

Yamaha FG830 vs Epiphone Hummingbird Studio Acoustic Guitar: Specs, Price & Sound

Meta Description: Compare the Yamaha FG830 vs Epiphone Hummingbird Studio. Get Expert breakdown of tonewoods, electronics, playability, and which dreadnought fits your needs.



Alt Text: Yamaha FG830 Acoustic Guitar Autumn Burst.

Key Takeaways

- The Yamaha FG830 pairs a solid Sitka spruce top with laminated rosewood back and sides and Yamaha's scalloped bracing for rich overtones, deep lows, and projection that regularly draws comparisons to guitars costing two to three times its price.
- The Epiphone Hummingbird Studio brings the iconic Gibson Hummingbird design to an accessible price with a solid spruce top, layered mahogany back and sides, factory-installed Fishman Sonicore pickup, and Sonitone preamp.
- The FG830 delivers brighter, more harmonically complex acoustic tone thanks to its rosewood body, while the Hummingbird Studio offers warmer, mid-focused sound with built-in electronics that make it stage and studio ready out of the box.
- Both feature solid spruce tops that will open up and improve with playing time, mahogany necks, rosewood fingerboards, and construction quality that punches well above their price points.
- [Sam Ash](#) offers both dreadnoughts with 45-day returns, free shipping on orders over \$49, and financing options. Call 800-472-6274 to discuss which acoustic matches your playing needs.

Understanding The Potential of The Yamaha FG830 And The Epiphone Hummingbird

The Yamaha FG830 and Epiphone Hummingbird Studio are both instruments that players hold onto for years, not because they cannot afford to upgrade, but because they genuinely do not need to. The FG830 continues Yamaha's legendary FG series with a solid spruce top, rosewood back and sides, and scalloped bracing that delivers projection and harmonic richness well beyond what its price tag suggests.

The Hummingbird Studio takes a different path, capturing the look and soul of Gibson's iconic square-shoulder dreadnought while adding Fishman electronics for players who need to plug in on stage or in the studio. One is a pure acoustic instrument built for tone and value. The other is a stage-ready acoustic-electric with one of the most recognizable designs in guitar history.

This guide walks through the differences so you can decide which one belongs in your hands.

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Yamaha FG830 — Specs & Features



Caption: [The FG830](#) exists because Yamaha's engineers asked what they could achieve if they applied cutting-edge acoustic analysis technology to budget guitar construction.

Alt text: Yamaha FG830 Acoustic Guitar Tobacco Brown Burst.

Tonewoods and Construction

The solid Sitka spruce top provides the foundation for everything great about this guitar's sound. Unlike laminated tops that remain static, solid spruce opens up with playing time, developing richer harmonics and greater dynamic range as the wood matures. Sitka specifically delivers a broad tonal palette—crisp trebles, pronounced mids, and punchy lows that project without getting muddy.

Laminated rosewood back and sides complete the body. While purists may prefer solid rosewood, laminate construction at this price point offers advantages: consistency between instruments, resistance to environmental changes, and that distinctive rosewood character—deep, complex overtones with extended sustain. The spruce/rosewood

combination represents the most traditional recipe for dreadnought guitars, proven across decades of acoustic guitar history.

Yamaha's scalloped bracing pattern sets the FG830 apart from competitors. Traditional X-bracing provides structural support but can restrict top vibration. Yamaha's engineers used acoustic analysis to develop a scalloped pattern that maintains strength while allowing the top to move more freely. The result is noticeably louder projection with a "fatter" low end, characteristics typically associated with more expensive instruments.

Neck and Playability

The mahogany neck features Yamaha's slim profile with a comfortable grip that supports both chord work and single-note playing. Mahogany provides stability and warmth while contributing subtly to the overall tone. The satin finish allows hands to move freely without sticking.

Twenty frets on the bound rosewood fingerboard provide adequate range for most acoustic playing. The binding adds visual appeal while protecting fingerboard edges. The 25.6" scale length delivers proper string tension for clear articulation and stable tuning.

Hardware and Appointments

Die-cast chrome tuning machines ensure reliable tuning stability—no more constant adjustments during practice sessions. The urea nut and saddle represent cost savings but perform adequately; upgrading to bone represents an affordable enhancement for players who want maximum resonance.

Visual appointments include an abalone soundhole rosette, cream body binding, tortoiseshell pickguard, and abalone headstock motif. The ultra-thin gloss finish showcases the rosewood's chocolate coloration while allowing the top to resonate freely.

Sound Character

The FG830 delivers a full, rich, balanced tone that works across genres. Projection is loud enough for campfires and living rooms without amplification. Chord strumming rings out with clarity and fullness, while fingerstyle playing benefits from excellent note articulation and sustain.

The overall character leans bright with pronounced highs, which are often associated with Taylor or Breedlove guitars, rather than the darker, warmer voice some players prefer. Bass is punchy and present but not dominant. If you want extreme low-end warmth, mahogany body woods deliver more of that character.

Price

The Yamaha FG830 is available at \$429.99 at Sam Ash, representing a savings of \$279.39 off the MSRP of \$709.38. It comes in [Natural](#), [Autumn Burst](#), and [Tobacco Brown Burst](#) variants.

Epiphone Hummingbird Studio — Specs & Features



Caption: The Epiphone Hummingbird Studio captures the iconic Gibson Hummingbird design while adding Fishman electronics for stage-ready performance at an accessible price.

Alt text: Epiphone Hummingbird Studio EC Acoustic-Electric Guitar – Heritage Cherry Sunburst.

Tonewoods and Construction

The solid spruce top provides the same foundational benefits as the Yamaha: a wood that opens up with age, delivering increasing richness and complexity as you play. Spruce's strength and responsiveness make it the standard choice for acoustic guitar tops, providing clear projection and broad dynamic range.

Layered mahogany back and sides contribute warmth and focus rather than the brighter complexity of rosewood. Where rosewood emphasizes overtones and sustain, mahogany delivers a more direct, fundamental-focused sound with clear articulation. The result suits chord-heavy rhythm playing and vocal accompaniment particularly well.

The square-shoulder dreadnought body shape distinguishes the Hummingbird from round-shoulder designs. This classic silhouette provides ample internal volume for projection while contributing to the guitar's instantly recognizable appearance.

Neck and Playability

The mahogany neck features a comfortable rounded C profile—not as slim as some modern designs but offering substantial grip that many players prefer for extended sessions. The 24.72" scale length sits slightly shorter than the Yamaha's 25.6", reducing string tension and making the Hummingbird marginally easier to fret, particularly for beginners or players with smaller hands.

The rosewood fingerboard sports pearloid split parallelogram inlays that echo the Gibson original. Twenty frets provide standard acoustic range. The 12" fingerboard radius offers a comfortable compromise between chord playing and single-note work.

Electronics

Factory-installed Fishman electronics transform the Hummingbird Studio from pure acoustic to stage-ready instrument. The Fishman Sonicore under-saddle pickup captures the guitar's natural voice without excessive quack or piezo harshness. The Fishman Sonitone preamp provides soundhole-mounted volume and tone controls for quick adjustments during performance.

These electronics deliver natural amplified tone through PA systems, acoustic amplifiers, or recording interfaces. For players who need amplification, the Hummingbird Studio eliminates the cost and potential complications of aftermarket pickup installation.

Hardware and Appointments

Grover Rotomatic tuning machines provide reliable tuning stability—a meaningful upgrade over generic tuners found on many budget guitars. The compensated rosewood bridge ensures accurate intonation across the fretboard.

Visual appointments capture the Hummingbird's legendary style: the signature hummingbird and flower pickguard design, split parallelogram inlays, multi-ply binding, and Heritage [Cherry Sunburst finish](#) (also available in [Antique Natural](#)). These details make the guitar unmistakably a Hummingbird—a neck-turner on any stage.

Sound Character

The Hummingbird Studio delivers a warm, balanced tone with focused mids and clear articulation. The mahogany body contributes woody depth without the brightness of

rosewood. Volume is excellent for acoustic playing, while plugged-in tone remains natural and musical.

The overall character suits strumming and rhythm playing particularly well. Fingerstyle works fine, but players seeking maximum harmonic complexity might prefer rosewood. For singer-songwriters and accompanying vocalists, the Hummingbird's mid-focused voice sits perfectly in a mix.

Price

The Epiphone Hummingbird Studio is available at \$499.00 at Sam Ash with financing at approximately \$14 per month over 36 months through the Synchrony Music & Sound Credit Card.

Quick Comparison Table

Feature	Yamaha FG830	Epiphone Hummingbird Studio
Sam Ash Price	\$429.99	\$499.00
MSRP	\$709.38	~\$499.00
Savings	\$279.39	—
Body Style	Traditional Western Dreadnought	Square-Shoulder Dreadnought
Top	Solid Sitka Spruce	Solid Spruce
Back & Sides	Laminated Rosewood	Layered Mahogany
Neck	Mahogany (slim profile)	Mahogany (rounded C)
Fingerboard	Rosewood (20 frets, bound)	Rosewood (20 frets)
Scale Length	25.6"	24.72"
Nut Width	1.69" (43mm)	1.693" (43mm)
Bracing	Scalloped	Standard X
Tuners	Die-cast Chrome	Grover Rotomatic
Nut/Saddle	Urea	Synthetic/Compensated
Electronics	None	Fishman Sonicore + Sonitone
Inlays	Dots	Split Parallelograms

Pickguard	Tortoiseshell	Signature Hummingbird Design
Finish	Gloss	Gloss
Included	Guitar only	Guitar + Gig Bag
Best For	Pure acoustic tone, value	Stage-ready with iconic style

Sam Ash: Find the Acoustic That Feels Like Yours

[Acoustic guitars](#) demand careful evaluation. Unlike keyboards with identical sounds or amplifiers with predictable characters, individual acoustic guitars vary in subtle ways that matter to players.

Sam Ash specialists understand these differences and can discuss how spruce/rosewood compares to spruce/mahogany, explain what Fishman electronics offer performers, and help match your musical needs to the right instrument.

[Our 45-day return policy](#) provides genuine evaluation time. Acoustic guitars open up with playing—you need weeks to understand how an instrument responds to your touch and whether its voice suits your music.

We offer the Hummingbird Studio with financing at approximately \$14 per month over 36 months, making stage-ready acoustic-electric capability accessible. Free shipping on orders over \$49 delivers your new guitar quickly. The 60-day price protection guarantee covers you if prices drop after purchase.

Over a century of musical instrument expertise means we've helped countless players find their perfect acoustic. Let us help you choose between rosewood's complexity and mahogany's warmth, between pure acoustic excellence and stage-ready versatility.

[Shop our acoustic guitar collection today!](#)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Is a solid top really worth it over laminate?

Yes. Solid tops vibrate more freely, producing better tone that improves with age as the wood opens up. Both guitars feature solid spruce tops—a meaningful advantage over all-laminate construction at any price.

What's the tonal difference between rosewood and mahogany?

Rosewood (FG830) delivers brighter tone with complex overtones and extended sustain. Mahogany (Hummingbird) provides warmer, more focused tone with emphasized fundamentals. Neither is superior, they suit different preferences and applications.

Do I really need electronics?

Only if you perform live, record directly into interfaces, or need amplification. For bedroom practice and campfire playing, the FG830's pure acoustic performance may serve better. For gigs and recording, the Hummingbird's built-in Fishman system eliminates aftermarket pickup costs.

Will these guitars improve with age?

Yes. Solid spruce tops mature with playing, developing richer harmonics and greater dynamic range. Both guitars will sound better in five years than they do today—assuming proper care and regular playing.

Which is better for beginners?

Both work well. [The Hummingbird](#)'s shorter scale length creates marginally easier string tension. The FG830's slim neck profile accommodates smaller hands. Choose based on whether you need electronics and which tonal character appeals to your ear.

Prices mentioned in this article are accurate at the time of publication and may vary. Please visit [Sam Ash](#) for the most current pricing and availability.