



TracksAuction.com

TracksAuction.com

PO Box 117, Chorley
Lancashire, PR6 0QR
ENGLAND

+44 (0) 1257 269726

info@tracksauction.com

HOME

NOVEMBER 2014 AUCTION

BIDDING

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

TERMS

CONTACT US

BUY CATALOGUE

Auctions

My Items

Register

Login

Search

Beatles And Rock 'n Roll Memorabilia Auction. November 2014 (#2) 23/11/2014 2:00 PM GMT

Auction info

Catalogue

[Back to list](#) [View full catalogue for Beatles And Rock 'n Roll Memorabilia Auction. November 2014](#)

[Ask a question](#) [Add to watchlist](#)

Lot 210A of 214: John Lennon Original Grover Tuning Pegs And Pick Guard From 1958 Rickenbacker 325 Capri Guitar Serial No. V81



Click image to enlarge



My max bid

£

Login to bid

Estimate:

£20,000 - £40,000

Starting bid:

£20,000

The pick guard and a set of 6 machine heads (tuning pegs) which are the original sixties parts from John Lennon's 1958 Rickenbacker 325 model. They are the property of Ron DeMarino who was John Lennon's guitar technician for a period in the early 1970s. The pick guard and machine heads were given to Ron by John after he had completed restoration work on the Rickenbacker in August 1972.

John Lennon's 1958 Rickenbacker 325 Capri Gold Pick Guard

An original gold coloured pick guard that was affixed to John Lennon's 1958 Rickenbacker 325 Capri in the sixties and which was removed from the guitar and replaced with a new pick guard by Lennon's guitar technician, Ron DeMarino, in summer 1972. Close scrutiny of photos taken of the pick guard whilst John was playing the Rickenbacker on the Ed Sullivan Show reveals distinctive markings which would have been caused by constant usage. A recent examination of the actual pick guard shows these same identifying marks, proving conclusively that this was the pick guard attached to John's 1958 Rickenbacker 325 which he used on the Ed Sullivan Show in New York on 9th February 1964.

The pick guard measures 28cm x 11.7cm (11 inches x 4.5 inches). It has numerous scratches and stains on the reverse which show through to the front. It also has a line of tape residue running vertically from top to bottom and a number of stains on the front. The screw hole on the right corner has some chipping to the edge on the reverse side. The condition of the pick guard is good.

John Lennon's 1958 Rickenbacker 325 Capri Grover 98 Tuning Pegs

An original set of six Grover 98 Sta-Tite Machine Heads (Tuning Pegs) from John Lennon's 1958 Rickenbacker 325 Capri. Each one of the six tuning pegs has the manufacturer's name, Grover, engraved by machine at the bottom. The pegs come in a Grover 98 Sta-Tite box on which Ron DeMarino has written "MACHINES GROVER - set #98 - open Back - used - from John's guitar (old Rickenbacker double cut) DO NOT SELL -".

There is minor corrosion to the chrome coating on each of the pegs. The screw heads are worn as a result of use. The condition of the tuning pegs is very good minus.

The guitar parts come with the following supporting documentation etc. provided by Ron DeMarino.

The Original Draft For The Restoration Of John Lennon's 1958 Rickenbacker 325 Capri

The original rough draft in the hand of Ron DeMarino for the charges for refinishing John Lennon's 1958 Rickenbacker 325 Capri and his 1960 Gibson Les Paul Junior.

The sheet measures 13.75cm x 21.6cm (5.5 inches x 8.5 inches). It has a small stain on the left side. The condition of the draft is very good plus.

Two Original Polaroid Photographs of John Lennon's 1958 Rickenbacker 325 Capri

Two original Polaroid photographs of John Lennon's 1958 Rickenbacker 325 Capri which were taken on 22nd June 1972 by Ron DeMarino. The photographs which were taken at DeMarino's workshop, Ronnie's Music Shoppe Inc. show the guitar prior to its 1972 refurbishment. Each photograph is dated and has the phrase "guitar John Lennon (owner)" written on the reverse. The two original prints come with one modern slightly enlarged re-print of one of the photos.

Each measures 8.5cm x 10.75cm (3.4 inches x 4.25 inches). The photographs have some wear on the white borders, they are mounted on card. The condition of the photographs is very good.

The Original Invoice For The Restoration Of John Lennon's 1958 Rickenbacker 325 Capri

A printed invoice from Ronnie's Music Shoppe Inc. Farmingdale, New York. The invoice has been completed by Ron DeMarino in blue ballpoint pen. The bill is addressed to Apple Records Inc. John Lennon and Yoko Ono, Elephants Memory, New York, N.Y. It is dated 16th August 1972 and details the refinishing of John Lennon's 1958 Rickenbacker 325 Capri, his 1960 Gibson Les Paul Junior and also various other music related purchases made by the Lennons. The invoice total is \$1,749.45 and it is marked 'Paid' in full on the left side.

It measures 15cm x 21.5cm (5.9 inches x 8.5 inches). The condition of the invoice is very good plus.

An Apple Records New York Cheque Stub Relating To Work Done On John Lennon's 1958 Rickenbacker 325 Capri

An original Apple Records, New York cheque stub for a payment of \$1,749.45 that was made to Ronnie's Music Shoppe Inc., Farmingdale, New York as payment for the invoice dated 16th August 1972 for repair work carried out by Ron DeMarino on some of John's equipment. Although the items repaired are not itemised on the cheque stub one of these included the refinishing of John Lennon's 1958 Rickenbacker 325 Capri, the cheque stub shows the same amount as that indicated on the invoice, listed above, issued for the restoration work on the Rickenbacker.

It measures 21.2cm x 8.75cm (8.3 inches x 3.5 inches). The condition of the cheque stub is very good plus.

1958 Rickenbacker Parts Provenance: Ron DeMarino

John Lennon purchased his Rickenbacker 325 model serial no. V81 in 1960 from a music store in Hamburg. The guitar was used almost exclusively by John from the moment he bought it until the day he retired the instrument in February 1964 after he was given a new 1964 325 model in Miami by the Rickenbacker company. John Lennon played the 1958 Rickenbacker throughout The Beatles formative Hamburg and Cavern years. He used the guitar on most of The Beatles early live performances and recording sessions including the *Love Me Do* session, the recording sessions for the first two UK LP releases, *Please Please Me* and *With The Beatles*, throughout the frenzied Beatlemania UK tours of 1963, during the group's first European tour of Sweden in October 1963 and on the Royal Variety Show on 4th November later that year. John played the 1958 Rickenbacker on The Beatles historic appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show on 9th February 1964. Over the years John had developed a special type of affection

for the Rickenbacker, in 1965 during an interview conducted by the journalist and author Ray Coleman at Kenwood, Weybridge he was asked for a list of his prized possessions, Lennon replied, "My first Rickenbacker guitar. It's a bit hammered now, I just keep it for kicks. I bought it in Germany on the hire purchase. Whatever it cost, it was a hell of a lot of money to me at the time".

In 1968 Ron DeMarino opened a music shop in Farmingdale, Long Island, USA. In an interview conducted for TracksAuction.com recently Ron recalled that in the spring of 1972, "I received a phone call from John Lennon's road manager, Claude. I didn't know who the rock 'n roll star was but he said he had a rock 'n roll client who needed some 1950s Fender tweed twin amplifiers which we had plenty of, and would I mind coming in to New York to show what we had for sale? Claude set up a meeting, we went to downtown New York to a place called Butterfly Studios and met with him, that's when Claude told me that the client he had was John Lennon and Yoko and that they would be showing up sometime around 10:30 at night. It became a series of meetings at Butterfly Studios where I would go in and meet with them. It started out every couple of weeks...to maybe 3 or 4 times a week. At one point I met him at his Bank Street apartment in which case John and Yoko were both in bed. I brought my clipboard and sat at the foot of the bed taking notes as he dictated what he wanted done on certain guitars. He had a Martin on which he wanted work done and he wanted his black Rickenbacker 1958 model 325 that was used on the Ed Sullivan Show refinished to a honey brown".

In 2000 Ron gave an interview to John F. Crowley in which he described the state of the Rickenbacker at the point it was given to him for restoration, "It had, like, two flat-wound strings, one string missing, the wrong string on the wrong place, it had some wire-wound string, it was like a disaster. I mean, you're looking at it [thinking] 'This can't be!' The electronics were terrible – the amount of cold-solder joints, and so on. We had an honest relationship, and I had no hesitation to tell him – it was done terribly. Now I never asked if he had done all that messing with it, so whether he did it or had someone else do it, I can't say for absolute certain...but he did like to fiddle-faddle with everything, and he'd just fiddled to the point when he couldn't play it. I had to rewire the whole thing. I had to call Rickenbacker...and told them I needed the wiring diagram, and they sent me the wrong diagram. They have no clue what's going on over there ... John wanted the paint taken off, and just to show my ignorance, I didn't know that at the time that it was naturally a honey brown colour, and I tried to talk him out of it. I said, 'John, you can't do that. This guitar is widely noted as being black' and he says 'You've got to do it. It's the way I want it!'".

In the interview given to TracksAuction.com recently Ron recalls, "I had the Rickenbacker in for restoration work and in taking the guitar apart I noticed that some of the guitar parts were a little worn, a little faded, so I checked with John and said it'd be a good time to change over to some new parts on this guitar since we are going to have a new finish. He agreed, he said it was a good idea, so we switched over and put on new Grover tuners and I made a new pick guard for the newly refinished guitar. At that time I said 'John, would you mind if I kept the old parts?' and he said 'No, they're yours, I have no use for them'. We've had these parts in the family now for over 40 years and we've cherished them. This particular guitar is probably, as it turns out later on in the years, the most significant guitar in the history of rock 'n roll.

Over the short time I was working with John, I got to know him a little better, we felt at ease. Sometimes we'd go to eat at Home, a vegetarian restaurant on the Upper East Side, discuss other topics that would come up having to do with work as well as kids and family life and stuff like that. He was quite a regular guy, real down to earth".

John Lennon as founder and leader of The Beatles was the driving force which led The Beatles from a small local fan base in Liverpool to the mass acclaim of Beatlemania. John took his 1958 Rickenbacker with him every step of the way, from the Kaiserkeller to the Ed Sullivan Show. Because of the role that the Rickenbacker played in this legendary journey and also because the guitar has become so closely associated with John Lennon, one of the most influential figures in the history of popular music, the instrument has developed a special importance. Priceless in the extreme, the Rickenbacker 325 serial no V81 is now widely regarded by many as the most significant guitar in the history of rock 'n roll.

The pick guard and machine heads come with a letter of authenticity from Ron DeMarino which both details the circumstances in which he was given these parts from John's 1958 Rickenbacker 325 and guarantees the authenticity of the items.

A Brief History of John Lennon's 1958 Rickenbacker 325 Capri Model

George Harrison remembers the occasion on which John Lennon purchased his first Rickenbacker, a 325 Capri model serial number V81, in Hamburg, Germany in 1960, "We went into this shop ... in Hamburg, John bought that little Rickenbacker that became very well known through the Beatle concerts, with a scaled-down neck. I think he'd just seen an album by Jean Thielemans, who used to be the guitar player in the George Shearing Quintet and had one of those Rickenbackers. You have to imagine that in those days, when we were first out of Liverpool, any good American guitar looked sensational to us. We only had beat up, crummy guitars at that stage. We still didn't really have any money to buy them, but I remember that John got that Rickenbacker ... what they call 'on a knocker', you know? [Money] down and the rest when they catch you. I don't know if he ever really paid them off". John Lennon's recent acquisition was one of twenty eight 325 models produced by Rickenbacker in 1958 and eight of these had a natural (mapleglo) finish, one of which was John's. Pete Best also recalls the occasion, "John was looking around, he had his old Hofner Club 40, and we went into this music shop. We were all there together – we used to hunt around in packs, discovering what was available. Just mooching in general, as musicians do. John saw this Rickenbacker, and what actually knocked him out was the short scale of the fingerboard. Whereas before he had to stretch, John found that he could do the same riffs and everything without hardly moving his fingers. He just fell in love with it. He liked the sound. The Rickenbacker was his guitar!" To date, no one has been able to show conclusively from which shop John Lennon purchased the instrument. Chris Huston, guitarist with The Undertakers, claims that he was told by John that he purchased the guitar from Steinway Musikhaus but other sources are suggesting that the Rickenbacker was bought from Musikhaus Rotthoff. Roundabout the same time as the purchase of his Rickenbacker Lennon also picked up a new Fender Tremolux amp, a tweed-covered, valve, 10-watt amplifier with a single 10-inch speaker. The first photos of John holding his Rickenbacker were taken by Astrid Kirchherr at the Hamburg Dom Funfair in October/November 1960.

John Lennon made a number of changes to the Rickenbacker over the years. The first change he made was to replace the Kauffman vibrato which, according to Pete Best, John never liked. Chris Huston remembers that, "John and I were pretty good friends, and not long after he came back with the Rickenbacker we went into Hussy's music store in Liverpool, and he bought a Bigsby unit from salesman Jim Gretty. John had his guitar with him, and we put it on the counter, unscrewed the old vibrato, which obviously wasn't as good, and screwed on the Bigsby"... "A new aluminium bridge came with the separate Bigsby vibrato, so we just put that on as well." This must have taken place sometime after mid-August 1961 as photos taken at the Cavern Club between mid-July and mid-August 1961 show the Rickenbacker still with the Kauffman vibrato. Round about the same time John had the original art deco 'oven' control knobs taken off the guitar and had them replaced with chrome ones.

The second major change occurred with the refinishing of the Rickenbacker to black. There is a lot of debate in Beatles circles about why it was done, who did the work and when, no definite conclusions have been reached on all of these issues. One version of events has been offered by Liverpool DJ and dance promoter Chris Warton. In an interview which he gave to Peter McCormack in 1999 he recalls that, "John Lennon asked me whether I could get his guitar painted black. I cannot remember if there was any specific reason I think he just fancied a change of colour. I told him I could get the job done by way of a favour and this was arranged. Charlie Bantam reluctantly agreed to paint it. He didn't know who The Beatles were and, to be fair, it was a time when they were not that well known outside Merseyside. He painted it with black Tecaloid enamel which was the make of coach paint used on the vehicles. It certainly had several coats of paint and it took several days to complete because I remember John kept asking if it was ready". Another school of thought holds that Burns Limited London outsourced the job to an independent finisher, a man named Derek Adams, located at the Railway Arches, London, SE2. Opinion is still divided. The Rickenbacker was still in its natural finish at the *Love Me Do* session at EMI Studios on 4th September therefore the re-painting must have occurred at some point after this date. The most recent research suggests that the repainting took place between 11th and 20th September 1962, John was pictured using the newly repainted Rickenbacker at a Beatles performance at the Tower Ballroom on the 21st September 1962.

The final piece of work that John Lennon had done to the Rickenbacker 325 in the sixties was dealt with by his reporter

friend Chris Roberts. John asked Chris to find someone who could fix the electrics on the instrument. The reporter took the Rickenbacker to guitar-maker Jim Burns' factory in Essex. Jim sorted out the problems John had been experiencing with electrics in the last two weeks of September 1963. The guitar was then passed by Jim Burns to a Mr Leslie Andrews who refretted the instrument. Shortly after Chris Roberts handed back the Rickenbacker to John at the NEMS office in London.

The 1958 Rickenbacker was used by John on the broadcast from New York of the Ed Sullivan Show on the 9th February 1964 and 3 days later at the Carnegie Hall concerts. At the same time the Rickenbacker company had mailed a brand new 1964 325 model to John at the Deauville Hotel, Miami. The new guitar was used by John Lennon for the first time during rehearsals for the Ed Sullivan Show on 15th February. John then retired his 1958 Rickenbacker from all public performances. The guitar is now in the custody of the Lennon Estate.

Categories: [Beatles](#)

All Items Guaranteed Authentic at [TracksAuction.com](#)

Terms and conditions

Terms & Conditions of Live Bidding

1. Registration

(a) Bidders who wish to bid in person in the saleroom during the live auction can register online at www.tracksauction.com before the auction or in person at the enquiries desk at the live auction event.

(b) New bidders, or those wishing to spend more than on previous occasions with TracksAuction, may be asked to provide ID as part of their application to bid in an auction. Acceptable ID is classed as either a valid government-issued Passport or Photo Driving License. Information on this ID must match that given by the bidder at registration. Please note that all bidders must be aged 18 years and above. TracksAuction may also require a bank reference letter from bidders who wish to bid on high-value lots.

Other lots in this sale:

209A  Terry O'Neill Signed And Numbered John Lennon Archival Print	210  Jürgen Vollmer Signed John Lennon Top Ten Club Print (V)	210A  John Lennon Original Grover Tuning Pegs And Pick Guard From 1958 Rickenbacker 325 Capri Guitar Serial No. V81	210B  One To One Benefit Concert Stage Used Helmet And Tambourine 30th August 1972	211  John Lennon 1966 Paperback Writer Session Signed Limited Edition Print L.695-60
--	---	---	---	--