



Sage GUITARS

Maintenance Instructions



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Maintenance Instructions

Congratulations on your Sage bass purchase. You have just purchased one of the finest hand made instruments in the world. Every component on your bass has been hand selected from the finest materials available. No corners are cut. No detail are left unnoticed. We thank you for your patronage and wish you many years of enjoyment.

The purpose of this manual is to give you the basic know-how of your bass's functions and adjustments. If you are uncomfortable doing any periodic adjustments on your instrument we highly recommend taking the bass to a reputable service technician in your area. If your dealer does not offer these services ask for a referral.

Sage basses come set-up and intonated with either .045 – .105 (4 string), .045 – .125 (5 string), or .030 – .125 (6 string) string sets custom wound for us by the SIT String Company. Changing to another string gauge can change neck tension, possibly requiring a truss-rod adjustment.

Set-Up Specifications

Pickup Height

Measured from top of pickup to underside of string, while depressing string at last fret.

- 1/8" bass side
- 3/32" treble side

String Height

Measured from top of 17th fret to underside of each string.

- 3/32" each string (plus or minus 1/64")

Neck Relief

Measured from top of 7th fret to underside of lowest string with first and last frets depressed.

- 0.14" (use feeler gauge)

Nut Action

Measured from top of 1st fret to underside of each string.

- 0.20" (use feeler gauge)

Truss Rod Adjustment

At the heart of any bass neck lies the the truss rod. It reacts to the tension of the strings pull. Our truss rods are accessible at the end of the fingerboard just beyond the 24th fret. There are two main reasons a neck needs a truss rod adjustment. In most cases it's either because the instrument is buzzing when played in the first position (too much back-bow), or the action of the neck seems really high and uncomfortable (too much forward-bow). In the case of Back-Bow place the Allen wrench into the adjustment nut and turn the rod counter clockwise a 1/8th of a turn until the action is the proper spec. In the case of Forward-Bow place the Allen wrench into the adjustment nut and turn the rod clockwise a 1/8th of a turn until the action is the proper spec. This is a delicate operation and needs to be handled with care; improper adjustment or abuse can void your warranty.

Intonation

Intonation is the process of keeping the proper pitch throughout the neck. This is adjusted at the bridge by the Phillips screws that allow the saddles to travel lengthwise. To check intonation tune the bass up to pitch with a good quality tuner, read that the root note is perfect, then fret the 12th fret and see if the octave is in tune. If the octave is perfect you're all set. If the octave reads flat you need to turn the saddle screw counter clockwise moving the saddle closer to the nut. If the octave reads sharp you need to turn the saddle screw clockwise moving the saddle further from the nut. Taking the time to check your intonation makes sure all notes are in balance across the entire neck.

Electronics

Sage basses have a few knob layouts depending on model.

Standard, Long Horn, Single Cutaway, and Wedge

basses usually feature 4 knob locations:

- **2-Band EQ** – Volume, Volume, Treble, Bass
- **3-Band EQ** – Volume, Volume, Treble, Mid/Bass (stacked dual concentric knob, Mid on top, Bass on bottom)

*Optional active/passive switch may be present.

Utilitarian Basses feature 4 or 5 knob locations plus active/passive switch:

- **2-Band EQ** – Vol, Blend, Treble, Bass
- **3-Band EQ** – Vol, Blend, Treble, Mid, Bass

Sage basses feature 9 volt or 18 volt electronics. Always remember to unplug your bass in between playing sessions. Leaving your bass plugged in while not in use will drain power from your 9-volt or 18 volt battery supply, thus reducing it's lifespan.

Cleaning and Oiling

With proper care your bass can look as good as it sounds for many years. Sage employs three basic styles of finishes: Gloss Lacquer, Satin Lacquer, and Polymerized Oil. Each of these finishes requires a slightly different cleaning procedure.

Our gloss finish will stay clean and glowing with a polishing rag and a good quality guitar polish (we use Dunlop 65).

For our satin finish a lint free cotton cloth is fine to wipe off residue, if you have excessive build up dampen the rag lightly with water, or Naphtha, less is more here, the less rubbing you do on any satin finish the happier the finish is.

Our Polymerized Oil finish is a very durable, very thin finish for those who don't enjoy the vibe of a lacquer finish. Maintenance is simple. Keep residue off the bass by wiping it down on a regular basis with a clean cotton rag, if you have excessive build up, dampen the rag lightly with water and wipe dry immediately. Once or twice a year, we recommend applying a light coat of a paste wax to the oil finish to keep it from drying out. Any good quality paste wax will do. Think furniture quality, not automotive, which can contain silicone (we use Williamsville Wax which is a formula of beeswax, lemon oil and other natural oils). Lightly wipe on, then wipe all excess off. A good time to do this is during a string change.

Fingerboard maintenance is important and often overlooked by many players. If you have a Maple fingerboard it has a film lacquer coating to prevent corrosion, follow the above-mentioned procedures for gloss or satin lacquers. Non-Maple fingerboard maintenance is quite simple, remove the strings, wipe the fingerboard off with a clean cloth or paper towel, if residue is present use a rag lightly dampened with Naphtha to wipe away buildup. If frets look dull or covered with residue use a piece of 0000 steel wool or Gray Scotch Brite going lengthwise with fingerboard to polish them, keeping in mind not to make contact with body/neck finish. Finally, wipe a light coat of Danish or Lemon oil (we use Watco Natural) on the fingerboard to feed the wood, wipe off completely until no trace of shine is left.

Always make sure to dispose of any oil or solvent coated rags properly. Safety first.

In Closing

If you have questions about anything mentioned in this maintenance manual please feel free to contact us at:

info@sageguitars.com or **(860)-983-6013**

*We are truly grateful you chose a Sage to represent your musical talent. **Thank you.***



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