

**WHEN DID YOU BEGIN PLAYING GUITAR:** When I was seven years old.

**WHY DID YOU START:** Basically my whole family is musical and so I was surrounded by music all the time when I was growing up. There were always a lot of instruments around the house and I just happened to pick up the guitar.

**FIRST TYPE OF GUITAR:** Very first guitar was a cheap classical acoustic, but I also had an old, old Gibson acoustic called an Army-Navy Special, from World War I, or something!

**MUSICAL TRAINING:** I studied on and off. When I was young I took lessons in folk and classical but stopped when I was about 12 because I wanted to play rock. I went back and studied a few years ago for a while.

**EARLY INFLUENCES:** The biggest in rock would be Leslie West. Other than that I suppose Beck and Blackmore. Because I started so young I kept changing . . . now I listen to all kinds of guitarists.

**FIRST PUBLIC PERFORMANCE:** There used to be this park in Burbank where all the bands would play. One night I got up and jammed and that was my first experience in front of a lot of people.

**FIRST APPEARANCE ON RECORD:** I did the first Quiet Riot LP when I was 17.

**RECORDING BANDS:** Quiet Riot and Blizzard Of Ozz.

**OTHER VINYL APPEARANCES:** Not yet — I'd like to get into doing sessions, though.

**EQUIPMENT (LIVE):** Three 100 Watt Marshalls (two of them are 1959 tops). I also use a pedal board with all the basic effects. The guitars I use on stage are a Les Paul, two Charvels and another custom-made one.

**STUDIO EQUIPMENT:** Generally the same as live — although I usually use just one cabinet and one top.

**NUMBER OF GUITARS OWNED:** I own six.

**MOST MEMORABLE SOLO ON RECORD:** I'd have to say 'Mr Crowley' because I spent hours trying to get a solo on it but couldn't get anywhere. Then Ozzy came in and said: "It's crap — everything you're playing is crap! Get out there and play how you feel, don't plan anything." He made me really nervous so I just played anything but when I came back to listen to it he said it was great and I had to agree. So I guess that's my most memorable solo.

**OTHER GUITARISTS YOU ADMIRE:** I admire a lot of guitar players — but I particularly admire anyone who plays classical and who has stuck with it.