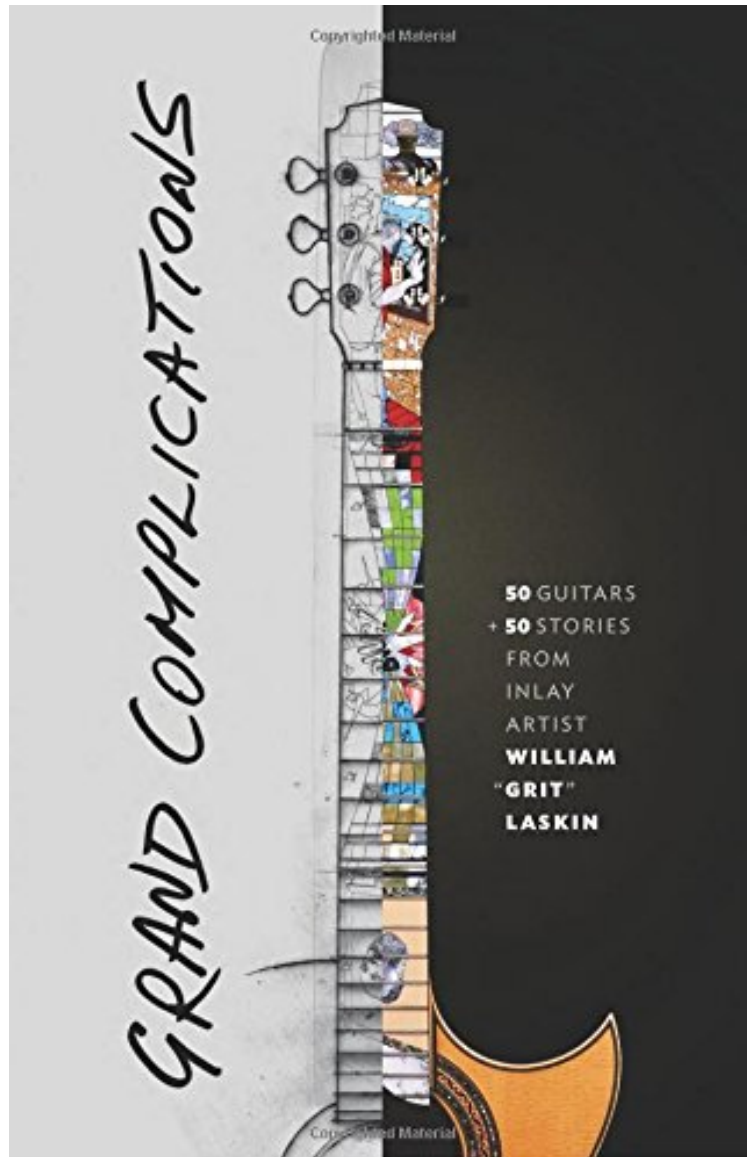


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Grit Laskin

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Grit Laskin : Grand Complications: 50 Guitars and 50 Stories from Inlay Artist William "Grit" Laskin before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Grand Complications: 50 Guitars and 50 Stories from Inlay Artist William "Grit" Laskin:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful study on the creative process. By kellygBeside being an

amazing look at the masterful inlay of Laskin, this a wonderful study on the creative process in general. Grit separates the book into two parts: THE GUITARS (all photos) and THE STORIES (short essays and supplemental photos). The GUITARS section includes beautiful photos of his inlay, both wide and tight shots. You can really get a close look at the details and also get a feel for the overall balance of the art. In the STORIES section he goes into great details about the interactions with customers as well as the decisions he makes during the process. He often includes sketches and shots of the design process. I have been reading the "stories" first and then revealing the pictures only after I have imagined what the finished works will look like. He covers everything from materials selection to layout and balance. He has a tendency to include historical information about the themes in his works, so expect to learn some great tidbits about famous designers, cultures, inventions etc. Luthiers and inlay artists: This is not a book on "how to inlay" but the initiated can find many points of importance. I feel strongly that this book will improve my building and inlay. Not so much the mechanics of my work but more so the thought processes and decisions that happen beforehand. This is a great trip inside the mind of a master creator. The physical book is very high quality and well sized. It is small enough to hold while reading, but large enough to give the photos space to show details. I expect it will wear well. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What an inspiration! By Colin Smith As a budding inlay artist Grit's work just blows me away, what an inspiration! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book for guitar lovers! By Robert S. Mizek published by "Figure 1" publishing and William Grit Laskin. For those of you unfamiliar with Grit's work, I feel that he is a guitarmaker like no other. His instruments are works of art in their own right and usually feature his stunning inlay work that borders on photorealistic often with a touch of whimsy. I've had the pleasure of playing one of Grit's guitars that was commissioned by my dear friend Dick Boak of CF Martin Guitars. The guitar played and sounded beautiful and the artwork on the headstock could be viewed for hours with enjoyment. I also had the great pleasure to take an inlay class that was personally taught by Grit. While I have done limited inlay since taking the class, his method and strategy for recreating the essence of a subject using pencil and paper changed the way I look at the world. Lastly, Grit is a great human being and I'm blessed to call him "friend". He is humble, kind and has a colorful charm and one of Lutherie's greatest treasures. The book is much like Grit and I highly recommend purchasing one for yourself or someone you know that appreciates art and guitars. You will enjoy it! Bob Mizek

William (Grit) Laskin is a master guitarmaker, a musician and songwriter, an artist and a storyteller. For more than forty-five years, he has been hand-building guitars for such luminaries as Stan Rogers, Jesse Cook, Rik Emmett, and k.d. lang, inlaying many of these instruments with his personalized designs. No two are alike, and their starting points are as varied as the people who play them. Grand Complications is the story behind the story of fifty of these original designs from 2003 to the present. It is a look inside Laskin's creative process: how he teases out a client's interests and intentions, how he develops and refines his ideas, and how he brings them to life in his mind and on paper. From Short Stories that fill only the headstock of a guitar to full narratives that run the length of the neck, each inspired design is the product of research, deep thinking, and a little alchemy. Featured here are projects ranging from an homage to John Lennon to a paean to humpback whales to a tribute to the fall of the Berlin Wall. A member of the Order of Canada, winner of the Saidye Bronfman Award for Excellence (Canada's most prestigious craft award), and founder of Borealis Records, Laskin is a true craftsman and his insights make fascinating reading for lovers of art, music, and the creative process.

About the Author William Grit Laskin wears many hats. His primary one is that of guitar-maker, a profession he has pursued since 1971. His steel-string, classical and flamenco guitars are known and coveted around the world. Players of his instruments include k.d. lang, Ben Mink, Rik Emmett, Tom Cochrane, Jesse Cook, Wayne Johnson, Tom Chapin, Garnet Rogers, Stan Rogers, Ottmar Liebert, Christine Lavin, Ken Whiteley, Cathy Fink, and Marcy Marxer, James Keelaghan, Kobukuro (Japan). An additional, but related, hat Laskin wears is that of musician/songwriter/singer. For 40 years, he has been a multi-instrumentalist performer of music, playing guitar, mandolin, Northumbrian smallpipes, and concertina. He continues to give the rare concert at clubs and music festivals across Canada and the northern United States. Laskin is the co-founder of the folk label, Borealis Records, which has released 125 titles to-date and represents over 40 artists.