



Fender brings John 5's signature style to three new Telecaster® models

FROM THE FENDER PHANTOM AND GHOST TO THE FENDER CUSTOM SHOP "PHANTOM", THE NEW COLLECTION SPANS MULTIPLE PRICE POINTS, BRINGING JOHN 5'S DISTINCTIVE DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE TO MORE PLAYERS

HOLLYWOOD, CALIF. (October 6, 2026) — Today, [Fender Musical Instruments Corporation](#) (FMIC) and the [Fender Custom Shop](#) (FCS) announce three new signature Telecaster models celebrating the genre-defying artistry of [John 5](#): the [Fender John 5 Phantom Telecaster](#), [Fender John 5 Ghost Telecaster](#) and [Fender Custom Shop John 5 "Phantom" Telecaster](#). Each of these Telecaster models captures a different facet of his technical prowess, unmistakable style and musical versatility, bringing his signature sound and design to more players across a range of price points.

"I don't know if the Telecaster picked me or I picked it. I was so drawn to that shape," said John 5. "Ever since I was little, Fender was always just the pinnacle, the greatest, and I just wanted nothing more to have the best guitar for me and have the people enjoy it as well."

John 5's approach to the Telecaster showcases the instrument's boundless versatility, pushing its iconic design into bold new territory. Equally at home with distortion-drenched shredding and country chicken-picking, John 5 has spent his career proving there's no

genre, style or vibe off limits. A lifelong Telecaster devotee, his technically demanding, theatrical playing has made him one of rock's most distinctive guitarists.

Born John William Lowery, he picked up guitar after being inspired by a Telecaster, the banjo and guitar virtuosos before heavy metal propelled him toward a professional career. He began session work in Los Angeles at 17 and went on to perform with artists including David Lee Roth, Mötley Crüe and Rob Zombie. With 11 studio albums and a career defined by his genre-defying approach, John 5 continues to push the Telecaster, and guitar playing itself, beyond convention.

"John 5 is one of the most distinctive players in modern guitar, pushing the Telecaster across genres and beyond convention, and these three instruments reflect that versatility," said Justin Norvell, Fender Chief Product Officer, Guitars. "Bringing the Ghost back into the Fender lineup puts his signature design within reach of more players. Together, this collection gives fans at every level a way to plug into his sound."

The three signature models translate John 5's sound and visual style into distinct instruments, from the Fender lineup to the Fender Custom Shop:

- **John 5 Phantom Telecaster®**

John 5's hard-rock take on the classic Telecaster. Finished in commanding black with a matching headstock, the Phantom pairs DiMarzio® D Activator™ humbuckers with a Floyd Rose® FRTS2000 Special Series tremolo for high-output tones and extreme pitch-bending capabilities. Its stripped-down control layout, featuring a single volume knob and killswitch, keeps the focus on playing, while the streamlined design pushes the Telecaster into bold new territory.

- **John 5 Ghost Telecaster®**

A stripped-back, high-output Telecaster built for John 5's signature sound. The Ghost continues the Fender line in an eye-catching Arctic White finish with matching headstock, chrome hardware and red accents. A nyatoh body gives this model a distinct feel, while DiMarzio® D Activator™ humbuckers deliver the high-output, high-gain tones John 5 is known for. Streamlined controls, including a single volume knob and killswitch, keep the design focused and performance-ready.

- **Fender Custom Shop John 5 “Phantom” Telecaster®**

Crafted by the Fender Custom Shop, this modernized Telecaster pairs a gloss black two-piece select alder body with Ultra Contours and a maple neck featuring a Modern “C” profile, 10”–14” compound-radius flat-laminated ebony fingerboard and 22 medium jumbo frets. A pair of DiMarzio® D Activator™ humbuckers delivers tight, high-output tones, while a Floyd Rose® Original double-locking tremolo enables extreme pitch manipulation with tuning stability. Additional premium appointments include Luminlay® side dots, black hardware, locking tuners and a satin urethane neck finish.

[Watch The Fender Custom Shop explore the John 5 "Phantom" Telecaster](#) and an in conversation video with [John 5 as he walks through the John 5 "Phantom" Telecaster](#).

"John 5 has always pushed the Custom Shop to think beyond the traditional Telecaster blueprint," said Chase Paul, Fender Custom Shop Director. "From the single-bound body with Ultra Contours to the single volume control and killswitch, this guitar is a true reflection of his playing style. It's a great example of what's possible when the Custom Shop works directly with an artist to bring their vision to life."

Together, the three new signature Telecaster models celebrate John 5's longstanding relationship with Fender and his ability to push the instrument across musical boundaries. From the Phantom's aggressive performance features to the Ghost's striking design and the Custom Shop's premium craftsmanship, the collection offers players new ways to explore his distinctive approach to the Telecaster.

High-resolution lifestyle and product images can be found [HERE](#).

For technical specs, additional information on new Fender® products and to find a retail partner near you, visit www.fendercustomshop.com. Join the conversation on social media by following @Fender and @FenderCustomShop.

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John 5 Phantom Telecaster® (MSRP: \$1,299.99 USD, £1,149 GBP, €1,349 EUR, \$2,149 AUD, ¥198,000 JPY) Finished in black with a matching headcap, the Phantom pairs its

unmistakable Telecaster silhouette with a decidedly modern performance setup. DiMarzio® D'Activator™ pickups in the neck and bridge deliver the high-output response John 5 is known for, with tight low end and clear articulation through high-gain settings. A Floyd Rose® FRTS2000 Special Series tremolo brings another dimension to the instrument, allowing for dramatic pitch bends, dive bombs and other extreme techniques while maintaining tuning stability. The streamlined control layout features a single volume knob and killswitch, leaving plenty of room for the player to shape the performance in real time.

John 5 Ghost Telecaster® (MSRP: \$1,299.99 USD, £1,099 GBP, €1,299 EUR, \$2,149 AUD, ¥198,000 JPY) Finished in Arctic White with a matching headcap, the Ghost Telecaster® makes a statement before it's even plugged in. DiMarzio® D'Activator™ pickups in the neck and bridge give it the high-output response John 5 is known for, with tight low-end response and searing clarity that can cut through any mix. With a stripped-down control layout, a single volume knob and killswitch, this guitar keeps the focus where it belongs: on the music and the moment.

Fender Custom Shop John 5 "Phantom" Telecaster (MSRP: \$6,000.00 USD, £5,599 GBP, €6,599 EUR, \$9,799 AUD, ¥1,056,000 JPY) Few players have pushed the Telecaster® into darker, heavier territory than John 5, and the John 5 "Phantom" Telecaster® is built to match his relentless approach to the instrument. Crafted by the Fender Custom Shop, this is a Telecaster® reimagined for the modern virtuoso: aggressive, precise, and ready for anything from chicken pickin' to metal.

At its core, a two-piece select alder body with Ultra Contours finished in gloss black urethane provides the resonant foundation, while a maple neck with a smooth Modern "C" profile and 10" to 14" compound-radius, flat-laminated ebony fingerboard invites effortless chording down low and clean, choke-free bending up high. Twenty-two medium jumbo frets, a 25.5" scale, and satin urethane finish give the neck the fast, articulate feel of John 5's playing demands, while Luminlay® luminescent side dots keep fret positions visible on the darkest stages.

A pair of DiMarzio® D Activator™ humbuckers gives the "Phantom" its voice, from tight, cutting bridge attack to a warm, vocal neck tone, selected via a 3-position toggle switch and controlled by a single master volume for zero distraction. Anchoring it all is a recessed Floyd

Rose® Original double-locking tremolo paired with an R7 locking nut and modern locking tuners, keeping the guitar dead-on in tune through the most extreme dives.

Other premium features include a Bi-Flex™ truss rod, 3-position toggle switch, Mother of Pearl dot inlays, 4-bolt contoured neck plate with Custom Shop "V" logo, Floyd Rose® retainer bar string tree, black hardware, .009-.042 nickel-plated steel strings, deluxe hardshell case, strap and certificate of authenticity.

ABOUT FENDER CUSTOM SHOP™:

Since 1987, the Fender Custom Shop™ and its esteemed builders have astounded players and collectors worldwide with marvels of creativity, ingenuity and artistry. From its humble Southern California beginnings, the Fender Custom Shop has grown to become the world's preeminent maker of highly collectible, custom instruments operating in Corona, Calif. Known as the "Dream Factory," the Fender Custom Shop is also home to an honored group known as the Master Builders – some of the most-skilled luthiers in the world – who craft Fender's legendary instruments and push the boundaries of possibility. The distinguished Master Builders make dream guitars a reality for players – from Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, H.E.R. and Jimmy Page to collectors, working professionals and guitar enthusiasts. As the epicenter of innovation at Fender and the pinnacle of the brand, ideas and production techniques devised in the Fender Custom Shop for both Masterbuilt and Teambuilt guitars go on to inspire and influence Fender's other production line models.

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ABOUT FENDER

Fender has been at the center of music and culture since 1946. As the world's leading guitar, bass and amplifier brand, Fender has shaped the sound of modern music, creating instruments that have become part of defining moments in music and culture. Today, Fender Musical Instruments Corporation (FMIC) designs, manufactures and delivers instruments, amplifiers, effects, accessories, pro audio and digital products and experiences for players around the world. FMIC's portfolio of owned and licensed brands includes Fender®, Squier®, Fender Custom Shop, Fender Studio®, Jackson®, Gretsch® guitars, EVH®, Charvel®, Bigsby® and PreSonus®. Guided by a player-centric approach, Fender continues to combine craftsmanship, innovation and technology to support musicians throughout their creative journey — from learning and playing to performing, recording and creating. For more information visit, www.fender.com.

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