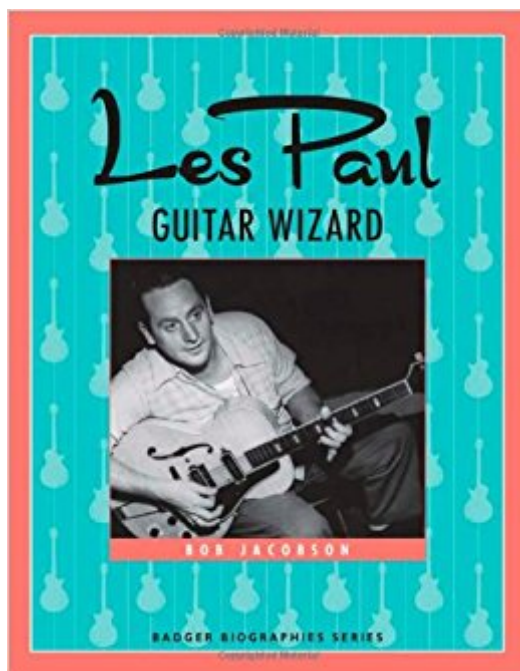


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# Les Paul: Guitar Wizard (Badger Biographies Series)



## Synopsis

This addition to the Badger Biographies series for young readers tells the story of Les Paul, the legendary "Wizard of Waukesha," who pioneered the solid body electric guitar, multi-track recording, and many other musical inventions. Fascinated since boyhood with musical technology, the young Les moved from experimenting with his mother's player piano and phonograph to developing his own amplifier and tinkering with crystal radios. After leaving his hometown of Waukesha at age 17 to pursue a musical career—a decision his mother supported—the budding jazz guitarist lived in Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles, in each city finding a new audience and new musical partnerships. A regular on the radio, Les became a fixture in early television, appearing on the Ed Sullivan Show, and later, a show of his own with partner Mary Ford. Along the way, he overcame numerous physical challenges, including recovery from electric shock and rehabilitation after a horrific car accident—both of which threatened his musical career. And yet, Les Paul pushed musical technology forward more than any other musician of the twentieth century. This Grammy Hall of Fame inductee died in 2009, making Les Paul: Guitar Wizard a timely addition to the series. This lively story is rounded out with sidebars on radio call letters and how an electric guitar works, a full discography, and over 60 historic photographs.

## Book Information

Series: Badger Biographies Series

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Wisconsin Historical Society Press; 1 edition (February 29, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0870204882

ISBN-13: 978-0870204883

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,308,967 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Rock #89 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > History #270 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Inventions & Inventors

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 6

## Customer Reviews

Bob Jacobson is a writer and musician based in Madison, Wisconsin, and the author of another title in the Badger Biographies series, Ole Evinrude and His Outboard Motor.

Tho this was written on a youngster's reading level, it's anything but childish. That makes it a quick read and a great book for a quick study on the life and accomplishments of Les Paul and Mary Ford. There are plenty of books on the Pauls, some of them quite expensive, but many deal more with a history of the guitar than the man and his wife and their stellar career. After reading, I passed this on to my grandkids because I felt that it was a great lesson on personal achievement that could be applied to a career in almost any field. It's hinge pins are recognizing one's own talents, developing and applying them, and sticking to one's one dreams and ways of doing things. With a generous dose ofchutzpah (as only Les had it) in getting folks to recognize one's developed abilities. --bb

Good book that gave a full picture of Les Paul's life and accomplishments. My 3rd grader read this for a biography book report and it was a great book that he read with ease and was enjoyable.

Great book for my son to use on inventor's book report.

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