This Manual applies to the following guitars:

H.M. Series Stratocasters
   Strat, 25-8100
   Strat, 25-8102
   Strat, 25-4400
Standard Stratocaster, 25-4300
Standard Stratocaster, 25-4302
Standard Stratocaster, 27-4600
Standard Stratocaster, 27-4602
Standard Stratocaster, 27-8800
Standard Stratocaster, 27-8802
Telecaster, 27-5202
Thank You . . .

We are pleased that you have selected one of our fine quality Fender Guitars. This instrument combines the highest quality components with the finest American workmanship and is warranted to give you complete satisfaction.

The H.M. Series and Standard Guitars contain many features and new improvements developed by Fender engineers. As a result, you are assured of receiving an instrument of superior quality, lasting beauty and exceptional playability.

We urge you to take the time to read this manual and familiarize yourself with the many new features and capabilities of this instrument.
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VOLUME CONTROL
The Volume Control allows you to control the volume level at the instrument.

TONIC CONTROL
The Tone Control allows you to modify the instrument's tonal characteristics. The Contemporary Series guitars have a unique tone circuit that features Fender's new TBX Tone Control (Patent Pending).

The TBX Control provides both the conventional Fender sound and unique new sounds. Advancing the knob counterclockwise from the detent position gradually filters off high frequencies, moving the sound from bright to more mellow to provide all the Fender tonal characteristics previously available. Until now this has been the primary method of making tonal adjustments on electric guitars, but with the TBX Control, you also now have the option of adding presence and brightness by actually shifting the frequency response of the pickup. This is done by rotating the knob clockwise from the detent position. With this added capability, the TBX provides a whole new range of sounds not previously available.

PICKUP SELECTOR SWITCH
The pickup selector switch does just what it implies, it selects the pickups either alone or in combination. Dual pickup models are supplied with a three
position switch, while the three pickup models are equipped with a five position switch.

COIL-SPLITTING SWITCH
Some models with humbucking pickups also feature mini-toggle switches which allow you to select between single coil and dual coil (humbucking) modes.

TREMOLO SYSTEMS

System I Tremolo
The System I features a fine tuning floating bridge with two knife edge pivots, height adjustable pivot posts, roller saddles, and snap-in torque adjustable arm. It also comes supplied with a three section screw actuated string lock at the headstock.

Stringing
Prior to stringing your guitar, set the fine tuners on the bridge to the mid-way point. This will not only ease string insertion (through fine tuner tongues and upper bridge plate), but it will also allow sufficient tuning range both up and down in pitch. When this is complete, insert the strings through the back bridge cover into the holes in the bridge sustain block. Be sure that the strings pass through the holes in the fine tuning tongues before emerging from the top of the bridge plate. This will ensure the fine tuners are
functional. Pull each string into its own roller slot and into the string lock as described below.

**String Lock**
The System I String Lock has three sections, each of which locks two strings in a vise-like manner with vertical pressure (in playing position), between the bottom of the lock blocks and the main frame of the string lock.

When stringing the guitar, loosen the string lock assembly by turning the hex screws counterclockwise with the wrench provided; thread the strings through the string lock, making sure each string is on the correct side of the locking screw and install them on the tuning machines. Tune the guitar to pitch, being sure to completely stretch all strings; the string lock is then locked by tightening the three hex cap screws in the clockwise direction.

Remember, do not lock the string lock until you have completed all your adjustments and/or have completely stretched the strings. All strings must be stretched out completely by repeatedly stretching and re-tuning until the tuning becomes stable. For best results, set the vise locks so that the strings are almost locked, leaving only enough space to tune using the tuning machines. This ensures a minimal change in tuning when locked.

Test the string by doing several dives and pulls with the tremolo—also bend a few strings. If the
tuning is greatly affected, the strings are not completely stretched. Unlock the string lock, tune and repeat the string stretching exercise outlined earlier. Re-lock the string lock and test again. Once you have stabilized the system you are ready to play. For minor tuning touch-up, use the fine tuners on the bridge.

**Vintage-Style Tremolo**

The 27-4600 and 27-4602 models are equipped with a vintage style Tremolo Unit. This is a floating, fulcrum style tremolo, which utilizes six screws as pivot posts. The bridge saddles are made from stamped steel that has been case-hardened and heavily chromed for superior wearability. They are weight balanced to provide optimum sound transfer. These, coupled with the thick bass plate and steel spring block, help to deliver increased sustain and an extremely well balanced tonal response throughout the instrument’s frequency range.

The saddles are individually adjustable for both string height and intonation. (These adjustments are described in detail on pages 12-13 and 17-18, respectively.) The bridge is adjustable for tremolo travel by adjusting the spring to string balance (as described on page 14).

The tremolo arm is installed by carefully threading it into the hole adjacent to the first string. Do not over tighten, as you may snap the arm off in the block. Once the tremolo arm has been installed, it
should not be removed, because there is a spring in the receptacle hole that could fall out and be lost. To store the instrument in its case, simply swing the tremolo arm towards the corner of the case where the output jack is located.

**Kahler Tremolo**
The Kahler 2720 Series tremolo unit features a fine tuning floating bridge with two knife edge pivots, height adjustable pivot posts, torque adjustable arm, and three section screw actuated locking nut.

**Stringing**
Prior to stringing your guitar, set the fine tuners on the bridge to the mid-way point. This will allow sufficient tuning range both up and down in pitch. Loosen the Nut Clamp Bolt at the headstock with wrench (D). Cut off the ball end of the strings before installing. With wrench (D), turn the Lock Bolt counterclockwise three turns. Place the string end between the Lock Block and the Lock Block Housing. While pushing the Lock Block forward with thumb or finger, tighten the Lock Bolt clockwise until the string is locked. Thread the string through the loosened Nut Clamp Tab Bolt at the headstock, and fasten the string to the machine head. Stretch the string thoroughly, and then tune to pitch. Finally, lock the nut and tune to pitch with the fine tuning knobs on the bridge.
NOTE: For more detailed instructions on the Kahler tremolo, please consult the Kahler manual included with this instrument.

TRUSS ROD, ACTION, AND INTONATION ADJUSTMENTS
Because of travel effects, changes in string gauges, climatic conditions, and differences in playing styles, you might have need to adjust your Fender guitar. If it becomes necessary, the following procedure outlines the standards set at the factory.

To make these adjustments, you will need the following:
1 - Capo
1 - Feeler Gauge
1 - 6" Mechanic's ruler (with 1/64" increments)

ALLEN WRENCHES PROVIDED WITH GUITARS:

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<tr>
<th>H.M. Strats:</th>
<th>Std Strats:</th>
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<td>25-4200</td>
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</table>

| .050" | .050" | 1.5mm | 2.5mm | 3mm | 4mm | 1.5mm |
| 1/16" | 1/16" | 1.5mm | 2.5mm | 3mm | 4mm | 1.5mm |
| 5/64" | 5/64" | 1.5mm | 2.5mm | 3mm | 4mm | 1.5mm |
| 3/32" | 3/32" | 1.5mm | 2.5mm | 3mm | 4mm | 1.5mm |
| 3mm   | 3mm   | 1.5mm | 2.5mm | 3mm | 4mm | 1.5mm |
| 4mm   | 4mm   | 1.5mm | 2.5mm | 3mm | 4mm | 1.5mm |
1. Tuning
Tune the instrument to standard pitch.

2. Adjust Neck Curvature (Truss Rod)
Each Fender guitar is carefully adjusted at the factory. The truss rod and string height are set for optimum action and playability with the gauge strings supplied.

Under normal tension, the neck should have a slightly concave curvature. By creating a counteracting force, the truss rod prevents the neck from bending excessively under the stress placed on it by the strings. The tension on the rod is adjustable so the correct curvature can be achieved by regulating the neck's resistance to string tension.

To check the truss rod setting, tune the guitar to playing pitch. Install a capo at the first fret, depress the 6th string at the fret where the neck joins the body. Using a feeler gauge, check the gap between the bottom of the 6th string and the top of the 8th fret. The recommended string clearance should be approximately .010".

If an adjustment is necessary, insert the wrench (supplied) into the truss rod adjustment hole. Rotate it gently until you feel it engage in the hex socket. For necks with no Allen socket at the headstock, use the Phillips head screw at the heel of the neck.

If the neck is too concave, turn the Truss Rod Nut clockwise. If it is too straight or convex, turn the Truss
Rod Nut counterclockwise while periodically checking the gap with the feeler gauge. Periodically re-check tuning for standard pitch.

**Caution:** DO NOT continue adjusting: 1) If extreme resistance is felt while adjusting in either direction, or 2) If the neck has a convex bow that remains when the truss rod nut is loosened. Take the instrument to the nearest Authorized Fender Dealer or service center for inspection.

**NOTE:** The Truss Rod Nut should not be left loose, but should be tightened by at least a quarter turn.

3. **Set Bridge Height**
The recommended string clearance at the 12th fret (measured by the distance between the bottom of the string and the top of the fret) is:

- Strings 1 - 4: 5/64" (2mm) +/- 1/64" (.4mm)
- Strings 5 - 6: 3/32" (2.4mm) +/- 1/64" (.4mm)

The above dimensions are the factory recommended settings only. The optimum height adjustment varies from player to player due to differences in technique, playing styles, string gauges, etc.
**System I**
On System I the overall height of the bridge is set by adjusting the two pivot posts, one on each side of the bridge. This is done by using a wide tipped blade screwdriver placed in the slot section of the post, rotating counterclockwise to raise and clockwise to lower. Individual string height is not offered on the System I; however, the pivot post adjustment is more than sufficient due to the radiused bridge plate which matches the curvature of the fretboard.

**Vintage-Style**
Each saddle is individually adjusted by using the two Allen socket screws located on the top of the saddle. Clockwise raises and counterclockwise lowers. Be sure both height adjustment screws of each bridge saddle rest firmly against the bridge plate. Also be sure each saddle is parallel to the bridge plate after adjustment.

**Kahler**
There are two different models of Kahler tremolos employed on the contemporary guitars. The only difference is that the tremolo unit on the 27-4300 guitars offers individual height adjustment for each string. To adjust the saddle height on these guitars, simply loosen the Intonation Block Holdown Bolt by turning counterclockwise with 5/64" wrench. Using .050" wrench, turn each Saddle Riser Screw clockwise...
to achieve the desired string arc over the fingerboard and neck. Lastly, retighten the Intonation Block Holddown Bolt.

NOTE: This bridge has already been adjusted to follow the correct radius of the fretboard.

4. Adjusting Spring Tension (Bridge String/Balance) The tremolos utilize a spring adjustment system—two Phillips head wood screws drawing a claw back and forth with one end of the [3 to 5] springs attached while the other end is attached to the bridge Spring Block/Sustain Bar.

First, remove the six screws that hold the back tremolo plate in position and remove plate. The tremolo arm should be depressed so as to raise the back of the bridge. Place the 5/32" (4mm) spacer block between the bridge and the body. (Due to the recessed tail section, you won't be able to use a spacer block in this manner on the Kahler bridge. To measure the Kahler, take off the back plate and make sure the spring block is vertical. A wood block can be placed between the back of the Spring Block and the rear of the body cavity.)

Allow bridge to return back to body, trapping the block. Tune guitar up to pitch. If bridge raises and fails to trap block, tighten the two claw screws clockwise until spring pressure will trap the block with the strings all tuned to pitch. Stretch all strings
out completely (sometimes it helps to hold the bridge down with one hand while stretching the strings with the other).

Now remove the spacer block either by depressing or pulling up on the tremolo arm (depending on the bridge type). The pitch of the strings should now be raised. Using your tuning source (preferably an electronic tuner) and a Phillips tip screwdriver, turn the screws which adjust the claw, counterclockwise, until the strings return to pitch. This should raise your bridge and return the bridge to the proper balance point. On bridges so equipped, you can use the fine tuners for final tuning adjustments.

5. Set Pickup Height
The pickups on your Fender guitar are fully adjustable for height (Humbucking pickups also have individually adjustable pole pieces). Adjustments are made by turning the Pickup Adjustment Screws located at each end of the pickups. On Telecaster models the neck pickup can only be accessed by removing the pickguard.

Depress all strings at the highest fret. Check the distance from the bottom of the 1st and 6th strings to the top of the pole piece. The measurement should be as follows:

1st string: 1/16" (1.6mm)
6th string: 3/32" (2.4mm)
Pickups mounted on the pickguard (which includes all guitars except Telecasters) are adjusted in the following manner: to raise the pickup, turn the adjustment screws clockwise; to lower it, turn the screws counterclockwise. For Telecaster neck pickups, since the pickup is mounted directly to the body, turning the adjustment screws clockwise lowers the pickup while counterclockwise raises the pickup.

The recommended 3/32" (2.4mm) string clearance is measured between the pickup and the 1st and 6th strings when fretted at the last fret on the fingerboard.

NOTE: Fretups set too close to the strings can cause false tones and loss of sustain due to magnetic pull on the strings.

6. Check for Fret Rattles
With the instrument plugged into your amplifier and the pickup selector switch set to the neck pickup position, pick in the area between the neck and bridge pickups. Play each fret position, holding the pick parallel to the plane of the body, to determine that the strings do not buzz or rattle against successively higher frets.

Bend the first and second strings up one whole tone in pitch at the 12th, 15th and 17th frets. The notes should ring true, without choking off.

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Due to differences in playing styles and picking techniques, action settings that produce no string rattle for one player may rattle when another player plays the instrument. If you have followed all the adjustment procedures listed and set the string action at the recommended setting, but are still experiencing fret rattle, you may require slightly higher than normal settings to accommodate your style of playing. If you still experience difficulties, take the guitar to an Authorized Fender Dealer or service center.

7. Intonation
For optimum results, these adjustments should be made when the strings are in new condition. Tune the guitar. With the pickup selector switch set to the neck pickup position and the tone and volume controls at the maximum settings. Check the intonation of each string with an electronic tuner by playing the open string harmonic at the 12th fret and comparing this note with the note produced by fretting the string at the 12th fret. The pitch should be the same + or - 1 cent (1/100th of a semitone). If the fretted note is sharp, the string must be lengthened by moving the saddle back; if the fretted note is flat, the string must be shortened by moving the saddle forward. After each adjustment, retune and repeat this test until both notes produce the same pitch. The procedures for doing this are as follows:
System I
Loosen the Allen-head cap screw that locks the bridge saddle in place. Adjust the Phillips head screw at the end of the bridge clockwise to lengthen the string and counterclockwise to shorten, depending on whether the string is sharp or flat in relation to the 12th fret harmonic. Retune and retest each adjustment. To lock bridge saddle after all adjustments are made, turn Allen head cap screw clockwise until tight. After the cap screw is locked, tighten the intonation adjusting screw to assure it doesn’t become loose and rattle.

Vintage-Style
Adjust the slot screw at the end of the bridge clockwise to lengthen the string and counterclockwise to shorten, depending on whether the string is sharp or flat in relation to the 12th fret harmonic. Retune and retest after each adjustment.

Kahler
Loosen the Intonation Block Holdown Bolt by turning counterclockwise with 5/64" wrench. Push arm down; use 1/16" wrench to dial in the Intonation Adjustment Bolt under the saddle housing. Tighten the Intonation Block Holdown Bolt.

NECK ANGLE ADJUSTMENT
Fender instruments are designed using almost no neck angle. They are adjusted at the factory to
maximize the adjustment features of the bridge section. Some instruments feature a 4-bolt neck angle adjustment for adjusting the pitch of the neck to the body.

If your guitar has a hole located between the lower two neck mounting bolts, then you can use the following procedure. If it does not, your neck angle can only be changed by removing the neck and adding a shim in the deepest part of the neck slot. Should this be the case, unless you are experienced in guitar repair it is recommended that you contact your nearest authorized Fender Service Center.

You can custom adjust the neck angle to change the height of the strings from the body surface. This requires readjusting the bridge height to accommodate your playing style.

If you wish to increase or decrease the amount of neck angle, be sure to check the height of the bridge saddles to ensure they are not already at the extreme limits of adjustment. They will determine how much neck angle you can have. You cannot increase or decrease the neck angle beyond the adjustment range of the bridge saddles.

To adjust the neck angle, loosen the four neck mounting screws. The two screws nearest the edge of the body should be loosened about 1/4 turn each. The two screws located toward the center of the body should be loosened approximately 2 turns.
Insert the special 1/8" Allen wrench (supplied with the instrument) into the hole in the neck mounting plate. Rotate the wrench, gently, until you feel it engage in the hex head slot. Turn the wrench clockwise if you wish to increase the amount of neck angle; turn it counterclockwise if you wish to decrease the amount of neck angle.

After the adjustment is complete, retighten the four neck screws in the proper sequence; the two furthest from the neck angle adjustment hole, then the two closest to the hole, being careful not to overtighten. The screws should be tightened until they are seated, but should not be forced. Overtightening can cause the screw to strip out the corresponding threads in the neck. If the neck angle does not require any tilt, after tightening the four anchoring screws, be sure to turn the Allen screw clockwise until you feel resistance. This will prevent the Allen screw from causing unwanted vibrations.

CARE OF YOUR GUITAR
Your new Fender guitar is precision made to give you many years of satisfaction. A few simple maintenance procedures will help you keep your instrument playing like new.

After you have finished playing, thoroughly wipe the entire guitar, including the strings, with a clean, soft cloth. Regular cleaning with Fender Polish is recommended.
Avoid exposing the guitar to any chemical or substance that might mar the finish, or to direct sunlight or other sources of excessive heat, humidity or shock.

**Caution:** It is important to avoid sudden changes in temperature, since this causes the wood to expand at a different rate than the finish, which may result in checking. While this condition does not affect the tone, it does affect the appearance.

Let the instrument warm up in its own case. Then, open the case slowly, allowing warm air to enter gradually. After the instrument is removed, leave the case open so it too can warm up thoroughly.

String tension should be reduced during shipping to avoid possible damage.

Dirty, corroded or worn strings cause loss of sustain, loss of treble frequencies, and faulty intonation. Fresh strings add to the enjoyment and tonal qualities of your guitar. Change them often, using Fender strings.

If your guitar needs repair work, refer all such work to your Authorized Fender Dealer whose trained personnel and complete service facilities will assure your satisfaction.
LIMITED WARRANTY

This limited warranty against defects in material and workmanship applies only to the original retail purchase. IMPORTANT: PLEASE RETAIN YOUR SALES RECEIPT, AS IT IS YOUR PROOF OF PURCHASE COVERING YOUR ONE YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY.

Defective parts will be repaired or replaced without charge if the product is returned to any Authorized Fender Dealer or Fender Service Center. Any service performed by other than an Authorized Fender Dealer or Fender Service Center is not reimbursable under the warranty. Transportation costs are not included in this warranty.

This warranty becomes void if the serial number is defaced or removed, or the product has been damaged by alteration, misuse, accident, or neglect; or the product has been serviced by persons not authorized by Fender Musical Instruments. The company assumes no liability for property damage of any sort which may result from the failure of this product. Any warranties implied by law are limited to the duration of this express limited warranty.

Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitation may not apply to you. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitations of incidental or consequential
damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you also have other rights which vary from state to state.

Have service performed by any Authorized Fender Dealer or contact:

Customer Relations
Fender Musical Instruments
1130 Columbia Street
Brea, CA 92621