



Guitar Setups and Adjustment

Guitars require adjustments on a regular basis to maintain proper playability and performance. A guitar setup is a complete adjustment and calibration of the entire guitar to ensure that it is as playable and as responsive as possible. A setup also includes some basic preventative maintenance and a thorough inspection. Common issues which develop over time, such as fret-buzz, high action, poor intonation and tuning, are all addressed in a setup. Depending on the instrument and the demands of the player, you may have your guitar set up more or less frequently. It is recommended that you have your guitar set up at least twice per year to avoid any permanent damage. Once in the spring when the air has more humidity, and once in the fall when the air becomes drier. A setup is also an opportunity to optimize your guitar for a new string gauge or an alternate tuning. Such changes affect the tension on the guitar and usually require a full setup.



All Guitars purchased at Bob's Music come with a free setup. This is an opportunity to make sure that your new guitar is performing its best, and playing to your satisfaction.

Care and Maintenance

Proper care and maintenance of your guitar will help maintain consistent playability and offer protection from potential damage over time. Regular adjustment and proper storage will assure that you get the best performance out of your guitar every time you play and for years to come.

Handling and Storage



A guitar is a delicate instrument and must be treated with care in order to prevent structural or cosmetic damage. You should always handle your guitar with extreme care; guitars can be easily damaged from impact or rough handling, even when inside of a case. Never store your guitar near a heater or in direct sunlight, and never leave your guitar outside or in the trunk of a car, especially during extreme heat or cold.

A GUITAR IS MORE
THAN JUST A SOUND
BOX, IT IS PART OF
YOUR SOUL. –
MANUEL
VELAZQUEZ

Strings

Guitar strings need to be changed regularly. While some people change their strings every few days, others only do this a few times a year. Strings come in many different varieties, gauges, brands and metal blends that will affect the sound and feel of your guitar. If you have questions, please ask any of our qualified sales associates. We will be more than happy to assist you.



The most important part of owning a guitar is to play as often as possible. Your guitar is made for making music. Be creative and let yourself get in the mindset of expressing your inner rock star!

All of us at Bob's Music Plus will help you navigate the large selection of tuners, capos, slides, straps and effects units available to create the type of sound and style you have been looking to achieve.

It is our job, to help you get the most out of your guitar.

Humidity

Wood will release or absorb moisture from the air around it, causing it to shrink or swell. Prior to a guitar's construction, the wood is dried and seasoned to achieve stable moisture content.

After construction, the wood in the guitar will continue to release or absorb moisture depending on the humidity in the air around it. If the guitar is exposed to a dry environment, it will cause the wood to shrink. If it is exposed to a humid environment the wood will absorb moisture and begin to swell. These changes have implications for the playability and longevity of the guitar.

The ideal conditions for your guitar are between 45%-55% relative humidity. These conditions are the same as those in the factory or workshop where the guitar was built. Keeping the guitar within this range will ensure that the wood will not release or absorb moisture, and will prolong significantly the life of your guitar.



Effects of Humidity

High humidity can cause acoustic guitar tops to swell, resulting in uncomfortably high action; a setup can usually address such issues.

Extremely high humidity can cause glue joints to release, and finishes to distort or peel. High humidity can also cause necks to warp or twist, and metal components to rust and corrode prematurely.



Low humidity may cause sharp fret ends to protrude past the edge of the fingerboard as it shrinks. Acoustic guitar tops will begin to shrink inwards, resulting in low action and fret-buzz. Prolonged exposure to a dry environment will lead to warped necks and loose frets. Severe dryness will cause cracks to form and glue joints to release as the wood shrinks.

Canada's dry winters are to blame for a large portion of the serious performance problems we see in repair shops. It becomes dangerously dry in almost all regions of Canada in the winter. If the relative humidity falls below 45%, you should be taking steps to protect your instrument.

Controlling the Humidity

We highly recommend the use of a hygrometer to monitor the temperature and humidity level that your guitar is being exposed to. A small hygrometer will allow you to make sure that you are not causing undo harm to your guitar. Just about everyone who owns a guitar in Canada will find they have to take special precautions in the winter to combat low humidity. The most effective way to maintain proper humidity in the winter is to keep the guitar in a case or bag and use an instrument humidifier. There are many models of instrument humidifier available which all perform the same basic function. They provide a moisture source inside the sealed environment of your guitar case. When you put your guitar in its case with the humidifier, the dry air will draw moisture from the humidifier, instead of your guitar. It is important for all guitar owners to understand the relationship between their guitar and the environment around it. Exposure to extreme temperature and humidity conditions can cause serious and sometimes irreparable damage.



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