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Thank you for purchasing this Guitar from Austin Bazaar!

We hope you love your new Guitar and enjoy many hours playing it! However, it should be maintained with the utmost care. We have compiled a list of helpful hints which should help you make the most out of your Guitar, from tips on how to change the strings, to basic maintenance techniques. We also have the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about Guitars. We have pictures of the anatomies of the various Guitars in the Appendix.

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GUITAR STRINGS

- **Issue: Strings are difficult to play or are fret sharp:**

This can easily be remedied by changing the strings. Whether your strings are difficult to play or you simply need to replace your strings due to wear and tear, we have provided step-by-step instructions on how to restring your Guitar. But before installing the new strings, it is important to know how to remove the old strings. This technique for removing old strings should work whether you have an Acoustic, Electric, or Acoustic-Electric Guitar. Don't get discouraged if you don't get it right the first time to try to restring your Guitar. It may take a few tries before it becomes easy, and once you have restrung it, it is time to tune the strings so that they are at the correct pitch. After the strings come up to the correct pitch, pull on them in various places to stretch them out a bit. This will cause the string to go flat, so tune it back up to pitch by winding the post. Repeat this process a few times to help the new strings hold their pitch. New strings may tend to lose their pitch at first, but do not get discouraged, and keep trying. Before you know it, the strings will keep their pitch.

- **Issue: Strings have lost their luster:**

This may be due to the oil and other residue from your fingers which tend to end up on the strings. It is imperative that you wipe down the strings after every use, as this residue can make the strings wear out faster than normal. You can use a clean cloth made of a soft material like chamois to wipe each string from top to bottom and all the way around its circumference. It is an easy task which shouldn't take long and will improve the overall life of your Guitar strings.

- **Issue: Removing and changing Strings**

You can remove any string by turning the turning peg and loosening the string enough to grab the string from the center. Then you can pull the string off the post. You do not need to wind the string completely off the post by using the peg. Another way to remove the old strings is to cut them off using wire cutters. However, we recommend this method only if you have no intention of saving the old strings.

1. Changing Strings: Acoustic Guitar

Installing new Steel strings:

- i. Attach strings to the bridge

Remove the old string and remove bridge pin. Please note that bridge pins tend to stick, and can be pried out using the notched edge in a peg winder (available for sale at most music stores). Another way to pry out the bridge pins is to use a table knife, but be careful, as this may scratch the wood.

Place the ball end of the new string (the small brass part on the end of the string) inside the hole that held the bridge pin.

Place the bridge pin firmly back in the hole with the slot facing forward (i.e. towards the nut)

Pull gently on the string until the ball rests against the bottom of the pin. Keep your thumb or finger on the pin so that it does not pop out. But be careful not to kink the string while pulling it.

Test the string by tugging on it. If you do not feel the string shift, the ball is snug against the bridge pin and you are ready to secure it to the tuning post.

- ii. Secure the string to the tuning post (the top part of the Guitar)

Please note that the process is different for the treble strings (G, B, E) and the bass strings (E, A, D). Treble strings are wound clockwise and bass strings are wound counterclockwise.

Treble strings

Pass the string through the hole in the post. Don't forget to leave enough slack between the bridge pin and the tuning post so you can wind the string around the post several times. Also, remember to crease the metal wire toward the inside of the Guitar.

Keep the string tight against the post with one hand, and wind the tuning peg clockwise with the other hand. If you do it correctly, the string should wind down toward the headstock (the top, or head, of the Guitar). Make sure the string goes into the correct slot in the nut.

Bass strings

The steps are, for the most part, the same as for treble strings, except you wind the strings counterclockwise so the string goes up the middle and over the post to the left.

Installing new Nylon strings:

- i. Attach strings to the bridge

Whereas steel strings have a ball at one end, nylon strings do not. Therefore, you can attach either end of the nylon string to the bridge. Pass one end of the new string through the hole in the top of the bridge, in the direction away from the sound hole leaving about 1½ inches sticking out of the rear of the hole

- ii. Secure the string to the tuning post

The tuning posts (also known as rollers) pass through the headstock sideways instead of going through perpendicularly. Pass the string through the hole in the tuning post. Bring the end of the string back over the roller towards you. Pass the string under itself in front of the hole. Pull up on the string end so that the long part of the string (the part that is attached to the bridge) sits in the U-shaped loop you formed. Make sure your loop comes from the outside (i.e. approach from the left on the lower three bass strings, and from the right on the upper three treble strings). Then, pass the short end under and over itself, creating two or three wraps. Doing this should hold the loose end in place and prevent the string from slipping out of the hole. Next, wind the peg so that the string wraps on top of the loop. This will secure the string against the post. Finally, pull the string length taut with one hand, which turning the tuning peg with the other hand. Don't forget to wrap the windings to the outside of the hole, away from the center of the Guitar.

2. Changing Strings: Electric Guitar

Removing old strings:

For information on how to remove old strings, please refer to the beginning of this section entitled "Guitar Strings."

Installing new strings:

- i. Attach strings to the bridge

For most Electric Guitars, the string can be secured to the bridge by passing it through the hole (from the back or bottom of the Guitar) until the ball stops the movement. The hole in the bridge should be smaller than the ball at the end of the string so that the ball holds the string.

ii. Secure the string to the tuning post

The post should protrude through the headstock (the top of the Guitar). First, you pass the string through the post's hole, kink the string to the inside toward the center of the headstock, and begin winding while holding the long part of the string with one hand.

Adjusting string action:

If you feel that you have difficulty in fretting or hear a buzzing noise, the strings may be set too high or too low, respectively. In this case, the action (the space between the strings and the fingerboard) will have to be adjusted. Adjusting the action will let you achieve the desired string level. This can easily be remedied by lowering or raising the string saddles at the bridge. The saddles are the parts in front of the bridge where the strings sit. You can raise them or lower them by turning the hex screws with a hex wrench. Turn the screw clockwise to raise the saddle, and counterclockwise to lower it. If the saddle has two hex screws, be sure to turn them the same amount.

Adjusting string intonation:

If you notice that your strings are fretting sharp or fretting flat, you may need to adjust the intonation. You can adjust this by moving the saddle away from the nut if the string is fretting sharp, and toward the nut if the string is fretting flat. Don't forget that adjusting the saddle for a string corrects only that particular string. You may need to adjust intonation for each string.

Adjusting truss rod:

If you find that the neck bows outward away from the strings between the seventh and twelfth frets causing the strings to be too high and difficult to fret, you may need to tighten the truss rod to make the neck arch upward. The opposite holds true if the neck bows inward into the strings between the seventh and twelfth frets causing the strings to be too low and creating a buzzing sound. If this happens, loosen the truss rod to make the neck sag. The truss rod is a one- or two-piece adjustable metal rod that goes down the inside of the center of the neck. You can adjust this with a nut located on one end. It should be located on the headstock, under a cap just behind the nut or where the neck joins the body under the fingerboard. You may need a truss-rod wrench to adjust it, which can be purchased at any local music store. To tighten the truss rod, turn the nut clockwise a quarter turn at a time, giving the neck a few minutes to adjust. To loosen the truss rod, counterclockwise a quarter turn at a time, giving the neck a few minutes to adjust. Remember that over tightening or over loosening a truss rod can potentially damage the neck and body, so please do it with care!

3. Changing Strings: Acoustic-Electric Guitar

Removing old strings:

For information on how to remove old strings, please refer to the beginning of this section entitled "Guitar Strings."

Installing new strings:

- i. **Attach strings to the bridge**
Remove the old string and remove bridge pin. Please note that bridge pins tend to stick, and can be pried out using the notched edge in a peg winder (available for sale at most music stores). Another way to pry out the bridge pins is to use a table knife, but be careful, as this may scratch the wood.
Place the ball end of the new string (the small brass part on the end of the string) inside the hole that held the bridge pin. Place the bridge pin firmly back in the hole with the slot facing forward (i.e. towards the nut). Pull gently on the string until the ball rests against the bottom of the pin. Keep your thumb or finger on the pin so that it does not pop out. But be careful not to kink the string while pulling it. Test the string by tugging on it. If you do not feel the string shift, the ball is snug against the bridge pin and you are ready to secure it to the tuning post.
- ii. **Secure the string to the tuning post (the top part of the Guitar)**

Please note that the process is different for the treble strings (G, B, E) and the bass strings (E, A, D). Treble strings are wound clockwise and bass strings are wound counterclockwise.

Treble strings:

Pass the string through the hole in the post. Don't forget to leave enough slack between the bridge pin and the tuning post so you can wind the string around the post several times. Also, remember to crease the metal wire toward the inside of the Guitar. Keep the string tight against the post with one hand, and wind the tuning peg clockwise with the other hand. If you do it correctly, the string should wind down toward the headstock (the top, or head, of the Guitar). Make sure the string goes into the correct slot in the nut.

Bass strings:

The steps are, for the most part, the same as for treble strings, except you wind the strings counterclockwise so the string goes up the middle and over the post to the left.

GUITAR HARDWARE

Please note that if there are any electrical components on your Guitar which you think may need fixing, we recommend that you take it to your local music store to get it fixed, and not try to fix it yourself, especially if you are a beginning musician.

3. Guitar Hardware: Electric Guitar

If you hear any rattling or buzzing noises while playing, some hardware may be loose. You can tighten any hardware with a screwdriver or wrench. It could be possible that a nut on the bridge post may be loose. If you hear a rattling noise, try strumming the Guitar with one hand to re-create the noise, while touching various parts with your other hand. The rattling should stop once you touch the affected part, and then you can tighten the part that is loose.

Dust and other foreign matter could pose a potential threat to the quality of your Electric Guitar. Turn the knobs back and forth to work out the dust. You may need to do this a few times with each knob.

3. Guitar Hardware: Acoustic-Electric Guitar

Don't forget that to use the Electrical aspect of your Acoustic-Electric Guitar, you will need to have an Amplifier to plug the Guitar into!

GUITAR BODY

If the body of your Guitar looks dull or dirty, use a soft clean cloth (like chamois) to wipe down the body. If the Guitar appears to have residue resembling scratches, use Guitar polish which is available at most music stores. This residue may be from the manufacturing floor. If your Guitar has cracks, it may be due to too much moisture or lack thereof. Be sure to keep your Guitar out of direct sunlight and humidity and temperature changes. Remember that your Guitar is made of wood, and like all wood, it will change with moisture.

KID'S TOY GUITARS (23" and 25" GUITARS)

If the tuning knobs and/or strings do not tighten or stay in place, we recommend tightening the screws on the tuning knobs. These screws are located on the tuning knobs on the back of the Guitar. Doing this should help the tuning knobs and strings stay in tune.

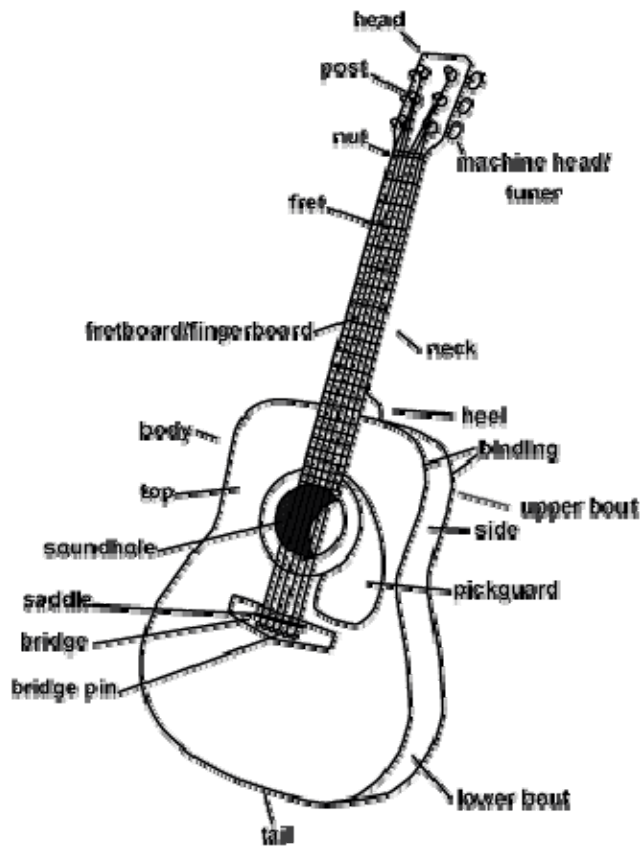
We hope that you found this guide helpful in maintaining your Guitar. If you have any problems with your Guitar, you can take it to any local music store or your Guitar instructor. Again we stress that if there are any parts (wires, pickups, and other electrical components) that need repair, we urge you to take it to your local music store to get them fixed, and not try to do it yourself.

No matter what type of Guitar you have, whether it is \$5000 or \$50, a certain amount of minor maintenance will be required to keep it playable. Also, please remember to handle all your musical instruments with the utmost care. Your Guitar is no different than any other instrument! We want you to enjoy playing your Guitar, but remember that this cannot happen without a little effort on your part.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy your Guitar!

APPENDIX

Anatomy of an Acoustic Guitar:



Anatomy of an Electric Guitar:

