

THE BAND ROOM

STUDENT INSTRUMENT CARE CHECKLIST



1. Regular Maintenance

- Keep guitars out of direct sunlight and away from heat sources.
- Try to maintain a constant room temperature between 66- 77°F and humidity level between 40-50%.
- Place guitars on stands with a neck support and a rubber retainer.
- Keep guitars in tune and at a concert pitch of A440Hz to maintain the correct string tension on the guitar neck, bridge and top.
- Replace broken or rusty strings immediately and trim excess string lengths at the tuning peg with wire clippers.
- Use string cleaner before and after classroom lessons and practice sessions to prolong string life and for smooth articulation.
- Use a proprietary guitar polish or household furniture polish and a soft, lint-free cloth to remove dust, sweat and greasy fingerprints from the back of the neck, body, top and headstock.

2. Quarterly Maintenance

- Restring guitars with a full set of new coated strings. Stretch the strings and tune to concert pitch.
- Place guitars in their cases with a Humidipak sachet. Let the guitars sit in the case for a few days to reduce, increase or maintain the correct humidity levels.
- Inspect guitars for cracks or disfiguration, such as swelling on the top, back and sides.
- Sight down the neck from the headstock and ascertain if the neck relief is within playable parameters.
- Tune the guitars and check the intonation using open chord voicings and fret each of the six strings at the twelfth fret (one octave higher).

3. Semi-Annual / Annual Maintenance

- Remove old strings and clean the fretboard with furniture polish or a dedicated guitar polish.
- Apply a fretboard conditioner or lemon oil to the fretboard and let it soak in. Remove excess conditioner or oil with a soft, lint-free cloth.
- Restring the guitar and check that all the strings are holding their pitch. If any of the strings get caught in the nut, have a luthier re-cut the nut slots.
- Check the neck relief for a minimal concave neck bow. Adjust the neck relief using the supplied Allen wrench; clockwise reduces a concave bow and counter-clockwise will reduce a convex bowed neck. Use careful quarter turns at a time and re-check until set.
- Place guitars in their cases and re-balance the humidity levels.