



Electric Bass and Guitar Care Guide

Instrument sold by Professor Nigel's are typically setup for standard tuning and medium action prior to shipping. However, due to climate differences, the setup may not remain the same upon arrival at the shipping destination. Additionally, the setup may not match your individual preferences and playing style. In either case, the basic principles below are a quick guide to make minor adjustments to ensure the instrument plays optimally after arrival.

DISCLAIMER: *If you are not familiar with making setup and intonation adjustments to guitars and basses, do not have the correct tools or workspace, or do not feel comfortable performing instrument repairs and adjustments, do not attempt to adjust your instrument. This guide is not intended to be a replacement for a qualified guitar or bass technician, and we are not responsible for any damage to your instrument because of misuse, improper care, cleaning, setup, repair or maintenance work. Additionally, it does not cover specifics for individual models of instruments or bridge types. **All adjustments made or work performed after arrival at the shipping destination are made at your own risk. Please take your instrument to a qualified technician to ensure optimal care and setup.***

All instruments are shipped detuned to ensure no unnecessary strain is placed on the neck. Carefully unpack the instrument and allow the instrument to acclimatize up to 24 hours in normal room temperature conditions before tuning. If any unpleasant string buzzing occurs after the instrument is acclimatized, or if the setup needs to be adjusted to match your preferences, follow the quick steps below.

For more information about identifying indicators setup adjust are needed, please visit <https://professornigels.com/time-to-setup-guitar/>



General Care

Avoid direct heat, extreme temperature fluctuations, and extreme cold/hot temperatures and humidity/moisture as this can adversely impact the condition of the neck. For this guide, normal room temperature is roughly 65-80 degrees Fahrenheit (15-27 Celsius). Any time you travel to a different climate with your instrument you should double-check the setup, intonation and all instrument functions.

Cleaning

Regular cleaning of your instrument will prolong its lifespan. If possible, wipe down your instrument with a dry, clean microfiber cloth after each use. We recommend a very plush, **clean** microfiber cloth for general cleaning of the body, headstock, and back of the neck to prevent scratches. A standard microfiber cloth is slightly more abrasive and works well for cleaning the fingerboard and metal hardware. A gentle spray polish for guitars may be used for deeper cleaning of polyurethane finishes. We recommend Music Nomad or Dunlop cleaning products as they work well and are readily available. Clean and condition your fretboard when you change your strings, during dry seasons, or every few months depending on your local climate. For rosewood, ebony or other open pore fingerboards, apply a small amount of orange oil, lemon oil, or beeswax. Please observe the condition of the wood and read the instructions for each product carefully before use. Unlike open pore fingerboards, maple fingerboard products have a thin coating on the fingerboard surface. Apply a light coat of lemon oil, which has a relatively low viscosity, to the fingerboard to remove stains.

Bacchus (or other brand) Oil finish instruments

Bacchus recommends dry cleaning for the oil finish that is used on many of the Bacchus Woodline series and other Bacchus products. We recommend a very plush, dry and clean microfiber cloth for cleaning oil finish bodies. Ensure there is no residual cleaning product on the cloth from cleaning other instruments. Please avoid using polish, cleaners or similar products as it may cause a strong gloss to appear only on the area where it was applied, or otherwise discolor or disfigure the oil finish. For stubborn stains, wipe with the same cloth lightly dampened with water and dry with a second dry cloth. Ensure the instrument is completely dry prior to storage.

Lacquer finish instruments

As with oil finishes, clean, dry plush microfiber towel by itself usually is sufficient for cleaning the surface. You can also make the microfiber slightly damp with water to wipe off more stubborn spots and then dry with a second dry plush microfiber towel. Just make sure the instrument is completely dry before storage. If you want to use a product for deeper cleaning and protection, use a polish that is compatible with lacquer finishes. Depending on the condition of the body of the product, or for older instruments, the paint and finish may change over time or after using polish products. Test the product in an inconspicuous place before use.



When using a guitar stand that contains rubber material, the parts of the head and body that contact the rubber may react with the lacquer and alter the finish. Please take appropriate measures such as placing a soft, dry cloth between the rubber and the contact area.

Truss Rod Adjustment

We recommend detuning your instrument slightly prior to adjusting the truss rod, then tune again prior to testing. If you want more relief, or if buzzing occurs on the lower frets (nearer the nut), turn the truss rod adjustment no more than 1/8 turn to the left (counterclockwise) and try again. This adjustment increases relief to the neck, allowing the neck to bow forward slightly.

If you want less relief, or buzzing occurs on the upper frets, turn the truss rod no more than 1/8 turn to the right (clockwise) and try again. This adjustment decreases relief, flattening the neck or removing forward bow. Be aware that too much adjustment in this direction will eventually cause unpleasant lower fret buzzing from the neck being too flat or having a backward bow.

Note: *Instruments with vintage style truss rods, such as Fender Traditional series instruments, require removal of the neck to access and adjust the truss rod. We strongly recommend taking these instruments to an experienced technician for adjustment.*

WARNING: Too much adjustment in either direction will cause permanent damage to the truss rod and/or neck. If the truss rod is at all difficult to adjust, or if small adjustments do not achieve the results you are seeking, take the instrument to a qualified technician for diagnosis.

Bridge Adjustment

You may also want to raise or lower the saddles on the bridge to adjust string height depending on your personal preference. All instruments shipped by Professor Nigel's have string height set to match the radius of the instrument's fingerboard. Appropriate bridge adjustment varies by type of bridge and is beyond the scope of this quick guide. However, string height on most bridges should be able to be adjusted using a small allen key. As with the truss rod, make very small (1/4 to 1/2 turn adjustments), check tuning and try again. Please note that large adjustments to bridge saddle positioning will negatively impact intonation and string height relative to fretboard radius and pickup magnets. There are many inexpensive tools available to check string height, match the strings to fingerboard radius, and set pickup height relative to string height. As always, if you don't understand or feel comfortable making these adjustments, take your instrument to a qualified technician.