

SPECTOR NS BODY HISTORY

Information on this page is focused on the history and origins of our original NS curved body design, which is still in production at our USA, Czech, and Korean factories.

Our [History](#) including our Ads, Flyers, and Brochures since the 1970s can be viewed on [this page](#).



'Vintage' NS-1 ads from the late 1970's

There were only larger non-ergonomic electric bass bodies before our NS small curved & contoured body design took the bass world by storm in 1977.

Stuart and his original business partner Alan Charney were producing G-1 electric guitars & SB-1 basses at the Brooklyn Woodworkers Co-Op.

Another Co-Op member, cabinet and furniture designer Ned Steinberger, was focusing on modern designs that were curved for comfort.

One day in 1977 at the communal picnic lunch table in the center of the Co-Op, Stuart told Ned he was interested in a newer modern instrument design. Ned offered to help with this project, and Stuart happily accepted.

Ned took the SB-1 bass design, reduced its size, and gave it a curved and contoured design, almost like 'melting' the SB-1 body into a shape that is very comfortable to play.

Stuart then fine-tuned the design and the famous Spector NS-1 (one pickup) was born. This was in March of 1977. The NS-2 (two pickup version) quickly followed.



The beginning of the sexy curved bass body : This is the first NS-1, built in March 1977

Thus the name “NS” is homage to Ned Steinberger for his key involvement in the design.

Ned went on to experiment with graphite rods and their stiffness under tension and then moved on to making his famous graphite headless bass guitars. We are proud to have been the gateway to bring Ned's genius innovations to the musical instrument industry...and he has not escaped the industry since!

Spector is proud to be the one and only officially licensed manufacturer of the NS curved body design, ever.

The Spector NS-2 is constantly referred to as a Modern Classic, influencing countless modern bass designs.

Some notable dates in Spector NS curved body design history include:

- March 1977 : First NS-1 curved body design.
- 1978 : Spector USA 9v circuit, designed by Stuart with H.A.Z. Labs.
 - 1979 : First NS-2 was introduced.
- 1979 : Spector uses EMG active low impedance noiseless pickups.
 - 1980 : First NS-5, five string bass.
- 1982 : Spector Crown Inlays® added to NS-2 fingerboards.
- 1982 : Our original deep inset bolt-on neck pocket begins.
- 1984 : Spector solid brass locking bridge design begins.
- 1986 : Introduction of Korean made imported models NS-2A, NS-2B, NS-2C.
- 1992 : Spector USA 18v circuit, designed to match with EMG's new "DC" Dual Coil pickups.
- 1993 : Introduction of Czech Republic made NS body shaped basses,
true production versions of our USA handmade NS basses.
- 1993 : Graphite rods used inside the neck for added strength and stability become a standard spec.
- 2003 : Buckeye burl and other exotic wood tops over black walnut body woods
- 2010 : USA Built Forte Series "No frills/All tone" introduced .
- 2012 : Pocketed Frets.
 - Fret slots are not cut all the way thru the end of the fingerboard,
making a more elegant uninterrupted "wood binding" look from the side.
- 2014 : Helium™ is launched.
- Body woods featuring NY state sycamore over reclaimed NYC water tank reclaimed redwood
with Spector aluminum locking bridge with brass saddles.