

1st Paul Reed Smith Production Guitar

1985 Paul Reed Smith Custom 24

- Paul Reed Smith built his first proper guitar as a project for a college music instructor in 1975
- After dropping out of college, Smith opened his own luthiery shop in Annapolis, Maryland, played guitar in bands, and, with a handful of employees, built about 1 guitar/mo between 1976 and 1985
- Early customers of Smith's custom builds included Peter Frampton, Ted Nugent, Al Di Meola, and Howard Leese of the band Heart.
- Carlos Santana, now one of PRS' long-time endorsers, was a tougher sell. Santana had Smith build him four guitars before he was willing to endorse Smith as a gifted guitar maker starting in 1982
- Paul himself states that he built less than 100 guitars prior to 1985 when the Annapolis factory opened. The majority of those guitars were solid mahogany and only about 20 instruments had the figured maple tops that PRS is so widely known for today.
- Smith officially launched PRS in 1985 and moved into a small factory in Annapolis with a \$500k investment led by Warren Esanu
- The company's first outing was for the 1985 NAMM Show, where they debuted the PRS Custom. Featuring a mahogany neck set into a mahogany body with a maple cap, a patented vibrato, customized tuning pegs, and custom rotary pickup switching with high quality electronics, the guitar represented influences from both old and new.



- 1988 - Introduced more affordable CE Bolt-On series (*Classic Electric*) which were discontinued in 2009, but were reintroduced again in 2016
- 1996 - Moved to a new factory in Stevensville, Md and began Private Stock custom-build service
- 1996 - PRS Dragon 1 added to the collection of the Smithsonian Museum
- 2001 – Introduced SE line of Korean-made guitars
- 2009 - Introduced amplifiers and acoustics
- 2013 - Introduced mid-priced, U.S.-made S2 line
- PRS now produces about 13k US made guitars per year in its Maryland factory, and imports another 30k SE models from Korea

Displayed: 2023 Paul Reed Smith Custom 24 "Quilt Top"



- Body Construction: Solidbody
- Body Wood: **Maple**
- Veneer: **Quilted Maple**
- Back Wood: **Mahogany**
- Top Carve: Shallow Violin
- Pickups: **PRS 85/15 "S"**
- Controls: Volume and **Push/Pull Control**
- **3-Way Blade** Pickup Switch
- Scale Length: **25"**
- Neck Wood: **Maple**
- Neck Construction: **Scarfed Set Neck**
- Truss Rod: PRS Double-Acting
- Neck Shape: **Wide Thin**
 - Neck Depth At The Nut: 13/16" (**0.8125"**)
 - Neck Depth at the 12th Fret: 57/64" (**0.8910"**)
- Neck Width at the Nut: 1 11/16" (**1.6875"**)
- Neck Width at the Body: 2 1/4" (**2.25"**)
- **24 fret Ebony** fretboard
- Fretboard Inlay: **Birds**
- Fretboard **Radius: 10"**
- Bridge: PRS Patented Tremelo, Molded
- Nut: PRS Synthetic
- Headstock Logo: **PRS Signature**
- Truss Rod Cover: "Custom"