

# John Petrucci

John Petrucci is arguably one of the greatest rock/metal/prog guitarists of all time. In addition to his work with Dream Theater, John is involved in numerous side projects, music lesson books/videos, and more. Check out some of these links for more information about John's work:

- John Petrucci Videos
- Side Projects
- Guitar Tab/Instruction
- WebLinks
- Shirts/Photos
- New Dream Theater Book/CD!

## John Petrucci's Guitar Gear:

Are you trying to get that killer Petrucci tone? You can buy the same guitar gear that John uses, or you can purchase amplifier/effect pedal modelers that sound near-perfect to the real thing. Much of the following gear listed below is available for purchase at your local music store or through national chains like Guitar Center and others.

### - Guitars: John

Petrucci plays Ernie Ball Guitars designed specifically for him. The latest model is the Ernie Ball Music Man JP-BFR. Guitarists can purchase this guitar through various music shops including Musicians Friend, Guitar Center, Wild West Guitars, Music123, and other outlets.

### - Guitar Effect Pedals:

John Petrucci plays through BOSS effect pedals including the Metal Zone distortion pedal, BOSS TR-2 Tremelo, BOSS DS01 Distortion,, and two Eddie Van Halen signature pedals including the MXR Phaser 90 and the EVH Flanger.

- Guitar Amplifiers and Cabinets: John Petrucci is a huge Mesa Boogie fan. Most recently he has been playing through Mesa Boogie Roadkings, Mesa Boogie Lonstars, and several 2x12 and 2x4 Mesa cabinets.

If you cannot afford to buy all of the gear John Petrucci uses, then you may want to consider purchasing a multi-effect and guitar

pedal/amplifier modeling unit like those sold by Line6 such as the POD xt Live. This is an affordable alternative, and many players like you have tuned their Line6 effect pedals to sound exactly like various Dream Theater songs. They upload these to a community website so that other musicians can download free tones from Line6 and cut down on the time required to set up your POD xt from scratch.

## About John Petrucci

(Read the full story on Wikipedia)

John Petrucci (born July 12, 1967, Kings Park, Long Island, New York) is an American guitarist best known as a founding member of the progressive metal band Dream Theater. He is also the producer (along with his bandmate Mike Portnoy) of all Dream Theater albums since their 1999 release, *Metropolis Pt. 2: Scenes from a Memory*, as well as the band's main lyricist.

Petrucci first played guitar at age 8 when he noticed his sister (who was taking organ lessons at the time) was allowed to stay up past her bed time to practice. He soon dropped it when his plan failed. At age 12, he began playing again when he was invited into the band of his friend Kevin Moore, who would later become the first keyboardist of Dream Theater. Petrucci began to practice in earnest whilst exercising physically. He was a largely self-taught guitarist who developed his skills through attempts to match the skill of his idols, who included Steve Morse, Steve Howe, Steve Vai, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Al Di Meola, Alex Lifeson and Allan Holdsworth. He has jokingly referred to his guitar idols as "the Steves and the Als".<sup>[1]</sup>

Petrucci attended Berklee College of Music in Boston with childhood friend John Myung (bass), where they met future bandmate Mike Portnoy (drums). These three in addition to another childhood friend of Petrucci and Myung, Kevin Moore (Keyboards), formed the band Majesty, which would later become Dream Theater.

While Dream Theater is what Petrucci is most commonly associated with, he is also a part of the project band Liquid Tension Experiment and has appeared as a guest on several records by other artists such as the *Age of Impact* album by the Explorer's Club.

Petrucci has released a guitar instructional video, "Rock Discipline", which covers warm up exercises, exercises to avoid injury while playing, alternate picking, sweep picking, chords and other techniques for developing one's guitar playing. Petrucci also has a book named "Guitar World presents John Petrucci's Wild Stringdom", which was compiled from columns he wrote for *Guitar World* magazine, bearing that same title.

In 2001 he was invited by Joe Satriani and Steve Vai to tour with them on the popular G3 guitar tour, which exposed him to a massive number of new fans and inspired him to record a solo album. *Suspended Animation* was released on March 1, 2005, and made available for order from his web site. He also appeared on the 2005, 2006 and 2007 G3 tours.

Petrucci also wrote and recorded two instrumental soundtrack songs for a Sega Saturn game titled *Digital Pinball: Necronomicon*. Each track is roughly two minutes long and they are simply titled "Prologue" and "Epilogue". Petrucci is an avid Sega Saturn gamer, and has revealed in interviews that he never tours without one.

In 2007, John Petrucci went on G3 tour again, this time with Joe Satriani and Paul Gilbert.

## Equipment

Petrucci is a devoted user of Mesa Boogie amplifiers and cabinets. During his career, he has used the Mark IIC+, Mark IV, Dual & Triple Rectifiers, the Formula, Recto, TriAxis and Formula preamps, Road King, Lonestar, and 2:90 power amps. Mark Snyder also built a one-off custom preamp called the Nunya, combined with a 2:100 power amp. Currently, he has gone back to using Mark IV's and Mark IIC+'s with Lonestars. He uses traditional sized 4x12 and 2x12 cabinets, all loaded with Celestion Vintage 30 speakers.

John generally records very directly [Guitar > Choice pedals > Amplifier]. Effects such as pan, delay, phaser, etc. are usually inserted during production. He uses Shure SM57 and Sennheiser MD421 microphones placed directly on the grill cloth about 1.5 inches off the center of a speaker (usually the two microphones are placed on different speakers). They are combined into one channel with no compression.

John Petrucci is famous for his stage rigs and their complexity. Apart from Mesa Boogie amplification, he uses many TC Electronics components and Digital Music Corp components with Furman power conditioners, an Eventide harmonizer, a Dunlop Crybaby rack wah, and other components. He also uses a custom built foot controller. John actually has two completely separate signal paths in his rig, one for cleans and the other for distorted channels. The 4x12 cabinets receive the distorted signal while the 2x12 receive the clean and piezo signals.

Petrucci is also notable as one of the musicians to popularize the usage of the seven string guitar (Alongside Steve Vai, Rusty Cooley, Suicidal Tendencies guitarist Rocky George and the nu metal band Korn). While he uses a conventional six-string guitar in the majority of his compositions, he began to use Ibanez seven-string guitars on three tracks of the 1994 album *Awake* and on songs like "A Change of Seasons", "Just Let Me Breathe", "The Dance of Eternity", and later using his EBMM Signature 7 string guitars on "The Glass Prison", "Jaws of Life", and "This Dying Soul" and "Tunnel Vision". Beginning with the album "Six Degrees of Inner Turbulence", he started to experiment with lower tunings on his guitars. The end result being a very brief appearance in the song "Misunderstood", and the bulk of the track "Blind Faith" being tracked with a detuned Ernie Ball Silhouette six-string bass guitar, simulating a baritone guitar. (Baritone guitars feature a longer scale neck, giving far greater tuning stability at lower tunings than a standard guitar.) For 3 songs on the album "Train of Thought", his EBMM Signature guitars were used in C standard tuning. He can be seen on the "Romavarium" Fan Club DVD playing "These Walls", as well as on the Gigantour DVD playing "Panic Attack" with the Ernie Ball Silhouette Bass Guitar. Lately, it had seemed that he was favoring these detuned six-string guitars over his seven-strings, but the tracks "The Dark Eternal Night" and "Repentance" from the 2007 Dream Theater album *Systematic Chaos* features Petrucci once more utilizing his seven-string signature model.

Petrucci currently endorses Ernie Ball/MusicMan guitars and has two signature guitars on the market, a six- and a seven-string. Petrucci uses a modified DiMarzio Air Norton in the neck position and a DiMarzio D-Sonic in the bridge position. In his days before his endorsement with Music Man, he favored the Dimarzio Aire Norton/Steve Special combo in his Ibanez guitars. His signature Musicman guitars also have Piezo acoustic bridges (special saddles hold the strings and pick up the true acoustic vibrations of the strings). This allows Petrucci to make his electric guitar sound like an acoustic guitar. He uses this in many of Dream Theater's songs, one of the most obvious examples in the song "Hollow Years", and in the live version of "The Silent Man". In the past he has endorsed Ibanez guitars, and had his own signature model manufactured by the company (also known as the "JPM" model). In recording Petrucci currently utilizes his ErnieBall MusicMan Signature Models (including a prototype of the new BFR F-1). His famous black and white Picasso Ibanez seven string guitar was sold to a collector on ebay after his endorsement ended. Recently a second line of EBMM Signature guitars have been introduced and are available for order. Named the "JP BFR F-1" (BFR stands for "Ball Family Reserve"). It features a quilted/flamed maple top, alder body (with a mahogany tone block running from the neck to the bridge), and a finished mahogany neck.

In the Majesty/Early Dream Theater era, Petrucci can be seen using a B.C. Rich Assassin (strat-style guitar) through Randall Amplifiers.