

# Guitar Techniques

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## WHAT STRINGS DO YOU USE? DANNY BRYANT

We ask a famous guitarist all those little questions you really do want the answers to... This month: blues wave-maker Danny Bryant

**Do you have a type of pick that you can't live without?**

I have always used extra heavy celluloid picks, because they give a good strong attack and seem to help produce a clearer tone than picks made out of materials like nylon etc. I have them made and have my name put on them - in case I forget who I am!

**If you had to give up all your pedals but three, what would they be?**

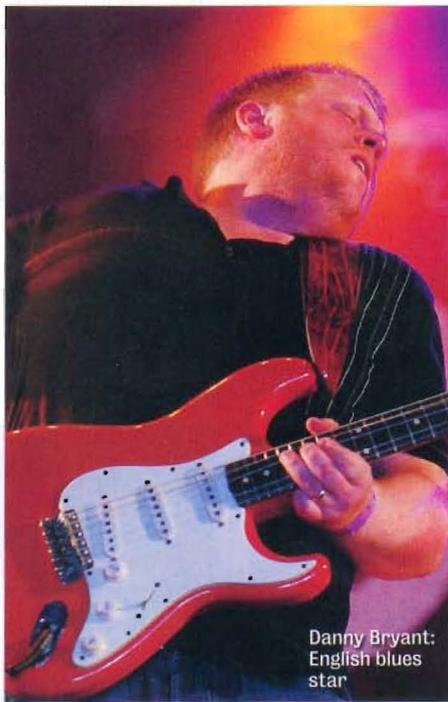
That's quite an easy one for me as I only ever use four pedals in my set-up, whether live or in the studio. They are a Boss tuner, which to me would be the most important, a Cry Baby wah-wah, a custom-made Univibe and a Boss digital delay... I guess I could live without the delay.

**Do you play another instrument well enough to be in a band?**

No, I can honestly say I wouldn't have a clue; my music and playing is really based totally on emotion and feel.

**Do guitar cables really make a difference? What make are yours?**

I didn't used to think that they did make much of a



Danny Bryant:  
English blues  
star

difference but recently I started using some cables that Elixir sent to me and they seem to produce a little more high end and clarity in the tone.

**Is there anyone's playing (past or present) that you're slightly jealous of?**

Buddy Guy! I have played before him on festivals in Europe a couple of times. Each time I have thought I played really great, then he comes out and makes

me feel three years old again. It's not jealousy though it's admiration - I love him!

**Your house/studio is burning down: which guitar do you salvage?**

I would have to cheat and pick two. They would be the first Fret-King that Trev Wilkinson gave to me which is my number one live guitar and very special to me. And the second would be a Custom Shop Masterbuilt '58 Strat that I just love.

**What's your favourite amp and how do you set it?**

Live I always use a Marshall TSL 100 and I only use the super lead channel. I set the amp with a lot of gain and the volume fairly high depending on the size of the room. Then, if I want to clean the tone up, I use the guitar's volume control to manipulate the amount of gain. In the studio I also use a blackface Fender Super Reverb that I've had for about ten years.

**What kind of action do you have on your guitars?**

I like a fairly high action on all my guitars, with heavy strings. I find this gives a bigger, rounder sound and sometimes forces me to slow down a little with the way I phrase things.

**What strings do you use?**

I endorse Elvir strings and I have to say in all honesty they are the best strings I have ever used. I was on tour in Switzerland the first time I tried them and I will never forget how much better they felt and sounded to me than anything else I had tried before.

**What are you up to at the moment?**

I have a new album out on Continental Records called Just As I Am and we are following that up with pretty much a whole year of constant touring all across Europe.