

Care of your instrument

Strings: In order to get a loud, full sound your guitar has a thin, lightly-braced top. It was designed to be played with light-gauge strings. It could be damaged by heavier strings. As an experiment, one of them was strung with medium-gauge strings—it was not damaged, but it didn't sound nearly as loud or full as with the light-gauge strings. The extra tension kept the top from vibrating as freely. Use only light-gauge strings. My personal preference is D'Addario phosphor/bronze light or Elixir nanoweb light. When you re-string, coat the string slots in the nut with #2 pencil lead. This helps the strings slide when you tune.

Storage: Your Gramann-made guitar is constructed of very thin wood. Store it in a case. In the winter, or in dry climates, use a Damp-it or some other device that keeps humidity in the case. Like any other wooden instrument, it may develop cracks if its environment gets too dry (or too wet). The glues used in its construction will release at temperatures not too much warmer than humans can stand (around 140 degrees Fahrenheit). Leaving the guitar in a car trunk or the passenger compartment on a sunny day is very likely to cause damage. Don't let it get too warm. The inside of a car can quickly heat to nearly 200 degrees on a sunny day.

Finish: All but the back of the neck is finished with a water-based spray lacquer formulated especially for guitars. The back area of the neck is finished with a satin varnish. This makes it slippery and easier to play rapidly. Use a damp, clean terry cloth towel or a polishing cloth to clean and polish your instrument. Please don't use any wax or oil-based polishes. The residue from these can damage the finish and can make it very hard to repair the finish if that should ever be required.

Use a leather, not a synthetic, guitar strap. Synthetic straps and the coatings on some guitar stands have been known to dissolve finishes. You may want to test a new stand with a cheaper guitar before you commit your expensive hand-made instrument to it.

Action: The truss-rod adjustment (through the sound hole) is for straightening the neck against the pull of the strings. It is not for adjusting the action. The action is controlled by the height of the saddle. If you think the truss-rod or the action needs adjustment, talk to me about it. There is a simple test for neck relief that you can perform. If you need an adjustment in either the action or the truss-rod, I will do it for you if you bring me the guitar. The tops of my instruments are thin and lightly braced. Sometimes the action will change with the seasons. You may need to get me to make you a winter saddle if the drop in humidity that occurs with winter causes the action to lower too much. The top of the saddle is shaped to give the best possible intonation. To make the saddle lower, glue (with rubber cement) a piece of coarse sandpaper to a flat board. Holding the saddle perfectly square to the board, stroke it across the board to sand the required amount off of the bottom. Action is usually measured at the 12th fret. 5/64ths of an inch between the top of the fret and the bottom of the string at the thick E and 4/64ths of an inch at the thin E is considered low action. To remove

1/64th of an inch from the action at the 12th fret, you must remove 2/64ths of an inch at the saddle. The saddle is made from a piece of bone. You probably do not want to breathe the sanding dust.

Neck bolts: The neck is held to the body by the heel bolts and by glue (under the fingerboard extension). The heel bolts are for use only by an experienced luthier. **Please don't loosen or tighten the neck bolts.**

The Warranty

I guarantee my guitars to the original purchaser against any defects in construction. That means that if something goes wrong with the instrument that is my fault, I will fix it. Just bring it or ship it back to me. There is no time limit on this warranty other than my lifetime. (You want me to live a long time.) This warranty does not cover accidental damage, normal wear and tear, or any cracks or dissolution of glue or finish caused by storing the instrument in an inhospitable climate such as a desert, a hot car, an attic, or a damp basement, so be careful with it.

Cracks or damage caused by storing the guitar in excessively dry conditions are not covered by this warranty. If you can feel the fret ends sticking out of the neck, your house is too dry! Humidify your house, or store the guitar in its case with a Dampit. A Dampit or other case humidifier is only a temporary measure for protecting the guitar. In an extremely dry environment, the Dampit can be overwhelmed and allow damage to the guitar. **Humidify your house in the wintertime.** Your guitar was built in a room with a carefully controlled relative humidity of 40 to 45%. Keep your house between 40 and 60% relative humidity. You'll be healthier, too.

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