

1. In Guitar Shop magazine, Tom Mulhern has compiled a set of shopping tips for savvy guitar equipment buying. READ the article below.

## SHOPPING TIPS

By Tom Mulhern

1. Don't buy what you don't need. Just because something is the latest slick do-dad to come along doesn't mean it's appropriate for your music. Evaluate whether it fits before you buy, otherwise you may be trying to 'get your money's worth'—to the detriment of your sound.
2. Use your own guitar (or one like it) to test other gear. How many Strat players have made the mistake of using a Les Paul (or vice versa) when testing an amp of effect in a store, only to find the sound just isn't what they had in mind later? Look before you leap.
3. Don't be a know-it-all. If you have a question for the salesperson, ask it. If they don't have the answer you're looking for, you can always contact the manufacturer for info, or go to another shop.
4. Go to shops regularly. If you rarely go into a music shop, you may not be aware of how fast technology is changing and you might not realise that the XYZ device or guitar you had the hots for is now competing with several other—possibly better products that are in the same league. Hitting the shops regularly is a great way to hear other people trying the gear you're interested in (it's helpful to get a listener's perspective once in a while).
5. Don't insult the salesperson. When it comes time to talk price, ask what they can do for you. Some shops won't budge, others will. «

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2. With a partner, WRITE your own set of shopping tips for buying a CD player.