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Fender 0857332228

Fender Stratocaster Electric Guitar Manual

A Comprehensive Guide to Buying, Setting Up, and Maintaining Your Stratocaster

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INTRODUCTION TO THE FENDER STRATOCASTER

The Fender Stratocaster, introduced by Leo Fender in 1954, revolutionized electric guitar design. Known for its distinctive contoured body, three single-coil pickups, and synchronized tremolo system, the Stratocaster quickly became an icon. This manual provides essential guidance for understanding, acquiring, setting up, and maintaining this popular instrument, ensuring its longevity and optimal performance.

Haynes



Fender Stratocaster Manual

Foreword by **Hank Marvin**

*'essential reading
for Strat owners...it's
FAN-STRATING-
TASTIC'*
Guitar Buyer

Paul Balmer

How to buy, maintain and
set up the world's most
popular electric guitar

Second Edition
Updated and Expanded

Image: Cover of the Fender Stratocaster Manual, illustrating the iconic guitar.

BUYING YOUR FENDER STRATOCASTER

Acquiring a Fender Stratocaster involves understanding the various models, eras, and features available. Considerations include:

- **Model Variations:** Explore different series such as American Standard, American Professional, Player Series, Squier, and vintage reissues. Each offers distinct features and price points.
- **Condition:** For used instruments, inspect the neck, frets, electronics, and body for damage or modifications.
- **Authenticity:** Learn to identify genuine Fender instruments and differentiate them from counterfeits, especially for vintage models.
- **Budget:** Determine your budget and research models that fit within it, balancing features with cost.

The manual provides detailed insights into what to look for when purchasing, whether new or pre-owned, to ensure a sound investment.

SETTING UP YOUR FENDER STRATOCASTER

Proper setup is crucial for playability and tone. This section outlines key adjustments:

1. **String Installation:** Learn the correct method for stringing your Stratocaster to ensure tuning stability and proper tension.
2. **Neck Relief (Truss Rod Adjustment):** Adjust the truss rod to achieve the optimal neck curvature for your playing style and string gauge.
3. **Action (String Height):** Set the string height at the bridge and nut for comfortable playability without fret buzz.
4. **Intonation:** Calibrate the bridge saddles to ensure accurate pitch across the entire fretboard.
5. **Pickup Height:** Adjust pickup height to balance output and tone between pickups and strings.
6. **Tremolo System Adjustment:** Configure the synchronized tremolo bridge for desired feel and stability, whether floating or decked.

Detailed instructions and diagrams within the manual guide you through each step.

MAINTAINING YOUR FENDER STRATOCASTER

Regular maintenance extends the life and preserves the performance of your Stratocaster. Key maintenance tasks include:

- **Cleaning:** Regularly clean the body, neck, and fretboard using appropriate guitar-specific cleaning products.
- **Fretboard Conditioning:** Condition unfinished fretboards (e.g., rosewood, ebony) to prevent drying and cracking.
- **Hardware Inspection:** Check screws, nuts, and bolts for tightness, especially on tuners, bridge, and strap buttons.
- **Electronic Care:** Clean potentiometers and switch contacts with specialized electronic cleaner to prevent crackling and signal loss.
- **String Replacement:** Change strings regularly to maintain tone and playability.
- **Storage:** Store your guitar in a proper case or stand, away from extreme temperature and humidity fluctuations.

The manual provides a schedule for routine checks and detailed procedures for each maintenance task.

TROUBLESHOOTING COMMON ISSUES

This section addresses common problems encountered with Fender Stratocasters and offers solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Fret Buzz	Low action, insufficient neck relief, uneven frets.	Adjust string height, adjust truss rod, consult a luthier for fret leveling.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Poor Tuning Stability	Improper stringing, worn tuners, nut friction, tremolo issues.	Ensure correct string winding, lubricate nut, check tremolo spring tension.
No Sound/Intermittent Signal	Faulty cable, dirty output jack, loose wiring, faulty switch/potentiometer.	Test with new cable, clean output jack, inspect wiring, clean/replace electronics.
Excessive Hum/Noise	Grounding issues, unshielded electronics, external interference.	Check grounding, ensure proper shielding, use hum-cancelling pickups (if applicable).

For complex issues, professional guitar technician assistance is recommended.

FENDER STRATOCASTER GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

While specifications can vary significantly between different Stratocaster models and years, here are some general characteristics:

- **Body Material:** Typically Alder or Ash.
- **Neck Material:** Maple, often with a Maple or Rosewood fretboard.
- **Scale Length:** 25.5 inches (648 mm).
- **Frets:** 21 or 22.
- **Pickups:** Three single-coil pickups (SSS configuration), though HSS (Humbucker-Single-Single) and HSH variations exist.
- **Controls:** Master Volume, Tone 1 (Neck Pickup), Tone 2 (Middle Pickup, sometimes Bridge Pickup), 5-way pickup selector switch.
- **Bridge:** 6-saddle synchronized tremolo.

Refer to your specific Stratocaster model's documentation or the comprehensive manual for precise specifications.

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For information regarding the warranty of your Fender Stratocaster electric guitar, please consult the official documentation provided with your instrument at the time of purchase. Warranty terms and conditions can vary based on region, model, and retailer.

For technical support, service, or parts, contact Fender Musical Instruments Corporation directly through their official website or authorized service centers. The Haynes manual provides detailed guidance on maintenance and setup, which can help prevent issues and extend the life of your instrument, but it does not replace official manufacturer support or warranty services.

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