

GUITAR AND UKULELE INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

The goal of these instructions is to explain how to keep your instrument in good shape and familiarise you with basic instrument care and maintenance habits. We have divided the instruments into the following categories:

- 1.1. Classical guitars and ukuleles
- 1.2. Steel-string acoustic guitars
- 1.3. Guitars from numbers 1.1 and 1.2 with a pickup, with passive or active EQ, with or without a tuner

Type of instrument

Steel-string acoustic and jumbo guitars
Classical guitars and ukuleles

Recommended type of strings

.010"/.047"—.012"/.054"
Nylon strings only!

Guitar care

Cleaning your guitar regularly is one of the most important ways to preserve the quality and longevity of your instrument and its strings. After you have finished playing, wipe down the instrument and remove any sweat. Sweat contains acids that can result in the corrosion of the strings and metal parts of the guitar. Polish the glossy surface of the guitar with agents designed specifically for musical instruments and a musical instrument rag or soft cotton cloth. Use a string cleaner to care for your guitar's strings. Do not subject your instrument to extreme temperatures or humidity levels. The wood may swell or dry out in environments with extremely low or high temperatures or extremely low or high humidity. This may result in cracking or other damage, warping of the neck, bulging or deformation of the body, etc. The recommended temperature range for storing and using your instrument is 15–30 °C. The recommended humidity is 45–55 %. In the winter, heated rooms may result in extremely dry environments with less than 20 % humidity. This could result in damage to the wooden parts of your instrument. For this reason, use a humidifier to increase the humidity to above 40 %. If using a humidifier, make sure that the stream of moisture or vapour does not come in direct contact with the instrument. If you bring a cold guitar from a cold environment into the warmth suddenly, moisture will condense on the surface of the guitar, which can result in the corrosion of the metal parts of the instrument and strings and deformation of the wooden parts. To avoid this, store your instrument in its case prior to subjecting it to sudden changes in temperature and take it out only after it has reached approximate room temperature. Subjecting your guitar to high temperatures for extended periods of time (such as in a car in direct sunlight) can result in irreparable damage to the instrument (damage to plastic parts, lifting up of the soundboard, bridge detachment, neck warping, etc.). Hard guitar cases are a highly effective tool in protecting your instrument, even from abnormal temperatures or humidity — not, however, for periods longer than 24 hours. For longer periods of time, your instrument should be stored in a suitable environment.

Strings

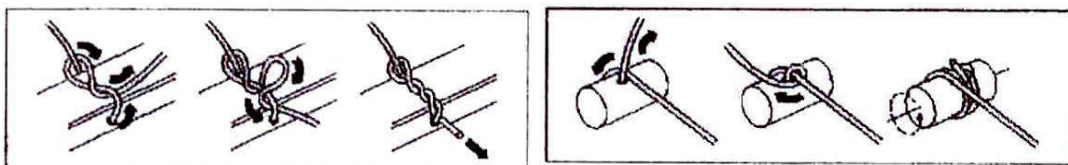
If it looks like your instrument's strings are getting dirty or begin to produce a lacklustre or buzzing sound, it is time to replace the entire set. For best results, we recommend replacing one string at a time so that you avoid releasing all of the tension of the strings on the neck (recommended for all beginners). We recommend you begin restringing from the thickest strings and end with the thinnest. Tune the new string to the required tone immediately after replacing. Detailed instructions are covered in the individual chapters. Strings must be wound tightly onto the tuning peg from top to bottom or from the stringing toward the edge of the headstock, winding two or three times around the tuning peg. String length can be clipped using a string cutter. Do not leave strings untrimmed on the tuning machine. This will help avoid possible injury. Every guitar is built for a specific weight (gauge) of strings (see the table in the introduction). Using a different type of string may result in damage to certain parts of your instrument and will void the warranty. Classical guitars are designed for the use of nylon strings only. Using steel strings may result in damage to the tuning machine, deformation of the neck or soundboard, or damage to the bridge.

1.1. Classical guitars and ukuleles: Adjusting string action (the distance between the string and the fret)

Guitar and ukulele string action is set during manufacturing, but there can be a number of reasons why you may need to adjust it. The instrument may be affected by temperature or humidity. The height of the action for classical guitars and ukuleles can be adjusted via the bridge saddle. String action adjustment should be carried out by a qualified professional only. If the strings are too high and the neck relief has been adjusted, the instrument can be adjusted by filing the bottom of the bridge saddle, which will lower the saddle. If the strings are too low, the strings may slap against the frets or may not have a clean sound. In this case, a strip of wood can be placed beneath the saddle or the saddle can be replaced with a taller one. Unskilled adjustments of electro-acoustic instruments may affect the performance of pickup located beneath the saddle.

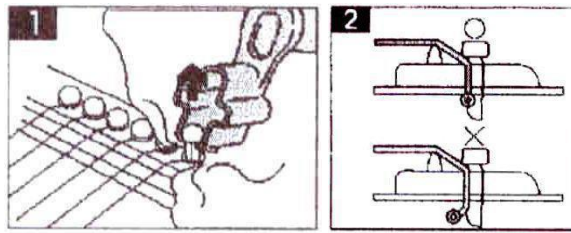
1.1. Classical guitars and ukuleles: Restringing

Thread the string through the respective hole in the bridge and secure according to the figure (make two to three loops for strings one through four, and three to four loops for strings five and six (E1, B). Thread the end of the string through the hole in the peg (see fig.) and wind the string so that the winding overlaps.



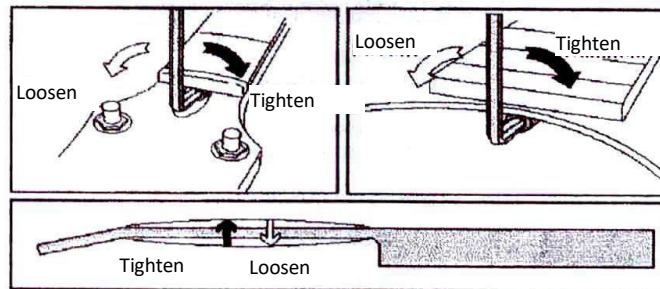
1.2. Steel-string acoustic guitars: Restringing

First, loosen the string by turning the tuning peg. Then, either using your fingers or a special tool (see fig. 1), carefully pull the bridge pin out and remove the old string. When inserting the new string, make sure that the end with the ball rests securely against the soundboard and that there is no space between the ball and the soundboard. This could result in a slight rattle of the ball against the soundboard (see fig. 2). Wind the string from top to bottom around the tuning peg three times. It is best to keep the string somewhat taught when winding. For the E1 and B strings, there is no need to cross the strings like you do for classical guitars, as long as you follow the steps listed above. For 12-string guitars, we recommend changing and tuning the strings from the thickest to the thinnest including the octave strings, with the exception of the G octave string, which should be strung and tuned last. The tuning machine does not need to be lubricated. When restringing, always lightly tighten the machine bushing. The tuning machine screws can be tightened using a small Phillips head screwdriver. Over-tightening or over-loosening can damage the tuning machine. If you are restringing with higher-gauge strings, you will need to adjust the slots in the nut so that it does not break. When changing strings, you may also need to adjust the neck relief (truss rod).



1.2. Steel-string acoustic guitars: Adjusting the neck relief

You can measure the tension of the guitar neck by pressing a string at the first and last fret, which should result in a distance of 0.2–0.5 mm between the string and the eighth fret, or 0.5–1 mm for electric and acoustic bass guitars. This distance is called the neck relief. If the relief has been adjusted incorrectly, you may hear a buzzing or distorted tone. We recommend you leave neck adjustments to the professionals. Damage resulting from unskilled adjustments is not covered by the warranty. Movement of the neck during loosening or tightening is depicted in the figure below. Truss rod adjustments are performed with loosened strings.



1.3. Guitars with a pickup, passive or active EQ, with or without tuners – XLR

For some instruments with a combination XLR/JACK out, you need to plug in a (dummy) plug for proper XLR function.

1.4 Guitars with a pickup, passive or active EQ, with or without tuners – Batteries

It is important to replace batteries regularly. Remove the batteries if the sound begins to become distorted or the volume decreases, the tuner does not work, or the change battery indicator lights are on or flashing. To prolong battery life, unplug your guitar when you are not playing.

Notice:

The warranty does not cover normal wear, damage resulting from unskilled adjustments, mechanical damage, damage resulting from unsuitable temperatures or humidity levels, damage caused by body salts and acids, damage from a guitar strap or stand. The lifespan of the instrument depends on its use and may not correspond with the warranty period.

Disposal:

The symbol marked on the product or accompanying documentation denotes that the product cannot be disposed of together with municipal waste. To dispose of the product properly, please take it to a designated collection site, where it will be disposed of free of charge. By disposing of such products properly, you will be helping to preserve valuable natural resources and will help prevent potential negative effects on the environment and the health of those around you.

HUMIDITY IS VITAL TO THE CONDITION OF YOUR GUITAR

Specialists from the Taylor company, which manufactures some of the best acoustic guitars in the world, have compiled the following information about what can happen to your guitar in relation to humidity.

45–55 % relative humidity

Your guitar remains in the same condition as it was in when it left the manufacturer.

40 % relative humidity

The frets on your guitar may begin to protrude because the fretboard is slowly drying out due to insufficient humidity.

35 % relative humidity

Your guitar's frets have a sharp edge, making it hard to play. The frets need to be filed down. In acoustic guitars, the soundboard begins to dry out. You cannot see any cracks, but the neck needs to be adjusted and the neck action decreases.

30 % relative humidity

The first cracks on the guitar's soundboard may or may not be visible, depending on a number of factors. However, the guitar has probably lost almost 3 centilitres of water, and the soundboard has dried out by approximately 3 millimetres. The soundboard is glued to the sides and braces and pull increases with the loss of moisture. Some soundboards will crack, some will not. A guitar that has been subjected to such conditions for a long period of time will soon lose its playing characteristics. It is definitely not in the shape that the manufacturer worked hard to achieve and needs an overhaul.

25 % relative humidity

Now the guitar's problems begin to become clearly visible. At the very least, the frets will become loose. In acoustic guitars, any cracks in the soundboard grow larger. Some customers think that this state is caused by faulty construction of the instrument or from the use of low-quality materials, but they are greatly mistaken.

20 % relative humidity

Forget about it. A guitar under such conditions cannot be fixed unless you use a specialised humidifier for the sound hole or do not outfit the room with a humidifier. If you have a room like this, you need to do whatever it takes to raise the relative humidity to 50 %.

Damage caused by leaving your guitar in environments with unsuitable humidity levels is easily identified and is not covered by the claims policy. Please ensure that you create and maintain a proper environment for your guitar!