident in every aspect of their construction. The Martin OM-28V has a vintage-inspired design with a focus on traditional materials and techniques, while the Gibson J-200 has a unique and distinctive appearance with ornate inlays and a bold visual style.

In terms of craftsmanship, both guitars are of exceptional quality with no visible flaws or imperfections. The choice between these two guitars will depend on the player's individual preferences and aesthetic tastes. Players who prefer a more traditional and understated design may prefer the Martin OM-28V, while those who want a guitar with a bold and unique look may prefer the Gibson J-200.

## **Price and Value**

Price and value are important considerations when choosing an acoustic guitar. In this section, we will analyze the pricing and overall value of the Martin OM-28V and the Gibson J-200.

**Martin OM-28V Price and Value:** The Martin OM-28V is a high-end acoustic guitar with a price point that reflects its quality and craftsmanship. At the time of writing, the Martin OM-28V has a retail price of around \$3,999.

While this may seem like a significant investment, the Martin OM-28V offers exceptional value for players who are looking for a high-quality, versatile acoustic guitar. The guitar's solid spruce and rosewood tonewoods, scalloped X-bracing, and attention to detail in craftsmanship all contribute to its outstanding sound and playability.

For players who are serious about their craft and want a guitar that will last a lifetime, the Martin OM-28V is an excellent investment that offers long-term value.

**Gibson J-200 Price and Value:** The Gibson J-200 is also a high-end acoustic guitar with a price point that reflects its quality and craftsmanship. At the time of writing, the Gibson J-200 has a retail price of around \$5,799.

While the price may seem steep, the Gibson J-200 offers exceptional value for players who are looking for a guitar with a unique and bold sound and a striking visual design. The guitar's solid spruce and maple tonewoods, jumbo body size, and attention to detail in craftsmanship all contribute to its commanding presence and dynamic tone.

For players who want a guitar that can stand out in a mix and hold its own against other instruments, the Gibson J-200 is an excellent investment that offers long-term value.

**Comparison:** Both the **Martin OM-28V** and the Gibson J-200 are high-end acoustic guitars with price points that reflect their quality and craftsmanship. While the Martin OM-28V is priced lower than the Gibson J-200, both guitars offer exceptional value for players who are serious about their craft and want an instrument that will last a lifetime.

The choice between these two guitars will ultimately depend on the player's individual preferences and budget. Players who prioritize versatility and understated design may prefer the Martin OM-28V, while those who prioritize a unique and bold sound and visual style may prefer the Gibson J-200.

## Comparison with Other Iconic Guitars

In this section, we will compare and contrast the Martin OM-28V and the Gibson J-200 with other iconic acoustic guitars, such as the Martin D-28 and the Taylor 814ce.

**Martin OM-28V vs. Martin D-28:** The Martin D-28 is another iconic acoustic guitar from Martin that is often compared to the OM-28V. While the D-28 and the OM-28V have similar tonewoods and body shapes, there are some key differences in their sound and playability.

The D-28 has a larger body size and a more traditional bracing pattern than the OM-28V, which gives it a fuller and more robust sound. The D-28 also has a wider string spacing and a flatter fingerboard radius, which can make it a bit more challenging to play for some players.

The OM-28V, on the other hand, has a warmer and more balanced tone than the D-28, with a slightly scooped midrange that gives it a smooth and even sound. The OM-28V also has a more comfortable neck profile and a narrower waist, which make it easier to hold and play for extended periods of time.

**Martin OM-28V vs. Taylor 814ce:** The Taylor 814ce is another popular acoustic guitar that is often compared to the Martin OM-28V. While the two guitars have some similarities in terms of

their tonewoods and playability, there are some key differences in their sound and design.

The 814ce has a brighter and more modern sound than the OM-28V, with a pronounced midrange and treble that give it a punchy and articulate tone. The 814ce also has a cutaway body design and an onboard electronics system, which make it a more versatile guitar for live performance and recording.



The OM-28V, on the other hand, has a warmer and more traditional sound that is well-suited to fingerstyle playing and lighter strumming. The OM-28V also has a more vintage-inspired design with a focus on traditional materials and techniques.

**Gibson J-200 vs. Martin D-28: The Martin D-28** is often compared to the Gibson J-200 due to their similar body sizes and shapes. While both guitars have a commanding presence and a powerful sound, there are some key differences in their tonal characteristics and design.

The D-28 has a fuller and more traditional sound than the J-200, with a deeper bass response and a warmer overall tone. The D-28 also has a more understated design with a focus on classic materials and techniques.

The J-200, on the other hand, has a brighter and more modern sound than the D-28, with a punchy midrange and treble that cut through in a band setting. The J-200 also has a unique and ornate design with intricate inlay work and a bold visual style.

Comparison: The **Martin OM-28V** and the Gibson J-200 stand out among other iconic acoustic guitars due to their unique tonal characteristics and visual design. While the Martin D-28 and the Taylor 814ce are often compared to the OM-28V, each guitar has its own distinct sound and playability that set it apart from the others.



Ultimately, the choice between these guitars will depend on the player's individual preferences and playing style. Players who want a warm and balanced tone may prefer the **Martin OM-28V** or the D-28, while those who want a bold and commanding sound may prefer the Gibson J-200. Players who prioritize versatility and modern design may prefer the Taylor 814ce.