

THE INDIAN GUITAR ARCHIVES



JULY
SPECIAL
EDITION

**UTTAM
KUMAR**

THE OFFICER & GUITARIST



**CREATING
HISTORY
SINCE
1985**

**THE TONE
DOOR**

An island of innovative
solutions for custom
guitars & more

VOLUME

1



POSTS IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE

- 3 ABOUT THE AUTHOR
- 4 THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG!
- 5 WHEN PASSION DRIVES YOU ...
- 6 THE BIGGER PICTURE
- 7 TONE DOOR: THE GUITAR SURGEONS
- 8 SHRUTHI MUSICALS: CREATING HISTORY SINCE 1985
- 9 THE GUITARVERSE: FACTS OF THE FRET
- 10 GEAR REVIEW: THE PEDAL THAT MAKES YOU DRIVE

TIGA was born from the union of science and sound. I'm a neuroscientist and a lifelong guitarist — and I've always believed that every guitar player holds a story worth telling. Whether it begins in a bedroom, a village gig, or a crowded stage, each journey is unique, honest, and incredibly human. This platform was created to celebrate that — to bring together diverse tones, styles, and lives into one evolving archive. Your support makes this possible. Your stories make it unforgettable. Together, we're stringing a billion dreams.

AUTHOR

Dr. Sai Kiran Kumar

July 1, 2025



This is My Story, This is My Song!

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Sai Kiran Kumar from The Indian Guitar Archives for his unwavering support of artists and for creating a space where we can share our journeys and experiences.

This brings to mind my very first encounter with a black acoustic guitar, which a friend of my brother had left at my place. After an hour of experimentation, I managed to play the popular Hindi song "Ek Do Teen" using just the first string. That moment sparked a passion in me, leading to daily practice sessions of at least three hours. As I delved into staff notation, I began collecting guitar magazines like *Guitar Player*, *Guitar World*, and *Guitar One* from the Bangalore Library, and I still cherish those Xerox copies. Back then, the internet was a distant dream!



*Uttam Kumar at 18 with his Jackson RR series
Photo: Special arrangement*

I WAS STRUNG!!

The reason I picked up the guitar? Well, it's all about those fabulous girls! Just kidding, my friend! Everyone's got their own tale—the moment they decided to rock out on a specific instrument. If you strum the guitar, hats off to you! It's a stellar choice for a simple reason: music is crafted from three magical ingredients—1) Melody, 2) Rhythm, and 3) Harmony—elements that the guitar boasts like a rock star unlike any other instrument!



Uttam Kumar performing with his band 'God N Dog'

THE REBEL YEARS

Believe it or not, rockers are the black sheep of Indian joint families, and I proudly count myself as one among them! I began my musical journey almost like a rebellious act; no one in my family was a fan. At 14, I chose guitar lessons over chemistry classes, much to their dismay.

Despite the lack of appreciation from my family, I remain unfazed! Thankfully, my friends and bandmates are incredibly supportive, which means the world to me.

When passion drives you ...

Indeed, it is perceived as entertainment rather than something to take seriously. Many people grasp the essence of the lyrics but not the song itself. In my family, there was no support for my passion for playing guitar; it simply wasn't an option.

After completing my 12th grade, I made the bold decision to leave home and head to Bangalore, determined to navigate life independently. I aimed to prove that a guitarist can thrive as a professional rather than merely as a hobbyist. I succeeded; my life revolves solely around music.

While in college in Bangalore, I played in restaurants at night to support myself. I spent 16 years as part of a Jazz Band in the army. Eventually, I became the Chief Instructor at the Bangalore Guitar School and a Music Theory Professor at Sound Engineering colleges, fulfilling my dreams.

THE FIRST AXE

I believe it was crafted in Kolkata, with no visible brand name, yet it performed exceptionally well; the pickup selector resembled an electrical switchboard.



Transforming from a nameless guitar to mastering a prestigious Music Man Majesty is a delightful and enriching adventure.

INFLUENCES

A childhood friend dedicated eight hours daily to guitar practice. Every time I encountered him, he was immersed in his music, discussing nothing but the guitar. Inspired by his passion, I began to see myself as a guitarist too. He truly became my greatest source of inspiration.

The Bigger Picture...

Each songwriter has their unique approach to crafting music. I begin with a captivating riff that loops endlessly, allowing my imagination to wander until the lyrics come to life, with everything else falling into place afterward.

CHANGING LIVES BY CHANGING HOW WE THINK

Music as an art form requires financial support from the government for music education, festivals, and venues. This venture requires collaborations and sponsorships from private entities with music organizations and events. Crowdfunding is necessary for independent musicians.

Also, music streaming platforms should provide fair remuneration to artists. The private and public sectors should collaborate to safeguard and promote musical heritage.

Regardless of the music style you embrace, it's essential to master modern staff notation, including both staff and tablature. Cultivate discipline, honor your mentors, and seek knowledge beyond the internet. The decision between analog and digital sound is ultimately a matter of personal taste and the tone you wish to create. Many guitarists find harmony by merging both realms to craft their perfect sound. Remember this as you continue your journey today.



Uttam Kumar with Michelangelo Batio during his North-East India tour

"Uttam Kumar's passion for guitars is impeccable. He teaches the guitar to youngsters in Manipur and plays in the band 'God N Dog'. I appreciate all the readers who've taken time out to support artists in this manner. Subscribe and follow Uttam Kumar's socials in the links below." - Dr. Sai Kiran Kumar

FOLLOW & SUPPORT UTTAM'S MUSIC



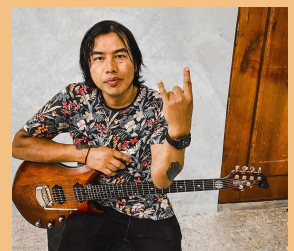
[@TheUttam999](#)



[Uttam Kumar](#)



[@godndog](#)



Tone Door: The Guitar Surgeons

The Tone Door is one of India's foremost music essentials/parts, custom guitars & services brands that has captured the imagination of the Indian Musician through its craft in handmade instrument cable, guitar repairs & setups, hand-wound pickups & more. Adding to its best aesthetics and craftsmanship it preserves engineering with artisan sensibilities to harmoniously blend form with function.

Behind the brand is the visionary creative force of **Bhrigu Arora**, the Founder, and Engineer at The Tone Door. He believes that music and musicians have the profound purpose of making this world a better place. Renowned for his innovative ideas that have propelled The Tone Door from just a cable-making venture in Yamunanagar, Haryana to move to New Delhi and serve the entire music & entertainment circuit. Bhrigu's love for electronics and music led him to create utilities for musicians, making them available in the best quality. Having spent the early college years designing electronic projects in the semester & learning music. He eventually discovered his love for musical instruments and their functionality, which eventually gave birth to The Tone Door brand.



The founder of Tone Door, Bhrigu Arora



SHRUTHI MUSICALS: CREATING HISTORY SINCE 1985

Shruthi Musicals was established in 1985 by Manohar Lal, who recognized a significant gap in the availability of music stores in the city, particularly in the Kilpauk area and its surroundings. Driven by his passion for music, he took the initiative to open a modest music shop. This small establishment initially focused on fulfilling the demand for Indian musical instruments, along with a selection of Western instruments and accessories, at a time when imported goods were scarce due to high duty rates, often exceeding 100%. The locally made instruments available were not of the finest quality. Eventually, a manufacturer in Calcutta began producing guitars under the name Givson, which boasted superior craftsmanship compared to local options, offering excellent playability and tone. Shruthi Musicals was the pioneer in introducing Givson to Chennai, and this move resonated deeply with musicians, turning into a remarkable success. In the early 90s, we proudly launched a P.A. brand from Calcutta called Stranger, which quickly

became a hit, making high-quality amps and speakers accessible to schools and churches. Shruthi maintained a close relationship with its customers, recognizing the significant gap in the availability of premium keyboards, drum kits, and guitars. To address this, we initiated an instrument rental service, empowering musicians to showcase their talents. Following the economic policy shift in 2000, which reduced duty structures, we began to source high-quality instruments and popular brands. Seizing this golden opportunity, Shruthi Musicals introduced renowned names like Fender, Ibanez, Cort, and PRS to the Chennai market, enriching the musical landscape and inspiring countless artists. This transformed the way people perceived Shruthi Musicals, shifting from a typical store focused on Indian instruments to a vibrant hub offering a wide array of western musical options. In 2000, Shailendra, the son of Manohar Lal and a talented guitarist himself, joined the team and played a pivotal role in introducing renowned brands to Shruthi Musicals, including exclusive names like Parker Guitars, Godin Guitars, and PRS. Additionally, we fostered a community where musicians could come together, showcase their skills, and collaborate with fellow artists, creating an atmosphere of creativity and expression.



The Shruthi Musicals Chennai Store

www.guitarstore.in



[@shruthimusicals](https://www.instagram.com/shruthimusicals)

The Pedal that Makes you Drive

The guitar, a dynamic instrument, thrives with gear that enhances its expressive power. In this issue, we

explore the Andy Timmons AT+ overdrive/distortion pedal, a masterpiece crafted with JHS pedals. Featuring three modes—25, 50, and 100 watts—it offers versatile overdrive options. With a volume knob for everything from smooth blues to sharp distortion and an EQ for tonal shaping, this pedal is a tone sculptor's dream. Paired with an SSH pickup setup, it delivers a vibrant sound that cuts through any mix, making it an indispensable ally for every guitarist. This pedal elevates tone saturation by driving the amp's front end, and the "AIR" knob offers customizable presence, making it a versatile gem in the overdrive/distortion world. The AT+ captures classic rock and fierce metal tones, unlocking limitless sonic possibilities. Crafted by JHS pedals, it features user-friendly controls that enhance performance, capturing every nuance from pick attack to harmonics. Running on under 100 ma with a 9V adapter or batteries, it can also handle 18V. Housed in a durable metal case, it's perfect for touring, with three wattage options that make it an excellent low-volume practice companion.



Photo credit : Larry Hulst



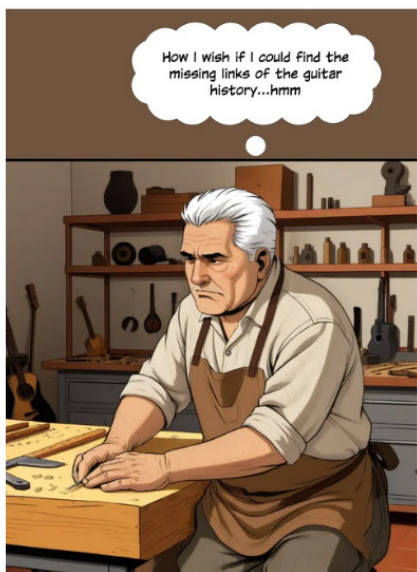
The JHS Andy Timmons AT+ Drive

Read this way!

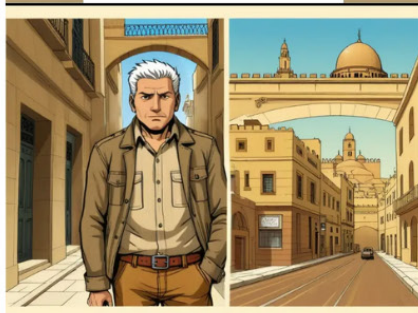


The Guitarverse

EPISODE 1: FACTS OF THE FRET

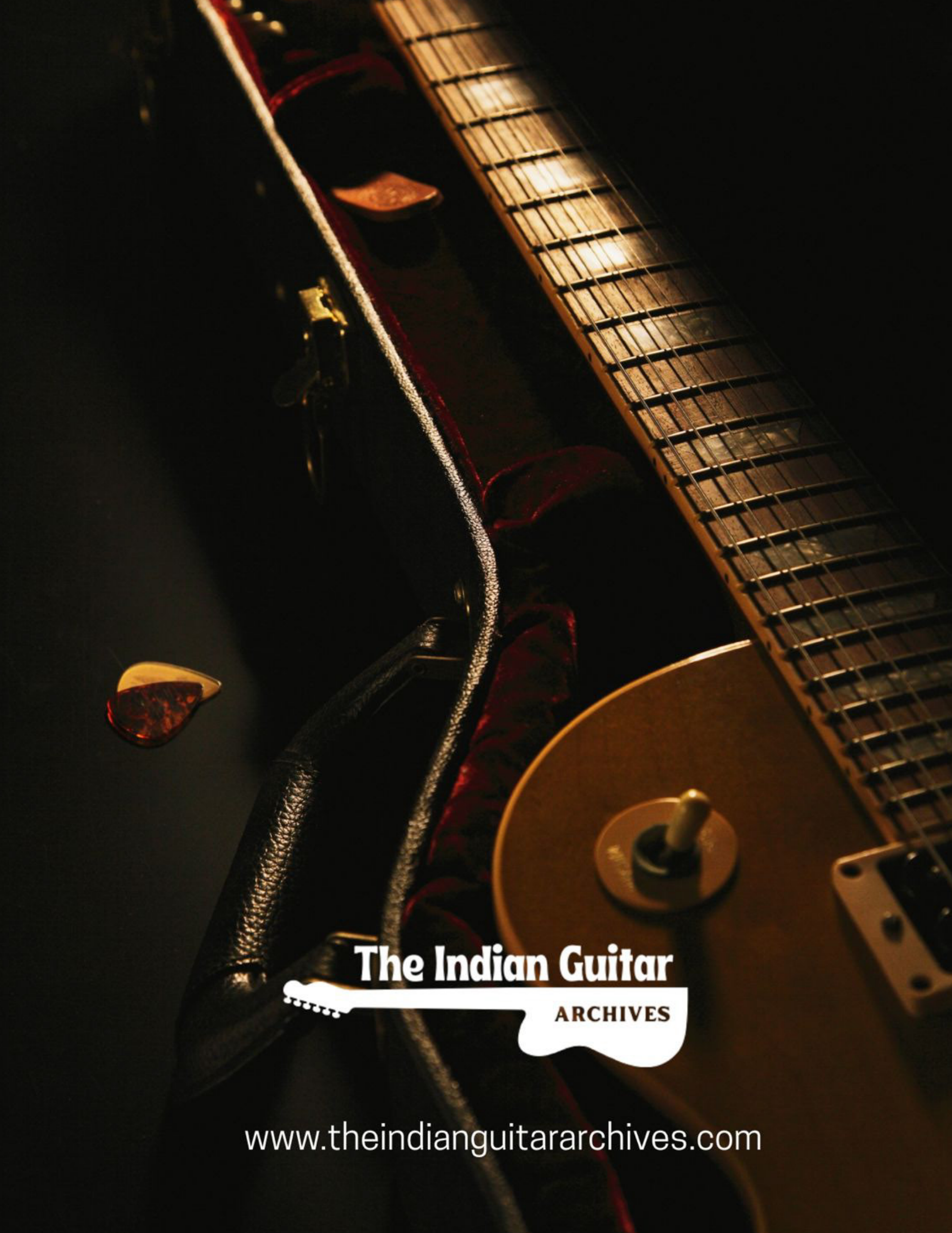


Months passed as Alejandro's quest took him across the world, unraveling the guitar's complex history.



And so, Alejandro played his new creation, its music carrying the echoes of antiquity into the future, a testament to the enduring power of art to unite us all.





The Indian Guitar

ARCHIVES

www.theindianguitararchives.com