



Acoustic  
Guitar Owner's  
Manual

# Thank You...

---

... for choosing a Guild acoustic guitar, an instrument that will give you many years of pleasure. Please take a few moments to read through this booklet—in it you will find valuable information about care and maintenance for your guitar, and answers to many of your questions.



## Contents

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| When the Craft Matters        | 4  |
| Moisture Content and Humidity | 7  |
| Cracks in the Wood            | 8  |
| Finish Checking               | 8  |
| Neck Resets                   | 8  |
| General Maintenance           | 9  |
| Tuning Machines               | 10 |
| Tuning Six-String Guitars     | 10 |
| Tuning 12-String Guitars      | 13 |
| Changing Strings              | 14 |
| Truss Rod Adjustment          | 16 |
| Action Adjustment             | 17 |
| Travelling With Your Guitar   | 19 |
| Limited Lifetime Warranty     | 20 |
| Servicing Your Guitar         | 23 |





# WHEN THE CRAFT MATTERS

---

## Guild's Commitment to Craftsmanship

---

Musician and instrument retailer Alfred Dronge (1911-1972) founded Guild in New York in 1952. The first guitars from his small workshop were handmade with expensive rare woods, costly lacquers and the thorough attention to detail that could only come from an experienced musician. New York was home to most of the nation's top jazz, studio and touring guitarists, and Dronge and his staff always listened carefully to their suggestions.

The name itself, "Guild," came from the master craft guilds of the Middle Ages, which only the most highly skilled craftsmen were permitted to join. Today's Guild guitars reflect that same devotion to excellence, with fine acoustic instruments that express the highest standards of artistry in wood craftsmanship and guitar making.

Now as always, Guild guitars are fashioned from hand-selected woods chosen by discerning buyers who travel the world in search of them.

Today, Guild guitars are still handmade, and quality, innovation and service are still the paramount goals of the entire Guild staff. Taking extreme pride in every feature of every guitar, Guild and all its artisans are confident that you'll share this pride—in the ownership of your new guitar.





## Moisture Content and Humidity

Because wood is organic and porous, it is affected dimensionally by changes in the amount of moisture it contains. Solid-wood guitars are more susceptible to the effects of changes in humidity than laminated instruments are, and therefore require ongoing attention to their condition.

## Protection From Temperature and Humidity

Indeed, the greatest natural threats to a fine wood guitar are extremes of and rapid changes in temperature and humidity. High humidity can soften the glues used in building an instrument, and can cause the top and back (especially on flat-top and classical guitars) to expand and rise—raising string action too high. Or, if you live in a drier, low-humidity climate (hot or cold) or travel with your guitar to one, evaporation of moisture from the wood can cause shrinking and cracking. This can happen no matter how old the wood is, and string action can become too low if the top and back shrink enough.

The ideal temperature for solid-wood acoustic guitars is in fact normal room temperature, which is about 70 degrees

F (21.1 C). The ideal humidity is about 40 to 50 percent. In winter, the heating systems used in many homes can drive temperatures up and humidity levels dangerously low for guitars. A good way to protect your guitar from drying out is to use a room humidifier.

When an instrument is not in use, it should be kept in its case along with a small guitar humidifier (of which many are available). Do not leave a guitar out for long periods near a heating vent, radiator or other heat source; do not leave it exposed to direct sunlight; and do not leave it in a car for long periods. The general rule is to keep it safe from excessive heat, cold, humidity and dryness.

## Cracks in the Wood

Cracks in the wood are typically caused by changes in temperature and humidity. Although initially alarming, wood cracks are often easily repaired and shouldn't be cause for undue concern if addressed promptly and properly.

If a crack appears on the top of the guitar near the bridge, loosen the strings to reduce tension (which can exacerbate the problem) and have the crack repaired as soon as possible by qualified service personnel.

## Finish Checking

"Finish checking" is a term that refers to fine hairline cracks in an instrument's finish that run in all directions. It usually occurs in winter and is often the result of a cold instrument's sudden exposure to the shock of warmer temperatures.

All the materials that make up a guitar expand and contract with changes in temperature and humidity. Wood expands as it warms, and does so faster than its finish. This is what causes finish checking, and while it doesn't affect an instrument's tone, it does mar its appearance.

Avoid finish checking by avoiding sudden changes in temperature and humidity. When bringing an instrument indoors from cold conditions, leave it in its case and allow sufficient time for it to become acclimated to a warmer temperature before taking it out of the case.

## Neck Resets

Strings exert tremendous tension and pressure on the woods of an acoustic guitar. Over the lifetime of the instrument, in fact, a continuous battle rages between string tension and wood resistance. Over time and under such pressure, the cellulose structure of wood naturally compresses, which can distort the pitch of the neck. Although this is a natural result of an instrument adhering to the laws of physics as it ages, a neck reset is often necessary to correct the problem. It's not a repair you can or should do yourself—a neck reset is a specialized procedure that should only be performed by qualified service personnel.

## General Maintenance

One of the best ways to maintain an instrument is to keep it clean. After each use, clean a guitar by wiping the fingerboard, strings and other parts (tuners, pickguard, etc.) with a soft, dry cloth.

For gloss finishes, use a non-silicone based guitar polish (many are available). For satin finishes, use only a soft, dry polishing cloth. For hand-rubbed finishes, use a soft, slightly damp cloth followed by a dry cloth.

When not playing an instrument, keep it tuned to pitch and in its case. When storing the instrument for long periods, however, slightly loosen (but do *not* remove) the strings to relieve full tension.

Rosewood and ebony fingerboards can dry out and shrink with decreases in their natural oils, leaving rough and exposed fret ends on either side of the fingerboard ("fret sprout"). It's a good idea to periodically rehydrate a dry fingerboard with raw linseed oil, which can help preserve its integrity and natural beauty. After removing the strings, apply the oil to a clean, lint-free cloth and rub it into the wood. Let the oil soak in before wiping away any excess.

Be careful when using guitar straps, stands and wall hangers made with vinyl, plastic, synthetic leather and surgical rubber tubing, as these materials can react adversely with certain instrument finishes.





## Tuning Machines

Guild uses fine open-back and die-cast tuning machines. Open-back tuners are pre-lubricated, but may occasionally require a small drop of light machine oil on the worm gear (wipe off any excess) and an occasional turn of a screwdriver to make sure that the ring gear center screw is snug. Die-cast tuning machines are sealed and require no lubrication.

A small tension-adjustment screw at the end of each tuner button holds the button in place. If the tension is too loose, the tuning machine may slip and go out of tune easily; if it's too tight, the button may become difficult to turn. Make sure that the adjustment is firm, but not too tight.

Acids and oils from the hands can degrade the plating on Guild tuning machines. Wipe the machines with a soft, dry cloth after each use to preserve their appearance and function.

Strings that are improperly secured to tuning machine posts can easily slip and go out of tune. This is commonly misdiagnosed as a problem with the tuners themselves, so check your string installation carefully (see [illustrations 1, 2 and 3 on page 15](#)).

## Tuning Six-String Guitars

There's more than one way to tune a guitar. Electronic chromatic tuners are plentiful, inexpensive and very easy to use. Simply plug in your guitar and tune the strings from low to high as noted on the tuner (E A D G B E).

Always tune *up* to the correct pitch from below instead of down to the correct pitch from above. This helps eliminate string slack and lessens the possibility of string slippage while you're playing.

To tune a guitar using a tuner with an A-440 reference tone, a guitar pitch pipe, an A-440 tuning fork or other pitch reference, tune the second string (A) to pitch accordingly. Then fret the tuned A string at the 5th fret to produce a D, and tune the adjacent open D string to that pitch. Continue in this fashion by fretting the tuned D string at the 5th fret to produce a G and tuning the adjacent open G string to that pitch; then fret the tuned G string at the 4th fret to produce a B and tune the adjacent open B string to that pitch; then fret the tuned B string at the 5th fret to produce an E and tune the adjacent high E string to that pitch. Finally, fret the low E string at the fifth fret and tune it *up* until its pitch matches the adjacent open A string.





## Tuning 12-String Guitars

A 12-string guitar exerts a tremendous amount of tension on its neck, which is why Guild suggests using light-gauge strings.

In standard 12-string tuning, the *second* string in each pair is tuned to standard pitch (E A D G B E) just like a six-string guitar and using the same methods described previously.

For the low E, A, D and G pairs, the *first* string in each pair (the thinner one) is tuned an octave higher than its partner. For the B and high E pairs, the strings are tuned in unison.

The higher tension caused by six additional strings can make fretting notes and chords on a 12-string guitar more difficult for some players. A common remedy for this is to tune the entire instrument to a lower relative pitch, such as E flat or D, which reduces string tension to a more comfortable level. A capo can then be used on the first or second fret to achieve standard pitch. Although this reduces tension on the neck and makes the guitar physically easier to play, it also sacrifices a small amount of tone projection.

Given the high string tension at standard pitch, Guild 12-string guitars should be monitored regularly for neck warping and the need for truss rod adjustments. Ignoring these can result in permanent problems (see [page 16](#)).

## Changing Strings

New strings will breathe new life into your instrument. There's no set rule on how often to change strings, but while many touring professionals change them before every performance, most players don't change strings nearly as often as they should. Guild recommends that the average player change strings at least once a month.

Don't wait until your strings break to change them. Old, worn, oxidized, pitted and dirty strings will not hold pitch, and they simply sound bad. Humidity, oils and acids from the hands, and other contaminants interact with the metals in guitar strings, causing corrosion and breakdown of the materials.

Remove and replace strings one at a time instead of all at once. This prevents sudden and potentially damaging changes in neck tension. Each new string should be tuned *up* to correct pitch before the next one is removed. Always bring a brand-new string up to pitch slowly, as rapid stretching can break it.

The gauge and tension of the strings used on your guitar is critical to its optimal performance.

An inappropriate string can damage the neck and bridge. Guild recommends the following strings for top performance at standard pitch:

### Orchestra Guitars:

Phosphor Bronze, gauges .012 to .053

### Grand Orchestra Guitars:

Phosphor Bronze, gauges .012 to .053

### Concert Guitars:

Phosphor Bronze, gauges .012 to .053

### Dreadnought Guitars:

Phosphor Bronze, gauges .013 to .056

### Jumbo Guitars:

Phosphor Bronze, gauges .013 to .056

### Resonator Guitars:

Phosphor Bronze, gauges .013 to .056

### 12-String Dreadnought and Jumbo Guitars:

Phosphor Bronze 12-String, gauges .010 to .047

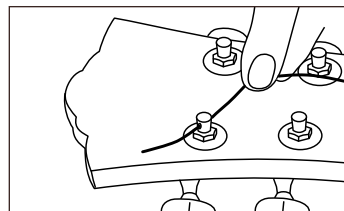
### Four-String Acoustic Bass Guitars:

Phosphor Bronze, gauges .045 to .100



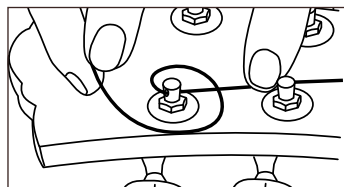
## Re-Stringing

To string a flat-top, remove the old strings by unwinding them from the tuners and pulling out the bridge pins. To install a new string, drop the ball end into the hole in the bridge and re-insert the bridge pin with its groove positioned over the string. Don't hammer the pin into place; a firm push with the thumb is sufficient. Attach the other end of the string to the tuning machine by threading it through the hole in the tuning machine post, running it halfway around the post and then underneath the main length of the string, and then pulling the string end back over the main length (see [illustrations 1, 2 and 3](#)).



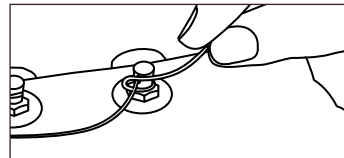
**Illustration 1**

*String is passed through hole near top of string post.*



**Illustration 2**

*String is then wound halfway around post.*



**Illustration 3**

*Prevent string slippage by running the short end halfway around the post, then underneath and back over the main length of the string before tightening.*



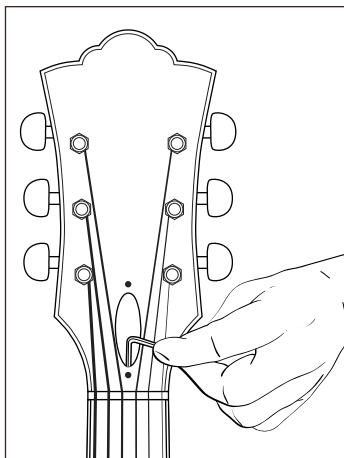
## Truss Rod Adjustment

String tension exerts tremendous bending force on a guitar neck. Environmental conditions such as temperature and humidity can also cause neck bowing. Each Guild guitar has an adjustable truss rod (dual truss rods on 12-string models) running the length of the neck that counteracts this force, strengthens the neck and ensures straightness.

A truss rod that is too loose will result in a concave neck bow and action that is too high; a truss rod that is too tight will result in a convex neck bow, action that is too low and fret buzz.

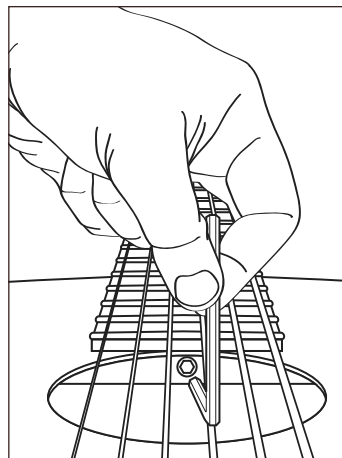
Depending on the model, truss rod adjustments on Guild guitars are made either beneath the truss-rod cover on the headstock or inside the soundhole at the other end of the neck. Both require a 4mm hex wrench. If the adjustment is at the headstock, the truss rod cover must first be removed with a small Phillips screwdriver (see illustration 4).

**Please note: Instruments should remain tuned to pitch during truss rod adjustments.**



**Illustration 4**

*If the neck has an excessive concave bow with high action, tighten the truss rod by turning the wrench clockwise (looking from the headstock down the neck toward the body). If the neck is humped with a convex bow, loosen the truss rod by turning the wrench counterclockwise (looking from the soundhole up the neck toward the headstock). Adjust the rod only a partial turn at a time and allow time for the wood to settle before adjusting again. Sight down the neck after each adjustment and be careful not to over-tighten the truss rod.*



**Illustration 4 (continued)**

*If you meet excessive resistance or prefer **not** to make this adjustment yourself, please take your guitar to an Authorized Guild Service Center.*

## Action Adjustment

String height and tension typically determine the ease with which strings can be fretted. This description of playability is called the “action” and is characterized by the distance between the strings and the frets.

Depending on your technique or playing style, high action can sometimes make a guitar difficult to play, whereas low action can cause string buzz. On flat-top and classical guitars, action adjustments are often delicate procedures that should be performed only by qualified service personnel. In these adjustments, lowering the action requires removing the bridge saddle, cutting it down to the appropriate height and re-installing it; raising the action involves removing the saddle and replacing it with a higher one.



## Traveling With Your Guitar

Guild acoustic guitars are made with the highest-quality materials and craftsmanship, and deserve only the best protection. To provide this protection, a Guild guitar case designed and fitted exclusively for your guitar is recommended. Keep your guitar in its case when not playing it.

When traveling, carry your instrument in a hard-shell case at all times for protection. During air travel, guitars are often exposed to dramatic changes in temperature and pressure. To help prevent possible damage, de-tune the strings approximately one whole step so that the tension on the top and neck is reduced. Guild offers a variety of standard and deluxe cases for most guitar models; please contact your local Guild dealer for more information or to place an order. When ordering a Guild case, please specify the exact guitar model.

## Limited Lifetime Warranty

### GUILD® INSTRUMENT LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY

Cordoba Music Group (“CMG”) warrants this Guild instrument to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for as long as it is owned by the original retail purchaser, except that pickups, switches, jacks, controls, all other electronic components, tuning machines, hardware, pickguards, plated surfaces, cases and case hardware are warranted for a period of one (1) year from the date of original purchase. This warranty applies only to the original retail purchaser when this instrument is purchased from an Authorized Guild Dealer and is subject to the limitations set forth herein. **IMPORTANT: PLEASE RETAIN YOUR ORIGINAL SALES RECEIPT, AS IT IS YOUR PROOF OF PURCHASE VALIDATING THIS LIMITED WARRANTY.**

CMG has established a network of independent Authorized Service Centers for warranty service. The Guild Dealer from whom you purchased your instrument may also be authorized for warranty service and should be the first point of contact when service of any kind is required

for your Guild instrument. To receive warranty service, return the complete instrument to an Authorized CMG Service Center, with your sales receipt as proof of purchase, during the applicable warranty period.

Defective components that qualify for coverage under this warranty will be repaired or replaced (at CMG’s discretion) without charge. Remedies beyond normal service repair of any Guild instrument require both an evaluation and confirmation of the defect and a direct recommendation to CMG from an Authorized CMG Service Center for alternative considerations.

All transportation, insurance and freight charges associated with warranty service and repairs on Guild instruments are the responsibility of the purchaser, as is any service initiated for the purpose of customizing setups or adjustments beyond factory specifications. Initial standard setup and adjustment of the instrument and its components at the time of purchase are considered normal Dealer product preparation, and are not covered by this warranty.

## Limitations and Exclusions

The following items are not covered by this warranty:

1. Fret wear, saddle wear, nut wear, strings and batteries.
2. Setups, adjustments or routine maintenance of any kind.
3. Damage to finishes or cracks, splitting, or warpage of wood due to changes in temperature or humidity, exposure to or contact with sun, fire, moisture, perspiration, body salts and acids, guitar straps, guitar stands/hangers made from vinyl, plastic, rubber or other synthetic materials, any other chemicals or non-CMG-approved polishes.
4. Damage, corrosion or rusting of any hardware components caused by humidity, salty air, or exposure to the moisture, body salts and acids of perspiration.
5. Any damage to an instrument resulting from customization or modification.
6. Normal wear and tear on any part of the instrument or case including jacks, controls, switches, plated surfaces, tuning machines, pickguards, handles, latches, case hardware, etc.
7. All other damage and deterioration due to normal usage, wear and tear,

aging, accidents, neglect, abuse, or Acts of Nature.

8. Any instrument, whose serial number is missing, altered or tampered with in any fashion.
9. Any instrument purchased from anyone other than an Authorized Guild® Dealer.
10. Instruments that have been serviced by unauthorized persons (any person other than a CMG Certified Technician at an Authorized CMG Service Center).

**THE FOREGOING CONSTITUTES THE ONLY WARRANTY MADE BY CMG WITH RESPECT TO THE PRODUCTS AND IS MADE EXPRESSLY IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES EXPRESS OR IMPLIED.** Any implied warranties, including without limitation, any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for any particular purpose, imposed under state law are limited to the duration of this limited warranty. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitations may not be applicable to you.

**CMG ASSUMES NO LIABILITY FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE RESULTING FROM FAILURE OF THIS PRODUCT NOR ANY LOSS OF INCOME, SATISFACTION, OR DAMAGES ARISING FROM THE LOSS OF USE OF SAME DUE TO DEFECTS OR AVAILABILITY OF SAME DURING SERVICE.**

NOTE: This warranty applies only to Guild instruments purchased and serviced within the U.S.A. and Canada. Warranties outside these countries are as defined by the authorized CMG/Guild Distributor for your country or region, and may vary from the above in terms and/or length.

GUILD GUITARS  
1455 19th St.  
Santa Monica, CA 90404 USA  
Phone: +1 310-586-1180  
[www.guildguitars.com](http://www.guildguitars.com)

We cannot guarantee top performance of your instrument if strings other than Guild, or their equivalent, are used.



## Servicing Your Guitar

New guitars typically have a settling-in period during which adjustments may be necessary. Many experienced guitar players have learned to make their own truss rod or action adjustments. If you prefer not to make these adjustments to your new guitar yourself, bring the instrument to your nearest Guild dealer or Authorized Guild Service Center for inspection and, if necessary, adjustments. This precaution should identify and prevent potential neck damage. If major service is required, please contact your local Authorized Guild Service Center.

*To locate Authorized Guild Service Centers, please contact your Guild dealer, visit the Guild website ([www.guildguitars.com](http://www.guildguitars.com)) or contact the Guild Consumer Relations Department at 1-800-586-1180 or [customerservice@guildguitars.com](mailto:customerservice@guildguitars.com).*

*For other support documentation, visit the "Support" page of the Guild website at [www.guildguitars.com/support](http://www.guildguitars.com/support).*







©2014  
GUILD GUITARS  
1455 19th St.  
Santa Monica, CA 90404 USA