

PAY LESS, PLAY MORE

STRATOCASTER

DIY Electric Guitar User Manual



www.tostarmusic.com



support@tostarmusic.com



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BRAND OVERVIEW

Bring Music Closer, Make Dreams Within Reach.

In the world of music, every note carries passion and possibility. Yet for many students and independent creators just starting out, professional-grade equipment can feel out of reach—melodies live in their hearts, but reality makes the dream feel distant. Tostar was born from a simple belief:

Let Every Musical Dream Be Heard.

Our Beginning | Making Good Sound More Accessible.

Tostar's humble mission has always been clear: Create instruments and gear that ordinary people can afford, rely on, and enjoy.

We understand: Beginners need equipment that is durable, comfortable, and high in value. Independent musicians need tools that are stable and ready for constant creation. And everyone chasing a dream deserves to be embraced by music.

So we chose to build a brand that stays truly close to its users.

In 2021, a group of young luthiers and acoustic engineers came together in a small workshop. There, they tested body structures again and again, fine-tuned pickup systems, and discussed what beginners actually need. That year, Tostar released its first products. They weren't “master-crafted showpieces,” but they were clean in tone, durable, and comfortable to play—and that was enough for our beginning.

As more beginners and street musicians started choosing Tostar, we began to rethink how we could help even more people stay on their creative path. We introduced stricter production standards and validated every detail—from body shaping to acoustic tuning—so that every product delivered both reliability and great sound.

Craftsmanship | Making sound reliable is our most sincere obsession.

At Tostar, we follow a path that is simple but far from easy: Make every product reliable enough to grow with real musicians.

Our craftsmanship isn't the romanticized “master workshop” narrative. It's the work of ordinary but dedicated craftsmen and acoustic engineers—people who learn through trial and error, and who deeply understand how real musicians use their instruments.

Every instrument undergoes repeated acoustic testing. Every cut, contour, and sanding pass follows strict standards. Every product is designed to be easy for beginners to handle. Every pickup system is built to be stable, natural, and effortless to use.

We believe that sound shaped with care is the sound that truly supports creation. This reliability isn't for marketing, it's for the moments you practice, record, or perform and simply want your gear to have your back.

Our Vision | Helping More People Believe Their Dreams Are Possible.

Tostar's vision is simple: Bring music closer to every ordinary person.

We hope to: Help beginners take their first step, knowing they can afford gear that feels right. Give independent creators tools they can trust, whether they're in a dorm room, on the street, or on stage. Make practice easier and less frustrating, with instruments that feel smooth, durable, and easy to adjust.

Ensure that every musical dream has the chance to be heard.

Tostar has no interest in becoming a distant, untouchable "big brand". We aim to be a long-term companion, supporting your practice, your creativity, and your growth. In the future, we will continue to: Refine our product experience. Expand a more complete ecosystem of musical gear. Build a more open and welcoming music community. Support more voices and ideas from everyday creators.

Because we believe the future of music doesn't belong only to those standing in the spotlight. It belongs to every person who loves music. Great music doesn't require the most expensive equipment, but it always comes from the most genuine passion. And Tostar will be here, supporting that passion every step of the way.

AFTER-SALES SERVICE

100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEE

We want every customer to be 100% satisfied.

If you experience any issue with your product, please contact us first — we promise to take care of it for you.

How to contact us through your order page

1. Go to your Order List
2. Find the order for this product
3. You may see one of the following options:

- "Contact Seller"

Tap this option;

Follow the prompts on the screen;

Continue selecting options until you reach the text input box.

- "View Order Details"

Enter this page and look for options such as: "Ask a question"/"Ask product question"/"Help with product";

Follow the prompts until you reach the text input box.

4. When you see a text input box with the following grey text under it:

"Please limit your text to less than 4000 characters and your total attachments size to less than 10 MB. For your security, do not include any personal information including email addresses, physical addresses, phone numbers or credit card numbers in your message."

This means you can now send your message directly to the seller.

TIPS

To help us assist you faster, please include:

1. Order number;
2. Brief description of the issue;
3. Photos or video (if applicable).

OUR PROMISE

We will do everything we can to resolve your concern — replacement, refund, parts support, or guidance — guaranteed.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to assist you!

WARNINGS, CAUTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Warnings:

- Do not expose the guitar to water, rain, or any liquid.
- Avoid extreme temperatures or sudden temperature changes to prevent wood cracking.
- Do not disassemble or modify the internal electronics; this may lead to electric shock or equipment damage.
- Do not plug or unplug cables while the amplifier is powered on to avoid electrical damage.
- Do not use alcohol, solvents, or abrasive cleaners on the finish.
- Avoid strong impacts or dropping the guitar to prevent structural damage.
- Children should use the guitar under adult supervision.

- Only use certified amplifiers and power supplies to prevent fire or electrical hazards.
- DIY guitar assembly and adjustments require professional knowledge. Please carefully review the installation steps in the manual before installation. It is not recommended for untrained users to handle internal components and circuits.

Cautions:

- Metal strings may cause minor cuts; handle with care when assembling or adjusting.
- Avoid exposing hardware and internal components to sweat or moisture to prevent rust and corrosion.
- Always store the guitar in its case or gig bag when not in use to protect the body and electronics.
- Adjusting the truss rod should only be done by qualified personnel, as improper handling can damage the neck.
- Replace worn or oxidized strings promptly to avoid breakage and ensure good tone quality.
- Lower the amplifier volume before powering on or off to avoid damaging speakers or internal components.

Recommend Operations:

First-Time Use:

- Inspect the guitar body and components for loose parts or damage before assembly.
- Ensure the guitar is tuned to standard tuning (E A D G B E) after assembly or string replacement.
- Gently stretch new strings to stabilize tuning and ensure proper fit.
- Test the sound at low amplifier volume before playing at higher levels.

During Use:

- Handle knobs, switches, and controls gently to avoid damage to the guitar body and electronics.

- Wipe down the strings and fingerboard after each session to maintain cleanliness and avoid dirt buildup.
- Ensure cables are fully inserted into the guitar and amplifier to prevent noise or electrical issues.

Maintenance:

- Replace strings every 1–2 months, depending on usage and wear, to maintain tone quality.
- If the fingerboard or guitar body appears dry or dirty, use a small amount of lemon oil to clean and refresh it.
- Store the guitar in a stable environment, ideally between 20–25°C (68–77°F) and 45–55% humidity, to prevent warping or cracking.
- Loosen the strings slightly when storing the guitar for long periods to reduce tension on the neck and body.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

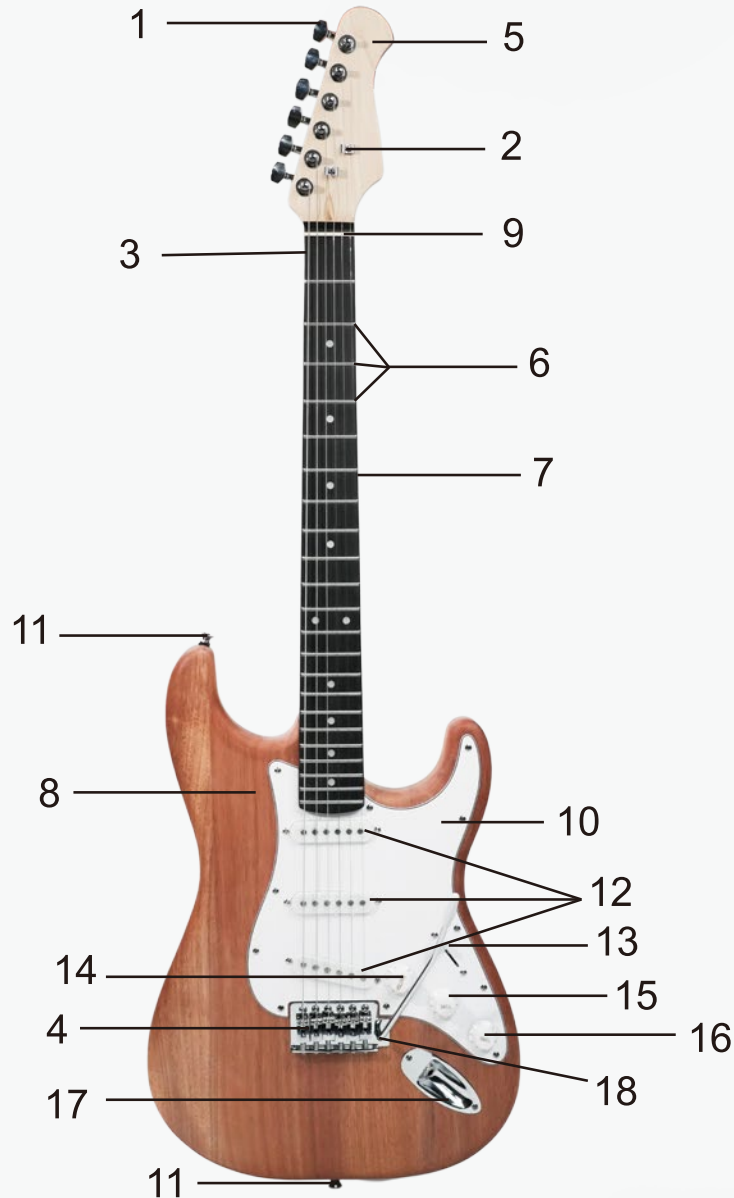
After opening the packaging, check the following core components one by one to confirm that they are not missing, damaged (such as cracking, deformation, paint peeling), or loose during transportation. If you encounter missing or damaged accessories when receiving the shipment, please contact our team for after-sales service in a timely manner.



Installation Tool List:

Before installing the guitar body, please prepare the following tools:

- Philip screwdriver
- Rubber hammer
- Socket wrench
- Vise
- Sandpaper
- Paint and accessories

ELECTRIC GUITAR ANATOMY

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Tuning Knobs | 10. Pickguard |
| 2. String retainer | 11. Shoulder Strap Buckle |
| 3. Strings | 12. Pickups |
| 4. Bridge | 13. Selector Switch |
| 5. Headstock | 14. Volume Knob |
| 6. Frets | 15. Tone Knob 1 (Neck/Middle Pickup) |
| 7. Neck | 16. Tone Knob 2 (Bridge Pickup) |
| 8. Body | 17. Output Jack |
| 9. Nut | 18. Tremolo |

TUTORIAL 1: INSTALLATION

1. Paint and color the body and neck of the instrument

The solid wood guitar body and neck is sealed and can be painted or polished if needed. Suitable paints and coatings can be obtained from DIY, woodworking, or automotive suppliers.

Before painting, check the connection between the body and neck of the guitar. Due to wood being a natural material, slight size changes may occur over time. If the fit is too tight, sandpaper can be used to polish and adjust it.

Attention: After applying paint or varnish, the neck joint may become tighter.

Before painting:

- Please wear a mask and pay attention to protection during the painting process
- Ensure that all surfaces are clean, dry, and free of dust or contaminants.
- Paint in a well ventilated, clean and dust-free environment.
- Suggest testing the selected color and painting method on a piece of waste wood first.

Painting process:

- Starting from the edge, apply a thin and even coat of paint.
- Before applying the next layer, let each layer dry.
- Apply multiple layers (usually three or more) to achieve completely uniform coverage.

Surface correction:

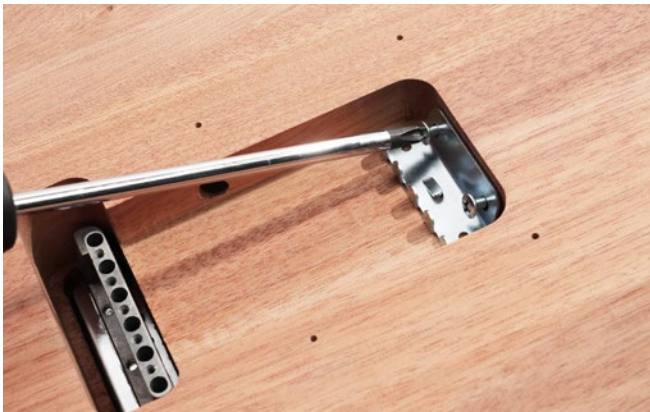
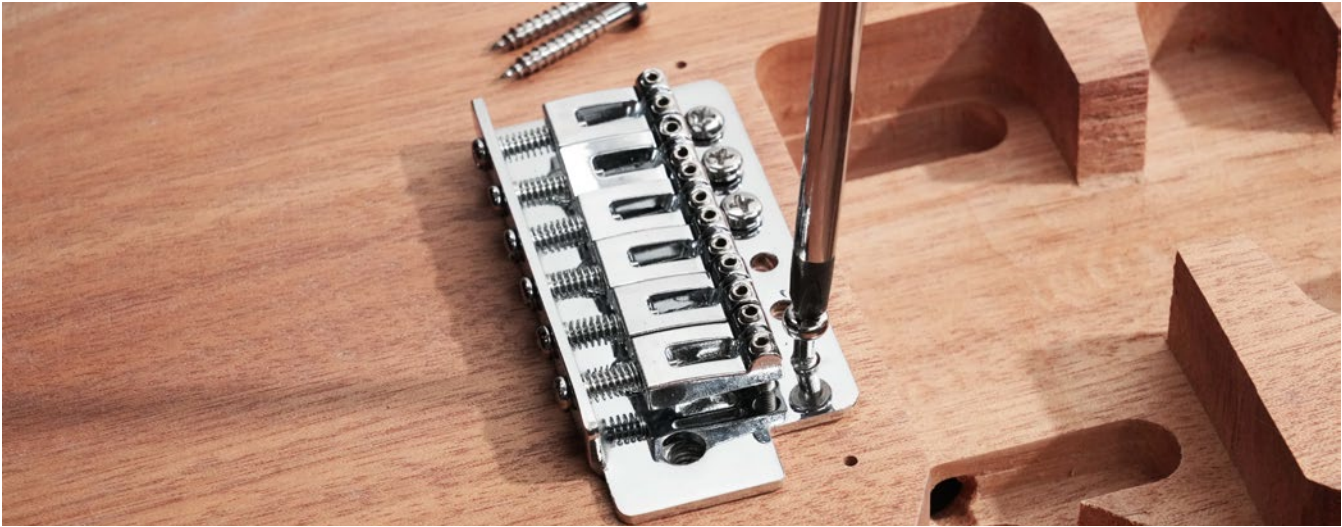
- If the surface is uneven, let the paint completely dry.
- Before continuing, gently sand with fine sandpaper (800 grit or higher).

After completion:

- Let the paint cure for 2-3 days.
- Gently polish or polish the surface to achieve the desired smoothness.
- Avoid excessive polishing as it may damage the paint layer.

2. Install guitar bridge

Place the guitar body on a flat surface. Place a soft pad on the surface to prevent damage to the guitar body and the surface. As shown in the picture, place the bridge into the groove on the guitar body, ensuring that the bridge is centered in the hole and aligned with the pre-drilled screw holes. Secure the bridge using the provided screws.



Then, turn the instrument over and screw the spring claw into the pre-drilled screw hole at the cut on the back of the body.

Connect the two ends of the provided spring to the spring claw and the bridge respectively, using diagonal pliers to connect them.

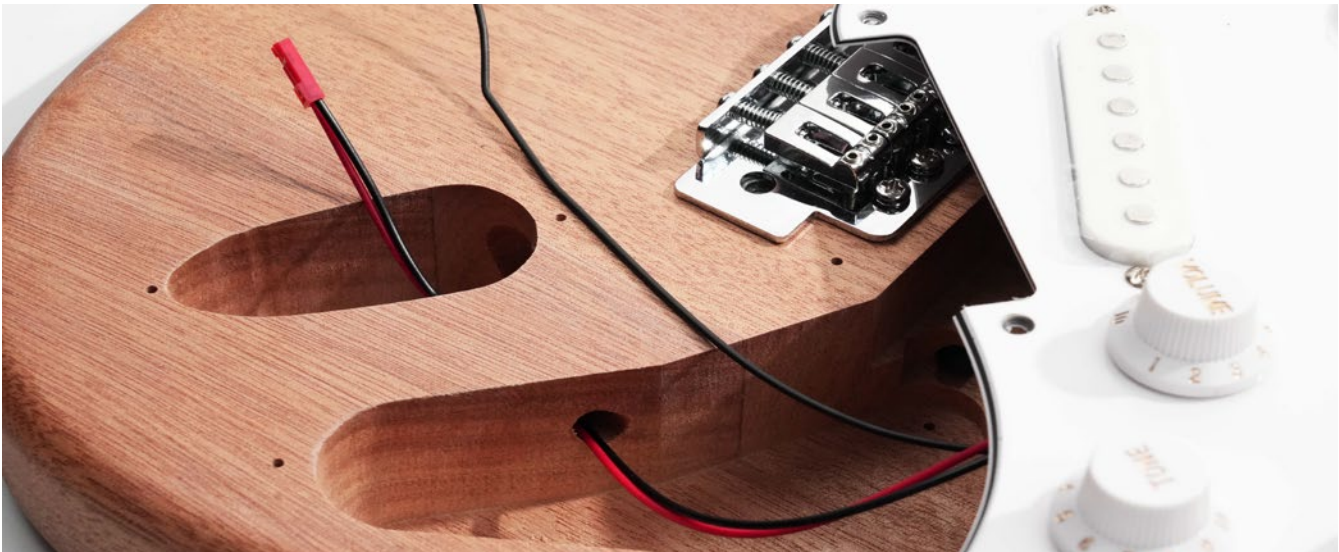
Be careful during operation to avoid accidental injury.



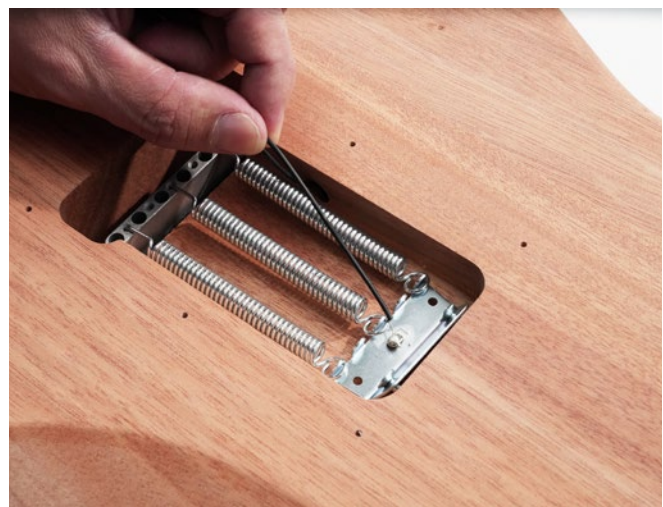
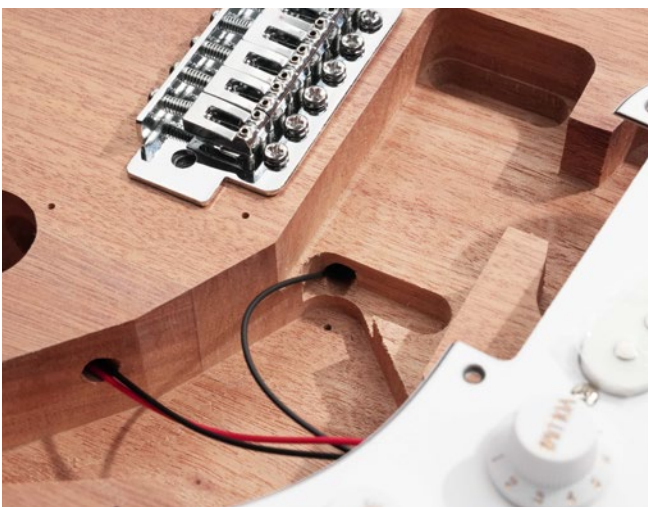
3. Install potentiometers, pickups

The potentiometer, pickups and switch are pre-mounted on the protective panel; simply connect them to the output jack and ground. The pickups, potentiometer, and jack are connected to the output jack via connectors.

As shown in the diagram, thread the cable connector through the groove to the groove of the output jack.



Pass the grounding cable (with the insulation removed and without the connector) through the groove at the back opening and onto the spring claw.



4. Install pickguard and output jack socket

As shown in the picture, place the pickguard on the front of the guitar body, ensuring that the pickups and all cables are in the correct recesses. Secure the pickguard to the guitar body using the provided screws.



Connect the pickup and potentiometer connectors to the output jack connectors, mount the output jack to the guitar body, and secure it to the body using the provided screws.



After verifying that all connections are complete, flip the guitar over to the back, cover the grooves with the provided plastic cover, and secure it with screws.



5. Installing Tuning Knobs and String Retainers

Tuning Knob Components

As shown in the diagram, six tuning knobs (the tuning components on the headstock of the electric guitar) are fixed to the headstock and are responsible for adjusting the tension of the strings to control the pitch. During installation, use a screwdriver to secure the screws of the tuning knobs, ensuring they are firmly inserted into the corresponding holes.



Following the diagram, install the washers and nuts provided in the installation package, then use a suitable wrench to tighten the nuts.



String Holder Section

As shown in the picture, use screws to install the two string holders next to the headstock tuning pegs on the guitar. Align the higher holder with the hole closest to the bridge.



6. Install the neck

Place the body on a stable, flat surface and use a protective pad to prevent surface abrasion and damage. Carefully insert the neck into the neck slot. If necessary, you can use fine sandpaper to smooth the neck for adjustment, but the cut should not be too loose.



Turn the electric guitar over, insert the neck joint plate into the four screw holes on the back, align the holes, and then use the provided screwdriver to tighten and secure the neck plate and neck.

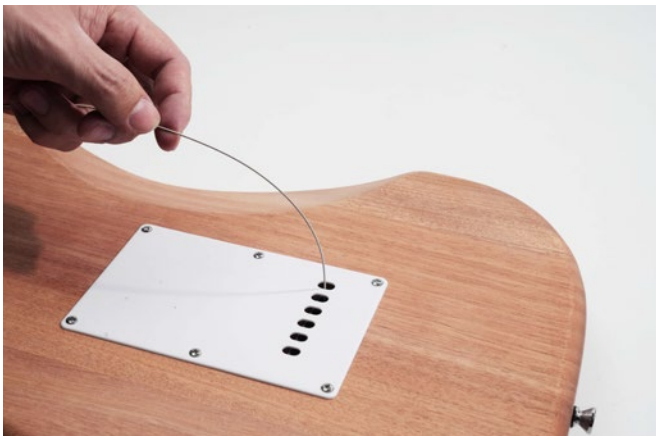
7. Installing the shoulder strap button

As shown in the diagram, install and secure the strap button into the holes at the top and bottom.



8. Install the strings

When installing the strings, pass them through the plastic cover from the back of the instrument and through the bridge saddle corresponding to each string.



Wrap the end of each string several times around the tuner, then adjust the tension of each string using the string knob.

After adjusting all the strings, trim any excess length as needed.



9. Adjust the curvature of the neck and the position of the strings

Adjusting the neck relief

The neck is equipped with a steel truss rod, which can adjust neck decompression according to your preferences.

Use a suitable Allen wrench for adjustment:

- Clockwise rotation (increases tension):
The neck becomes straighter and the strings are closer to the fingerboard. This makes the guitar easier to play, but may increase the hum of the tambourine.
- Rotate counterclockwise (reduce tension):
Relax the neck and keep the strings further away from the fingerboard. This may require more finger pressure, but it can help reduce or eliminate restless buzzing sounds.

Adjustment Guide:

During each adjustment, the hexagonal wrench should not rotate more than 1/4 turn. Adjust the string to the correct pitch and check the curvature of the neck after a certain period of time. Repeat this process until the desired neck curvature is reached.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Do not force Allen wrench or make a major adjustment at once, as this may cause permanent damage to the neck.



After adjusting the neck to the desired curvature, you can adjust the string height by adjusting the screws on the bridge saddle.

Please note that lower strings are easier to press, but also more likely to produce unwanted noise during playing.



After adjusting the string position, check the guitar's intonation and readjust if necessary. First, tune all strings to the correct pitch. Lightly touch the string directly above the 12th fret and pluck it to produce the harmonic. The harmonic note at the 12th fret should be the same pitch as the fretted note played at the 12th fret.

If the two notes do not match, adjust the saddle position on the bridge:

- Move the saddle back if the fretted note is too high.
- Move the saddle forward if the fretted note is too low.

Make small adjustments and recheck until both notes match exactly.

Alternatively, you can use an electronic tuner to set the intonation. In this case, the fretted note at the 12th fret should be exactly one octave higher than the open string.



As shown in the picture, this long rod is a tremolo bar (also called a tremolo arm). Its core function is to change the angle of the bridge by pressing/pulling, causing a momentary change in string tension, thus producing effects such as vibrato, glissando, and trill.

10. Installation Steps

1. Confirm the interface: The tremolo arm needs to be inserted into the special threaded hole/pin hole on the bridge (the metal hole on the bridge in the picture).

2. Screw in/insert: Threaded type: Simply screw the tremolo arm clockwise into the hole until it is moderately tight (too tight will affect the swing, too loose will cause it to wobble).

3. Adjustment: After installation, gently press/pull the tremolo bar to test whether the bridge swings smoothly. If there is no jamming, it is ready for normal use.



TUTORIAL 2: TUNING

Tuner Function

You can tune your guitar using the digital tuner or any guitar tuning app on a mobile device. This ensures each string is set to the correct pitch for clear, balanced sound.

Tuning Steps

1. Power On and Select Mode

- Turn on the tuner or open your chosen tuning app.
- Switch to Guitar mode if the tuner or app has multiple modes.

2. Tune Strings in Order (Low to High)

- Pluck each string from low E (6th string) → A → D → G → B → high E (1st string).
- When the screen or indicator turns green and the pointer points to 0, the string is in tune.
- Tune one string at a time to ensure stable readings.

3. Calibration / String Stretching

- After tuning all strings, gently stretch each string.
- Retune in the same low-to-high order.
- Repeat 3 times to ensure new strings remain stable and in tune.

Recommended Tips

- Pluck strings gently for accurate readings.
- Make small, controlled adjustments to the tuning pegs; avoid turning too much at once.
- After calibration, the strings should be stable and ready for practice.
- Check tuning before each practice session or performance.
- Keep the guitar in a stable environment; temperature and humidity changes can affect tuning.

FAQ – COMMON ISSUES & SOLUTIONS

Sound Issues

1. Buzzing or humming noises

Cause: Loose cable connections, low-quality cables, or electromagnetic interference.

Solution: Ensure cables are fully plugged in, use high-quality shielded cables, and keep the guitar away from strong electrical devices or lights.

2. No sound

Cause: Amp is off, volume is zero, pickup selector in wrong position, or cable problem.

Solution: Turn on the amp and adjust the volume, check the pickup switch, and replace the cable if needed.

3. Volume fluctuates

Cause: Loose volume/tone knobs or uneven pickup height.

Solution: Gently twist the knobs to check contact, adjust pickup height, or seek professional repair if necessary.

4. Tuning is unstable

Cause: New strings not stretched, neck bowing, or improper bridge height.

Solution: Retune and gently stretch new strings; check neck relief and bridge height; consult a professional if needed.

5. String buzzing (fret buzz)

Cause: String action too low, neck bowing, or uneven frets.

Solution: Adjust string height at the bridge or neck relief; consult a professional if the problem persists.

6. Pickup volume too low or uneven

Cause: Pickup height uneven or pole pieces misaligned.

Solution: Adjust the pickup height so each string is evenly balanced.

Body Issues

1. Neck cracking or bending

Cause: Mishandling during transport, storage, or humidity changes.

Solution: Avoid impacts and excessive bending; severe bending or cracks should be handled by a professional.

2. Body gaps or seams

Cause: Wood expansion/contraction due to humidity or normal manufacturing tolerances.

Solution: Store in a stable temperature and humidity; minor gaps are normal; contact support if gaps are excessive.

Playing & Maintenance Issues

1. Strings break easily or feel rough

Cause: Worn-out strings, metal fatigue, or incorrect installation.

Solution: Install new strings properly, replace regularly, and wipe strings dry after playing.

2. Fingerboard dry or discolored

Cause: Wood lacks moisture or is exposed to dry conditions.

Solution: If the fingerboard looks dry, pale, or dirty, apply a small amount of lemon oil to clean and condition it (only for unfinished fingerboards; do not use on maple).

3. Metal parts rust

Cause: High humidity or sweat exposure.

Solution: Wipe clean and keep dry; use metal cleaner if necessary.

4. New guitar smell

Cause: Natural wood and finish odors.

Solution: Air out the guitar for a few days; avoid direct sunlight.

PICKUP REPLACEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Modular Pickup System Overview

This DIY electric guitar features a modular, removable pickup design, breaking away from the limitations of traditional fixed, non-replaceable pickups. This design allows for easy customization and fully supports your need for personalized tone shaping.

Whether you prefer the clear and bright sound of single-coil pickups, the warm and powerful output of humbuckers, or want to explore tones ranging from vintage overdrive to modern high-gain, you can easily achieve different sound characteristics by installing compatible pickups.

Pickup Compatibility

The pickup mounting cavities are manufactured to industry-standard specifications, ensuring broad compatibility with most mainstream pickups available on the market, including:

- Single-coil pickups
- Humbucker pickups

No additional modification to the guitar body is required. Pickup replacement can be completed using the included tools and following simple installation steps.

Advantages of Replaceable Pickups

1. Personalized Tone Customization

Easily adjust your guitar's tone to match different musical styles and playing scenarios.

2. Upgrade Flexibility

Beginners can start with the stock pickups, then upgrade to higher-quality pickups as their skills progress, improving tonal performance and overall value.

3.Easy Maintenance

If a pickup fails, it can be replaced individually without disassembling or repairing the entire guitar, reducing maintenance time and cost.

Important Notes

- Before replacing pickups, disconnect the guitar from any power source (if equipped with active pickups).
- Use appropriate screwdrivers and tools to avoid damaging the electronics or guitar body.
- Always select pickups that are compatible with the guitar's electronic specifications to ensure stable performance and optimal tone.

Discover More Products





**Thank you for choosing this product.
Enjoy your time with music.**

For support or additional information:

✉ support@tostarmusic.com

🌐 www.tostarmusic.com