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Set-up Procedures for the Fender Strat Plus[®] Models

(Strat Plus[®], Strat Plus Deluxe[®], and Strat Plus Ultra[®])

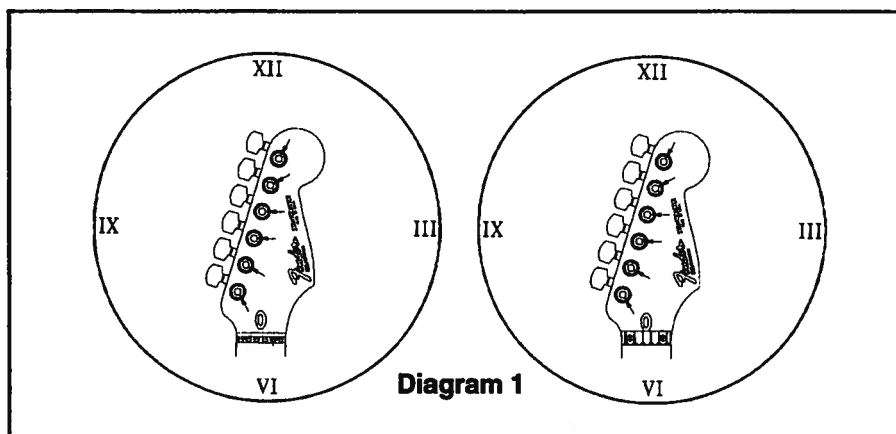
By Jack Schwarz

Since its inception, the Strat Plus has been a forerunner in guitars, without the use of a double locking tremolo system, for tuning stability. Some of its features, however, are still misunderstood by many. The purpose of these instructions is to give you a step by step procedure for the set-up of your Strat Plus. This will enable you to achieve the maximum performance from your instrument.

You will need several tools to make the adjustments to your Strat Plus:

1. A set of automotive feeler gauges (.002 through .025)
2. A six inch ruler (measuring in 1/32" and 1/64" increments)
3. A small Phillips screwdriver
4. A small flat head screwdriver
5. An electric guitar capo (The Jim Dunlop capo is recommended)
6. A .050 hex wrench (provided with guitars equipped with the Am. Std. style bridge)
7. A 1/8" hex wrench (provided with your guitar)
8. A 3/32" hex wrench (provided with your guitar. There will be 2 different length wrenches provided with the new Fender-Floyd Rose Tremolo bridges).
9. An electronic tuner (a tuning fork or pitch pipe may be substituted if a tuner is not available)
10. A light machine oil (3 in 1 or sewing machine oil)

It is recommended that before you make all of your adjustments, the guitar should be restrung with a new set of strings. Fender recommends that you use the **Fender Dynamaxx Superbullet** strings for added tuning stability. When restringing follow the instructions provided for you in your Fender owner's manual for the proper restringing procedures. If you find that you are breaking strings at the tuning keys, you may try threading the strings into the eyelet of the tuning key in this manner: Starting with the sixth string, thread the string through the eyelet at the five o'clock position. The fifth at four o'clock, the fourth and third at three o'clock, the second at two o'clock, and finally the first string at one o'clock (Diagram #1). Pull each string through tautly. It is also recommended that you familiarize yourself with the proper set-up techniques as explained in your owner's manual. If you wish to learn more about set-up techniques, Fender also has a video available through your local authorized dealer. It's called the Fender "Caring For Your Guitar" video.



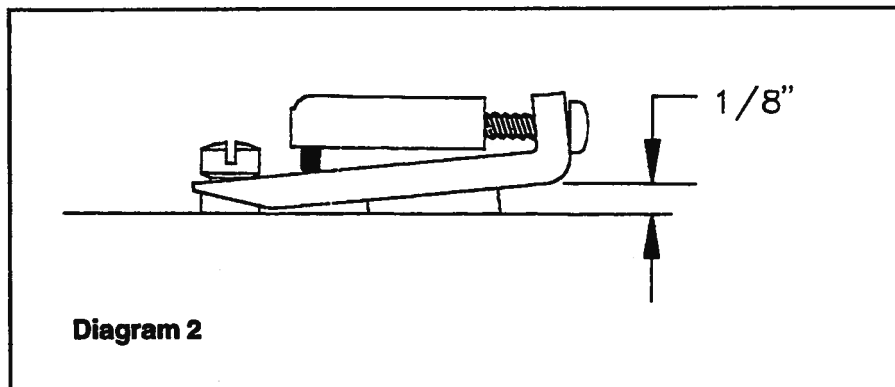
Proceed as following:

Step #1. Remove the tremolo back cover, then remove the Tremsetter

Step #2. Tune your guitar to pitch. (It is important to note that the tension of the strings plays a key role in the set-up of your guitar. If you play tuned to a pitch other than A440, make sure you keep your guitar tuned to that pitch throughout the set-up procedures. **Check and maintain your tuning after each step.**)

Step #3. Adjust the bridge angle, using the two claw screws in the back cavity of the guitar, to the desired angle. (Fender recommends approximately 1/8" of gap at the rear

of the bridge (Diagram #2). The bridge may be adjusted, however, to accommodate your playing needs.) If you prefer to set the bridge flush with the body, **do not over-tighten the two claw screws**. Set the tension of the springs to equal the tension of the strings, while the bridge is resting on the body. (Note: If you have the new Fender-Floyd Rose bridge read the following for the adjustment procedures on this revolutionary new bridge. If not, proceed to Step #4)



The New Fender-Floyd Rose Tremolo System

The new Fender-Floyd Rose tremolo system is a fusion of locking and non-locking systems. It is the best of both systems.

The Fender-Floyd Rose system makes use of a locking bridge, locking tuners, and the Fender L.S.R. roller nut. This system retains normal tuning at the headcap, like a non-locking system, and has similar tension due to the free length of string between the nut and the tuners. The tonality is also very similar to a non-locking system like the American Standard system on older Strat Plus Models. This unit will also drop into any Strat Plus models with no modifications to the body.

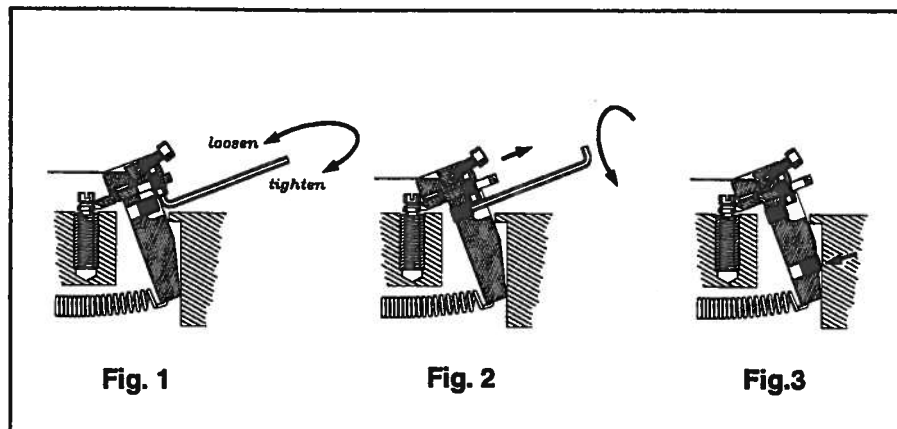
The intonation is adjusted underneath the bridge. To access the adjusting bolts, dive the tremolo with the trem arm. There are six bolts holding the saddles to the bridge plate. These are loosened with a special hex wrench, included with the tremolo. The short end of this fits the saddle locking bolt (Fig. 1). This is easier if you turn the guitar upside down on your lap. You can hold the trem arm down with your left hand, and look at the bolt heads as you insert the wrench. Loosen the bolt only about 1/4 turn; enough that you can slide the saddle easily, but not more than necessary. You may now turn the larger bolt (Fig 2), that is threaded into the tremolo block, in or out. This moves the whole saddle, by pulling on the saddle locking bolt head. When the saddle is intonated properly, you need to re-lock the saddle to the plate. Use moderate force to tighten the bolt. **Do not over-tighten !**

Unlike the original Floyd Rose Tremolo, the saddle is already held in place, so it takes only a small amount of pressure to fully lock the saddle down.

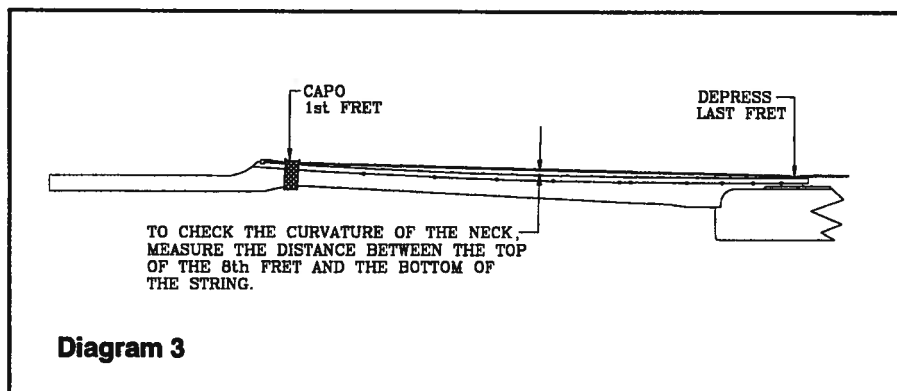
Note:

1. There are two 3/32" hex wrenches. The short arm is for the saddle locking bolt (Fig 1). The longer arm wrench works better to move the saddles back and forth, because you can get more torque.
2. If you move the first bridge saddle away from the nut too far, the string may break as you release the trem arm. Move it only a small amount at a time.
3. As you intonate the guitar, the pitch changes and you must constantly re-tune. Be aware that as you lock the saddle down, the pitch will go slightly sharp, depending on how loose the saddle locking bolt is. Some trial and error is required here.
4. If you forget your wrenches, you won't be able to adjust your intonation, but you will always be able to change your strings. There is a 1/8" hex wrench in the trem arm. **Be careful not to over-tighten the strings**. The torque is multiplied by the extra length of the trem arm. Try to visualize a regular hex wrench and use only that much of the arm to tighten the bolt.

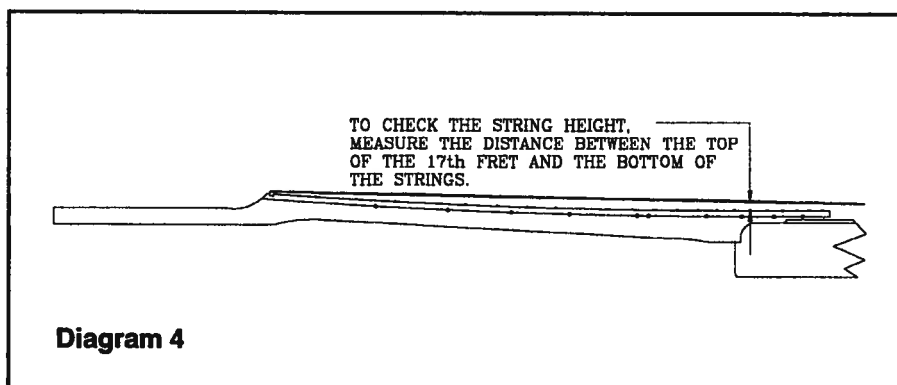
- If any strings fall out of the nut during extreme tremolo diving, you may want to limit the travel of the tremolo with the stop block in the block near the tremolo springs (Fig 3). Use the short $3/32$ " hex wrench to turn this bolt until it protrudes beyond the surface of the tremolo block. It will now hit the body cavity before the block does. Adjust this until the problem is solved.



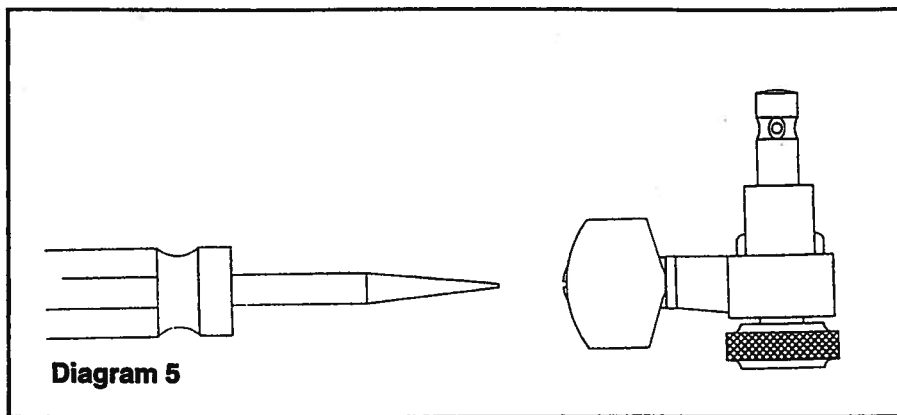
Step #4. Using the capo and feeler gauge, check the curvature of the neck (Diagram #3). Make the necessary adjustments to the truss rod. (Remember: The proper method for this is explained in your owner's manual. If an adjustment was necessary, periodically recheck your curvature as it takes some time for the neck to settle to the adjustment.)



Step #5. Check your string height, using the six inch ruler, and make the necessary adjustments (Diagram #4).



Step #6. Adjust the Fender Lace Sensor pickups to your desired height. (The Fender Lace Sensors do not have the magnetic pull restrictions of a conventional pickup and can be adjusted to suit your individual playing style.)



Step #7. At this time, check the screws on the side of the tuning machine heads (Diagram #5). If they are loose, using your small flat head screwdriver tighten them to a firm tension. (**Caution: Do not over-tighten these screws. This can lead to your tuning keys turning too tightly or possibly causing future problems with the function of the keys.**)

Step #8. Tune the guitar by first tuning past the desired pitch, then de-tune to the correct pitch. (Although this is exactly opposite of the standard method of tuning up to pitch, it is very important in maintaining tuning stability.)

Step #9. Turn the guitar over and lay the guitar on your lap or bench in such a manner as to relieve all tension on the tremolo system and neck.

Step #10. Turn the two claw screws counter-clockwise $1/4$ to $1/2$ turn each, evenly (Diagram #6).

Step #11. To install the Tremsetter, loosen the collar screw. Carefully insert the pull rod tip (straight end) into the hole in the body cavity between the two claw screws. (Note: If the rod rubs along the sides of the hole, you may take a large Phillips head screwdriver or small hole reamer and **carefully** open the hole to a slightly larger size.) While placing the rectangular slot in the Tremsetter base over the hinge clip, push the Tremsetter base towards the spring block so that the slot in the Tremsetter base engages the hinge clip. Put the pull rod, hook end, into the center spring hole of the spring block.

Step #12. Insert the $3/32$ " hex wrench or Phillips screwdriver (depending on the type of collar screw used). For best results, angle the collar screw so that the head of the screw is facing towards you. (Note: Angle the collar screw enough so the screw won't rub against the back cover when it is re-installed.)

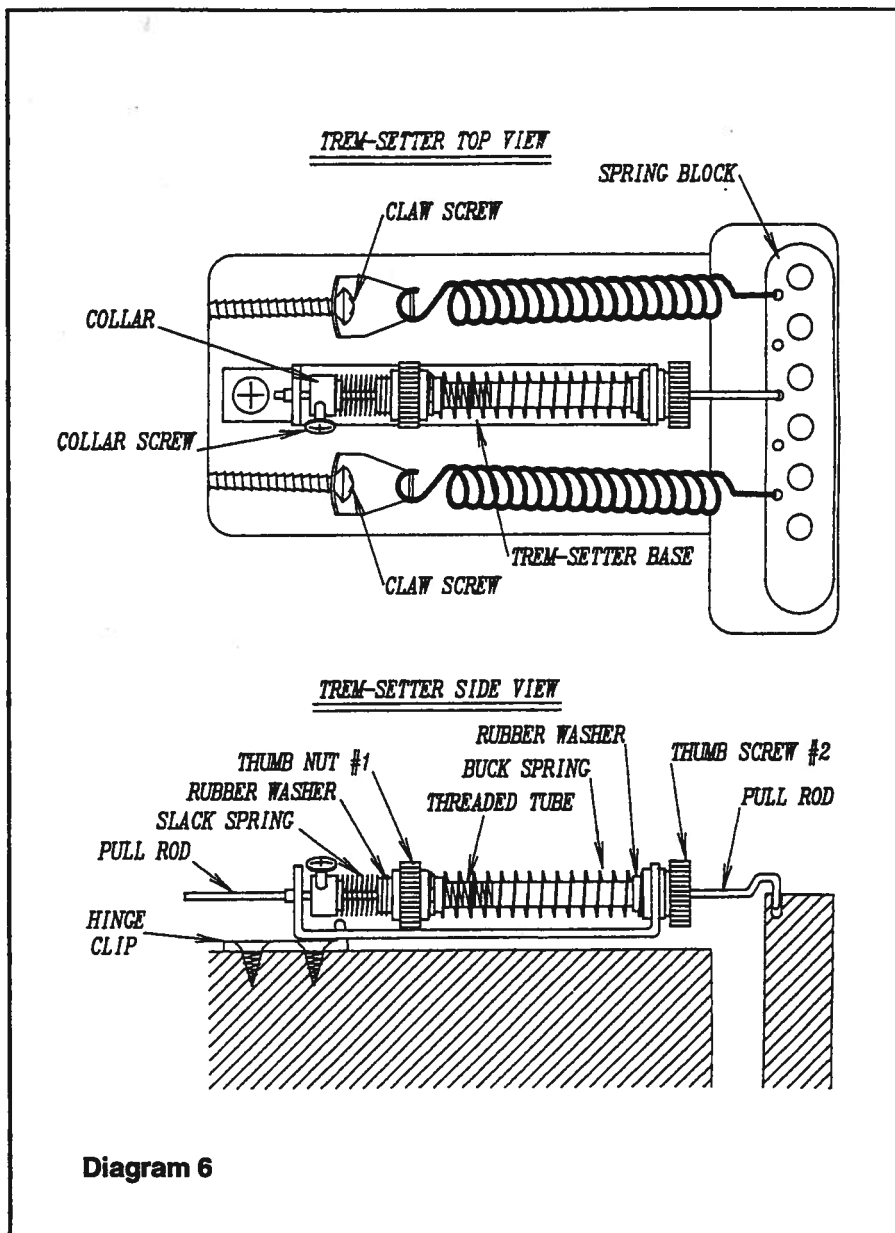
Step #13. Place the thumb of your free hand on the collar. Push the collar towards the spring block until a gap opens between the #2 thumb nut and the black washer. Place a business card or thin pick between the black washer and the #2 thumb nut. Retighten the collar screw until it is snug. Remove the card or pick.

Step #14. Turn the guitar over and play. (Note: if the guitar tuning is excessively sharp, the gap allowed between the #2 thumb nut and the black washer was too much, if it's flat, then not enough gap was allowed.)

Step #15. Repeat step #8.

Step #16. Re-install back cover.

Step #17. Play guitar and check for string rattles. (Note: Read the section in your owners manual relating to this step.)



It is recommended that you lubricate the bridge at the point of string contact with a drop of light machine oil. Whether you have a Strat Plus equipped with the Wilkinson Roller nut or the new LSR roller nut, it is also advisable to lubricate them. **(Caution: When lubricating the roller nut, be very sparing with the oil. Excessive oil can lead to gumming up the rollers. One very small drop is all that is necessary on each roller. Petroleum based lubricants are deleterious to all woods including: maple, rosewood, mahogany, ebony, spruce, etc. Extra care should be taken to prevent and avoid getting it on the fingerboard and other parts of the guitar. It can also harm most finishes.**

If at any time during the various steps you encounter any problems, stop and notify your local authorized Fender dealer or service center for further assistance. Further information on maintenance of the Wilkinson roller nut, LSR roller nut, Tremsetter, or other features of the Strat Plus can be obtained from Fender at the following address:

*Fender Musical Instruments
7975 North Hayden Road
Scottsdale, AZ. 85258*

Attn: Product Services