

The the same
instrument but that is
not

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The term classical guitar as we use nowadays and what we mean by it has a history behind it and is a term that was altered throughout history. History of the instrument can be found in Mesopotamia in 2000 BC and Egypt 1500 BC that seemed to match the instrument by having small rectangle body and long neck and the flat Coptic Lute in Egypt. Many people connect the term kithara with guitar and think that we speak for the same instrument but that is not the case as in Ancient Greek times the term kithara referred to a plucked instrument that belonged to the family of Lyre.

The reason that people would connect these two instruments is the Greek word kithara and the Spanish word guitarra and is because they match in name and nothing more. Another diversity of its history is the debate as whether the guitar is a European developed instrument or was imported to Medieval Europe by the Arabs but this is not a strong claim for the guitar because Arabs have ancient oriental lutes that play in a different way than the European practice. The closest true findings of the guitar in Europe can be traced back to the Renaissance period. These guitars were constructed both curved and flat backs and the only thing that made them to distinguish between them was the characteristic outline in the front the same as the Spanish Vihuela which had a waisted body shape and smooth rounded bouts.

In the sixteenth century the Vihuela became the primary guitar like instrument and that is what we think that the guitar took its lineage. Looking back to the Vihuela origins we can't speak for it as a one instrument because it had many alterations. Specific instruments can be found as : Vihuela de arco (a bowed form instrument), Vihuela de penola (played with a plectrum) and Vihuela de mano (plucked with fingers). We can find the first two forms in <https://assignbuster.com/the-the-same-instrument-but-that-is-not/>

medieval sources but the third one cannot be traced back in the late fifteenth century. In the sixteenth century the plucked Vihuela was so well established in Spain that people had connect it as the sole instrument. “ In Spain the vihuela was an aristocratic version of the guitar, being granted the status accorded to the lute in the rest of Europe” (Evans 1949, 16) During the fifteenth century alongside the Vihuela and the lute, we have another rising instrument and that is the four-course guitar (an instrument that had many structural similarities with Vihuela and lute. However we can say that this guitar is the ancestor of the classical guitar.

It had the same tuning as the modern upper four strings. It has an interval octave between the two strings that give the listener a peculiar timbre and that is what it makes it distinguish from all the others. The guitar origins are found in Iberian Peninsula but it was not until it received the greatest attention in France. One of the reasons as to why this guitar became so popular is due to its number of strings. A player of this guitar should have to learn five to ten frets and then the player was able to master the instrument due to its limited number of strings.

Comparing it to the six course vihuela and the eight course lute, the four course guitar was easy to play.