

How to Care for Your Freshman Guitar



*Freshman
Guitars*

www.freshmanguitars.co.uk

Introduction

Thanks for choosing Freshman.

We are a family run business with a passion about every aspect of our instruments. Quality of sound and attention to detail are second to none. We personally select our tonedwoods and where possible from sustainable sources. With every single guitar you can be guaranteed that we give thorough QC checks and set up before leaving our UK factory. While I'm sure your instrument will bring you a lifetime of problem-free playing and enjoyment, for warranty purposes please remember to register your guitar online. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us, where we will be happy to help and advise.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Kelly', written in a cursive style.

Sean Kelly - Freshman Designer & Owner



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About Freshman

We are the designers and manufacturers of Freshman Guitars. Quality is everything, from sourcing only graded materials, attention to detail of build by our luthier's and final QC check by our highly qualified technical department here in the UK.

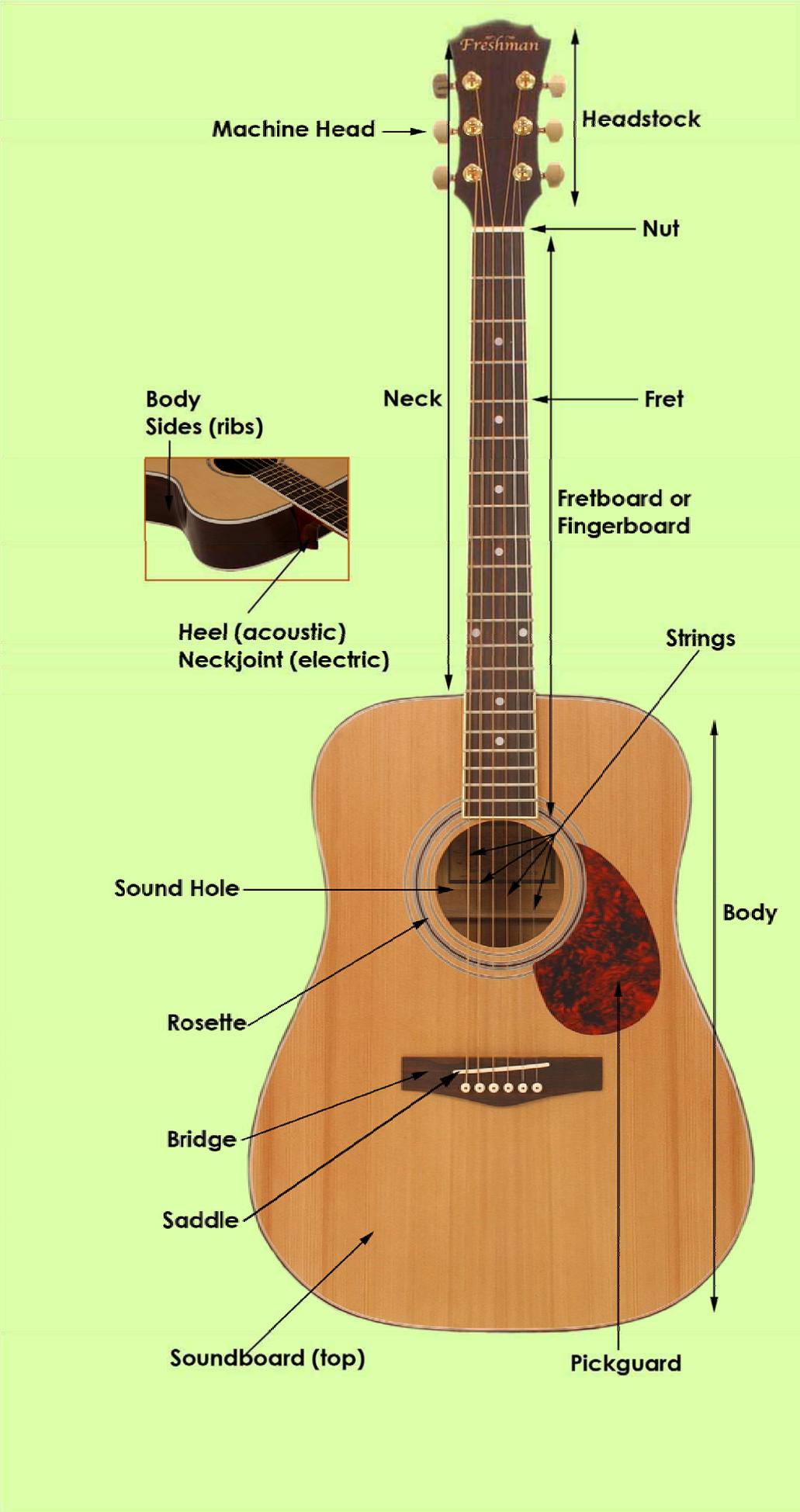
All our instruments are handmade giving us a consistency of quality. Each instrument is also assigned with its own unique serial number, and every single guitar is QC checked and set up in our UK factory before final shipping.

Whether you are a beginner or an established professional musician, you can be guaranteed that your guitar will be exceptional.

Every model in our fantastic range is designed by Guitarists for Guitarists!



Identify Parts of Your Guitar



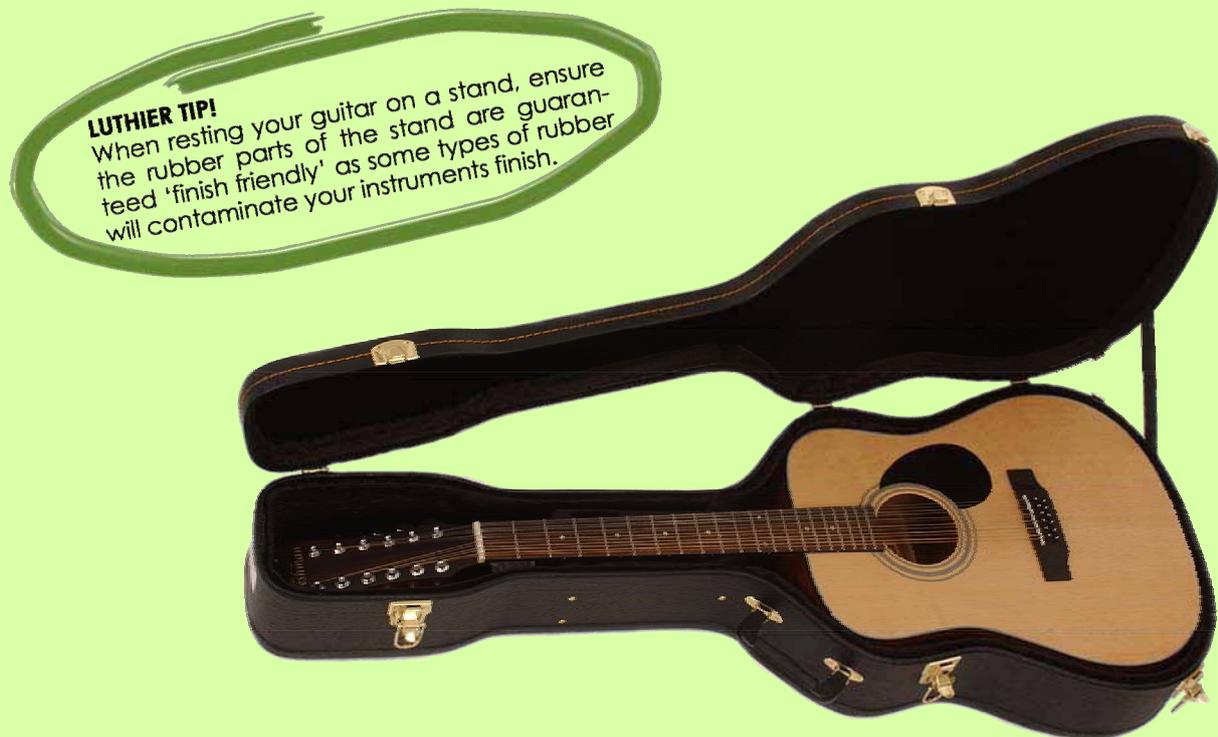
Care of Your Freshman

Our tonewoods are from sustainable sources and we accept nothing less than A Grade for our Tops. Freshman only accept a certain standard and decline below. Our woods are kiln dried for up to 3 months and also stored in a humidity controlled environment. We source specific woods from specific regions of the world renowned for their exceptional sound properties.

Wood is a natural product and as such is affected by its environment, especially temperature and humidity! One of the most important things you can do to protect your guitar is to control the humidity in which it is stored.

Acoustic guitars are best kept in a relative humidity (RH) around 40%. Freshman guitars are built within a relative humidity range of 45%-50%. The greatest danger to your guitar occurs during the autumn, winter and early spring. Centrally heated homes produce dry air. The humidity often drops to less than half of the RH of the factory in which your guitar was built which can result in movement of the wood causing damage to your instrument

The best solution to this problem is to always store your guitar in its case when it is not in use and perhaps invest in a small humidity gauge and humidifier, to monitor the environment.



Never leave your guitar near a radiator or heater or in direct sunshine as excessive heat can loosen glue and cause joint movement in your instrument.

If your instrument is being transported during the winter and exposed to very low temperatures, it is highly advisable to let the instrument slowly warm up to room temperature in its case before removing it to reduce the risk of cracking and damage.

Never leave your guitar in a car as the interior and boot space can produce extreme temperatures which can damage your guitar.

If travelling by air, firstly check with the airline if you are able to take your instrument as hand luggage, if not ask if you are able to take it to the boarding area where it can be tagged and hand carried to the airplane. If your instrument has to be stored in the hold, make sure you loosen the strings and use a well padded hard case, such as a Freshman SCD Padded Case, to decrease the chances of damage.

Cleaning

GLOSS FINISH

TOP, BACK & SIDES: To clean the tops, back, sides and neck of your GLOSS finished guitar, use a silicone free guitar polish (available from any music store) on a dry lint free cloth. Polish gently to remove any marks.

SATIN/MATT FINISH

For a SATIN finish you must NEVER buff your guitar. Simply apply a small amount of guitar polish to your lint free dry cloth and wipe GENTLY in one direction. If you wipe your guitar too rigorously or buff it, a shine will appear on the finish!

FINGERBOARD: It is important to 'feed' your fingerboard occasionally by sparingly applying a proprietary brand lemon oil with a lint free cloth. This prevents your fingerboard from drying out. After playing your instrument simply wipe down the strings and fingerboard with a dry cloth to remove any moisture or dirt from your fingers.

Never put any other petroleum or oil based products near unfinished woods.

MACHINE HEADS: The enclosed machine heads on your Freshman have been lubricated during the building process and therefore do not require any regular maintenance.

Open type machine heads should be lubricated once a year which can be done by placing a small amount of petroleum jelly on the end of a fine piece of wood and apply into the gears. Be careful not to get any product on the wood.

Never use any chemical/abrasive products on plated hardware, remove any marks with a dry lint free cloth.



LUTHIER TIP!

Never adjust the truss rod using the allen key provided unless you understand the method of adjustment and the consequences of making the adjustment. If you feel your guitar neck is out in any way, we recommend seeking a luthiers advice.

Strings

Strings should be changed when the tone quality is deemed to be poor.

Steel strings stretch and oxidise. Changing intervals depend very much on playing style, time played and playing conditions.

As a rough guide we would recommend:

0 - 5 hours playing per week – change strings every month

5 - 10 hours per week – every fortnight

Over 10 hours, or professional use – once a week or every 2nd gig

Care of your strings by cleaning both strings and fretboard thoroughly after each session will prolong the life and tone of any strings.

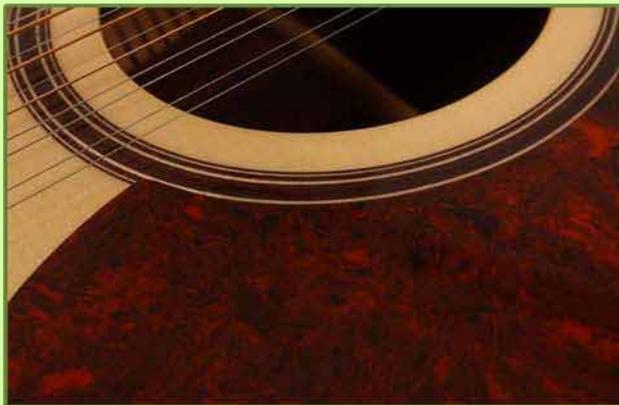
Changing the gauge and make of the strings will affect the guitar's sound and feel. If you change the gauge of your strings to a heavier or lighter set your guitar neck will require a small adjustment to create the correct amount of relief for buzz free playing. We recommend the instrument is taken to a qualified luthier for this adjustment.

Your Freshman Guitar is strung at the factory with Freshman FAS 12s (12-53), D'Addario 12-53 Phosphor Bronze or Elixir Phosphor Bronze 12-53 strings depending on which model you have purchased. The 400 and 500 Series are all strung with Elixir.

D'Addario normal tension 80-20 strings are used on classical models.

D'Addario Phosphor Bronze 10-47 are used on our 12 String models.

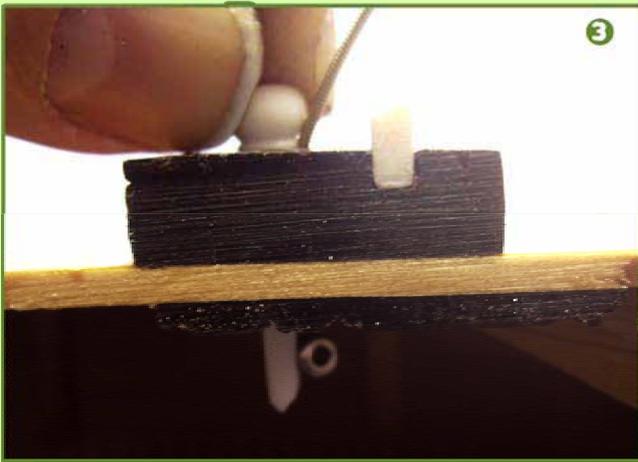
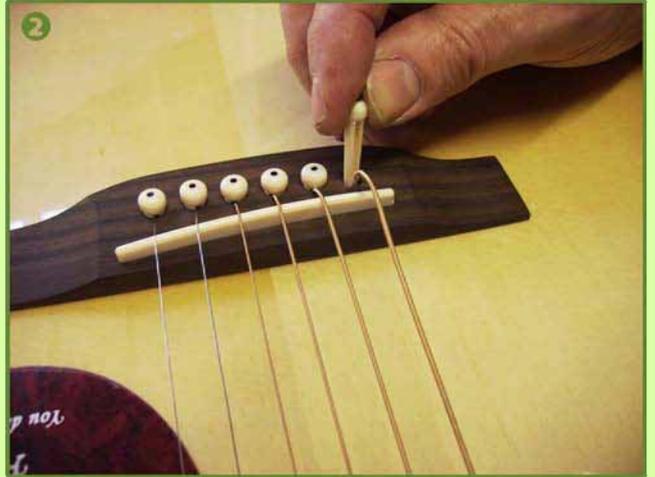
Action (string height) should be adjusted by means of raising or lowering the saddle with shims and resetting the relief in the neck. This job should be left to an experienced luthier especially if an onboard EQ and undersaddle pickup is installed.



LUTHIER TIP!

After installing each string, pull it away from the body, firmly but not too hard, to 'seat' the ball end and tuning post wraps. Do this several times after tuning to pitch and you will find that your guitar will stay in tune easier!

How to String Your Guitar



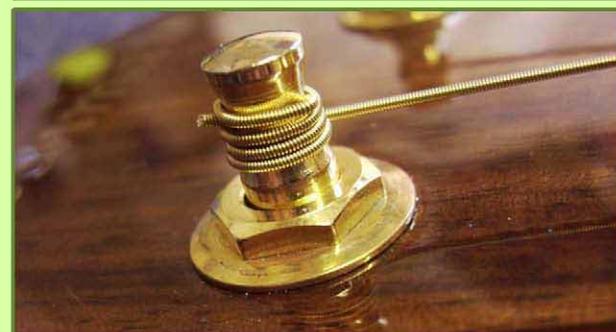
LUTHIER TIP!
Replacing one string at a time keeps the neck under the correct tension and your guitar should not require a settling in period after the change of strings.



Pull string to the appropriate tuning post and feed it through the hole in the post **4**. Leave enough slack in the string to allow 3-4 windings around the post **5**. The first winding is always done by hand over the TOP of the string as it emerges through the hole in the post.



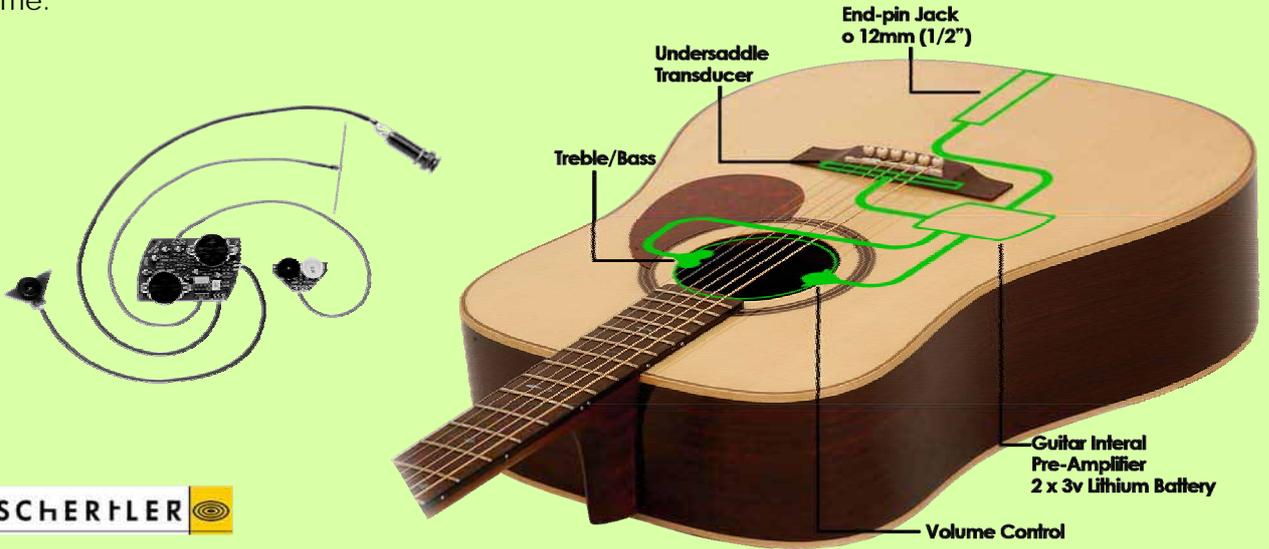
This is a half-wind to enable subsequent windings, using the tuner button, to feed onto the post **BELOW** the string **6**. Cut excess string length using small end nippers or pliers **7**. Tune string to pitch.



EQ Systems

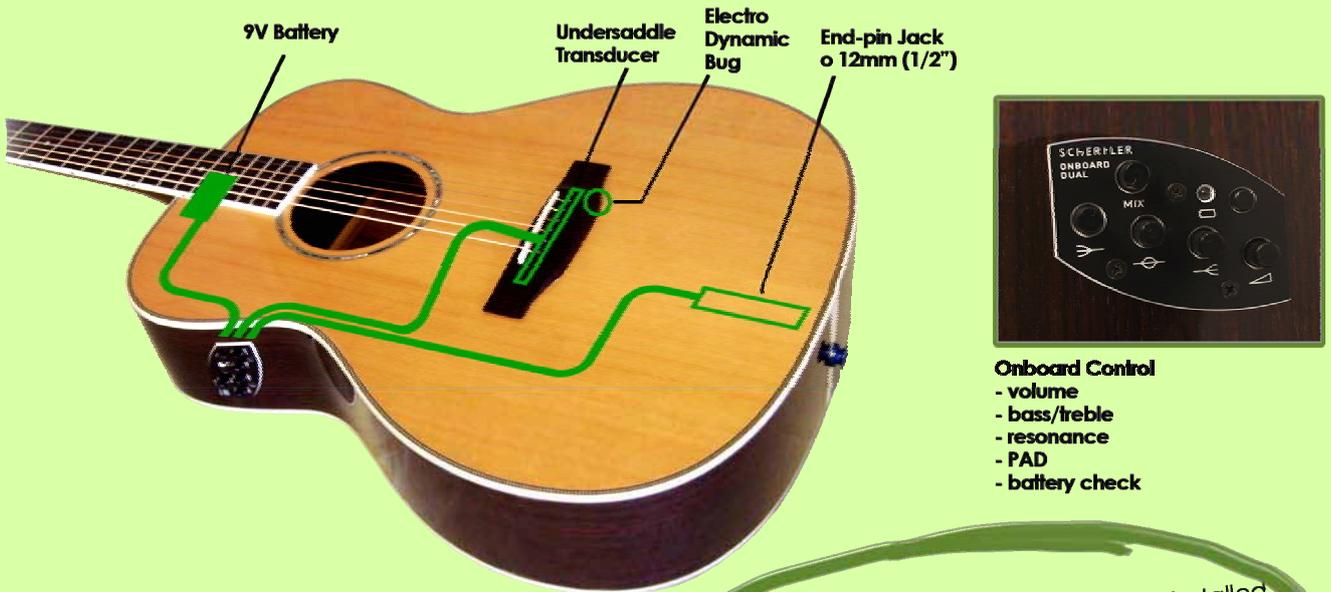
Schertler Bluestick Active EQ Soundhole System

You'll note from the accompanying design drawing that a transducer is situated under the saddle and is linked to a micro Class/a pre-amp, housed within a control unit situated just inside the top of the soundhole. The three rotary controls Volume, Bass and Treble are placed so as to be adjustable with little or no repositioning of the right hand. Unlike many onboard systems, the power comes from two lithium batteries located in the control unit, giving around 1000 hours of playing time.



Schertler Dual System

The Dual combines the two main Schertler technologies, the electrostatic under-saddle transducer (BLUESTICK) and the electro-dynamic transducer (DYN). The installation is the same as for the regular BLUESTICK, and the C-DYN that is mounted inside the guitar, below the bridge on the Bridge Plate. The C-Dyn pick-up is attached with the flat side mounted to the bridge plate - the cover of the C-DYN faces the inside of the guitar.



LUTHIER TIP!
If your guitar has a Schertler EQ System installed, it is important that the strings are changed one at a time. This avoids the problem of the saddle and undersaddle microphone being disturbed and causing unbalanced output or failure.



LUTHIER TIP!

When changing batteries, be very careful not to stress any cables inside the guitar. This could cause the system to malfunction or fail.





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