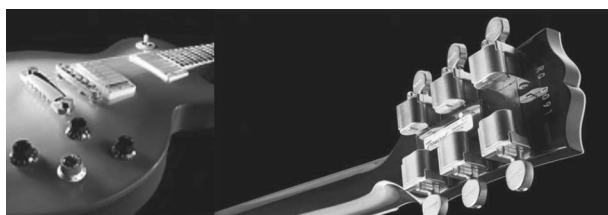


# In the Spotlight

## ■ World's first robotic guitar

Gibson's Blue Silverburst Les Paul – world's first guitar with robotic technology automatically tunes the strings to standard concert pitch (A440) with an accuracy of 0.2 cent. Master Control Knob enables quickly switching between alternate tunings, with each individual tuner equipped with special servo stepping motors driving a high-performance gearbox. It is controlled by signals received at the neck CPU (housed in a small box mounted on the back of the headstock). Multi-coloured LEDs changing from red (when a player is out of tune) to green and blue. First limited edition cost near \$2500!



Source: <http://www.gibson.com/robotguitar/index.html>

## ■ Artificial violinist

Toyota Motor Company President Katusaki Watanabe said robotics would be the main direction of the development for the company in future. In Toyota showroom in Tokyo, on Dec. 6, 2007, he introduced the newest human-look-like robot playing violin. First performance of the white, 155-centimeter-tall mechanical player was "Pomp and Circumstance". However Mr Perlmann should not feel endangered, robotic rendition was – relatively – impressive. The robot has 17 computer-controlled joints in his arms and hands, which enable pushing the strings correctly and bowed with its other arm, with good balance and coordination the movements.

Robo-violinist will be available in sale in 3 years. Having done complicated and laborious tasks, the robot will work in hospitals and everyday domestic life.



Source:  
[http://www.toyota.co.jp/en/news/07/1206\\_2.html](http://www.toyota.co.jp/en/news/07/1206_2.html)

## ■ Inspired by Insects

Scientists from NanoRobotics Laboratory at the Carnegie Mellon University showed a robot light like a leaf that can lay or stand on the water's surface. CMU Water Strider does not go down because it uses a phenomenon of water's surface tension. It looks like moving on the jelly. The goal of the whole project is to create a nano-robot, which will be able to inspect any hard to reach space (i.e. pipelines, flooding, tunnels, gutters).



Source: <http://nanolab.me.cmu.edu/>

This beautiful beetle was not created for practical purposes. An artist Mike Libby creates his artificial insects for antique watch parts, some electronics components and... the carcasses of dead insects. This photo presents the 5-inch (ca 12,5 cm) Rhino Beetle has gears and parts made from brass.

Luckily for those of us that have no inclination to nightmares, all mechanical insects are dead.



More incredible views at:  
<http://www.insectlabstudio.com/>