

## Guitar Care Instructions

Thank you for purchasing one of my handcrafted guitars. I hope that you will enjoy your instrument for years to come. There are a few things that you need to know regarding care of your new instrument so I have listed a few "Do's" and "Don'ts" below. This is just a general guideline, as I cannot foresee all potential eventualities while the guitar is in your possession. Please keep in mind that this is a concert instrument and is designed and constructed to be responsive and sonorous. Consequently, it is more fragile than its heavily constructed, factory-made counterpart. Treat it gently.

- **Do not** forcefully push on the top or back of the guitar. This is especially important when placing the guitar in the case. You can easily crack the top by pushing downward on the face. Always push on the guitar edge when fitting it in the case.
- **Do not** leave the guitar in direct sunlight, near a heater, or in the trunk of a car for extended periods of time. The heat in these situations can lead to glue failures. Additionally, leaving the guitar near a heater could quickly dry out the instrument, thus leading to cracks.
- **Do not** jerk hard on the strings when re-stringing the instrument. I have seen several players forcibly jerk the string away from the bridge to seat the string on the tie block. This is unnecessary and could lead to a bridge failure. When seating the strings, be sure to plant one hand on the bridge when pulling the string taught. This will decrease unnecessary tension on the bridge while still properly seating the string.
- **Do not** allow alcohol to come in contact with the guitar finish. If you use alcohol based hand sanitizer, be sure that your hands are completely dry before handling your instrument.
- **Do not** clean your instrument with household cleaners. You can occasionally use a slightly damp (almost dry) cloth to wipe down surfaces that have been French polished. If your instrument has been lacquered on the back and sides, you may occasionally use a guitar polish to clean these surfaces. Do not use guitar polish on French polished surfaces!
- **Do** use the supplied humidifier, especially in the wintertime. I have built your instrument at a relative humidity of between 40 and 50%. This means that when the instrument is placed in a higher humidity environment, the wood will swell as it takes on additional moisture from the air. This is okay and should not cause damage to your guitar. However, this also means that when your guitar is placed in a lower humidity environment, the wood will begin to dry out and contract. This is bad! During the winter the average heated house can drop to 20-25% humidity. This means the wood in your guitar will begin to shrink. If not addressed, the instrument will eventually crack. I highly recommend you purchase a hygrometer for your practice space. A room humidifier is not a bad idea either if your practice space is especially dry.
- **Do** keep your instrument in the supplied case when not in use or while traveling.
- **Do** wipe your instrument with a soft, dry, lint-free cloth after each use.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding care of your new instrument. If you notice any problems with your instrument please notify me right away so that the issue can be addressed.