

Serial Number Chart

for Electric, Archtop, and Bass Guitars

In the following charts, you can determine the year of manufacture for a Yamaha electric, archtop, or bass guitar.

The first step is to find the serial number—a combination of letters and/or numbers—and the “Made in...” label (Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, Korea, or China) on the guitar. You should be able to find these in one of the following places: the peghead, the fingerboard at the high fret position, inside the body in the case of hollowbodies, or occasionally, in another spot on the instrument that you will need to locate.

Once you have those two pieces of information, find the country of origin and serial number in one of the following charts and, using the Letter-to-Number Reference Chart below, calculate the year of manufacture for your guitar.

LETTER-TO-NUMBER Reference Chart

Often, some of the letters in the serial numbers represent specific numbers that, in turn, stand for the month and year of manufacture. See the chart below for the code.

H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	10	11	12

SAMPLE

Serial Number: IM705J 1991, July

I	M	7	0	5	J
Internal Production Code					
This three digit number represents the unit number					
Month, June (M=6)					
Year 1992 (I=2)					

System # E1 (See chart on pages 132-133)

1966–1984

Made in Japan

System # E2

1984–1986

Made in Japan

Serial Number: LHQH001 1985, January

L	H	Q	H	0	0	1
Unit Number						
Date						
Month, January (H=1)						
Year, 1985 (L=5)						

System # E1

1966-1984

Made in Japan

The following numbering system was used for SG, SX, and BB series.

Representative Models	Serial Number Sequence	Year
SG-2, 3, 5, 7, 12	0398-3951	1966
SG-2, 3, 5, 7, 12	3952-7433	1967
SG-2A, 5A, 7A, 12A		
SG-2A, 5A, 7A, 12A	7434-10844	1968
SG-2C, 3C		
SG-2A, 5A, 7A, 12A	10645-12331	1969
SG-2C, 3C		
SG-2A, 5A, 7A, 12A	12332-13492	1970
SG-2C, 3C		
SG-2A, 5A, 2C, 3C	13493-15121	1971
SG-2A, 5A, 2C, 3C		
SG-40, 60, 80	15122-18058	1972
SG-45, 65, 85		
SG-40, 60, 80	18059-23745	1973
SG-45, 65, 85		
SG-30, 35, 45, 65		
SG-70, 90, 175	23746-36150	1974
SX-80, 125		
SG-45, 50, 70, 90		
SG-175	36151-38104	1975
SX-80, 125		
SG-175	38105-39943	1976
SX-125		

Representative Models	Serial Number Sequence	Year
SG1000	1001-1390	1976
SG2000	1001-1126	
SG1000	001391-002365	
SG2000	001251-002610	1977
BB1200	001001-001270	
BB2000	001271-001320	
SG1000	002366-003110	
SG2000	002611-003760	1978
BB1200	001321-002965	
BB2000	002001-002380	
SG1000	003111-004445	
SG2000	003761-005088	1979
BB1200	002966-004000	
BB2000	002381-002920	
SG1000	004446-005329	Through 1980 July
SG2000	005081-005375	
All Models	013001-024215	Through 1980 December
All Models	025410-059618	1981
All Models	059620-096639	1982
All Models	096640-126845	1983
All Models	126846-146196	Through 1984 July

System # E3

1984-1996

Made in Japan

Serial Number: LH0001 1985, January

L	H	0	0	0	1
		Unit Number			
		Month, January (H=1)			
Year, 1985 (L=5)					

System # E4

1986-1989

Made in Japan

Serial Number: 5H01001 1986-89, January

5	H	0	1	0	0	1
		Unit Number				
		Date				
		Month, January (H=1)				
Internal Code						

Note: This system does not indicate exact year of production.

System # E5

1995-1999

Made in Japan

Serial Number: 501001 1995, January

5	0	1	0	0	1
		Unit Number			
		Month, January			
Year, 1995					

System # E6

1994-1997

Made in Japan

Serial Number: 6FH001 1996, January

6	F	H	0	0	1
		Unit Number			
		Month, January (H=1)			
Internal Code					
Year, 1996					

System # E11

1984–2002

Made in Taiwan

Serial Number: PM01001 1999, June 1

P M 0 1 0 0 1

Unit Number

Day

Month, June (M=6)

Year, 1999 (P=9)

System # E12

2002–

Made in Taiwan

Serial Number: QJN01001 2003, July 1

Q J N 0 1 0 0 0 1

Unit Number

Day

Month, July (N=7)

Year, 2003 (Q=0, J=3)

System # E13

2003–

Made in Korea and Made in China

Serial Number: QLK0001R 2005, April

Q L K 0 0 0 1 R

Internal Code (R, U, Y, D were used in this system.)

Unit Number

Month, April (K=4)

Year, 2005 (Q=0, L=5)

Note: The previous charts include the majority of Yamaha electric, archtop, and bass guitars. However, in some cases, the serial number information is no longer available and/or, for the lowest priced models, is not listed.