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Model: B-206SM | Brand: ESP GUITARS

1. INTRODUCTION

The ESP LTD B-206SM 6-String Electric Bass Guitar is engineered for exceptional performance, aesthetics, and tone. Featuring a spalted maple top on an ash body, it delivers optimal tone and a distinctive visual appeal. The combination of body tonewoods and a 5-piece maple/rosewood neck with a rosewood fingerboard contributes to the instrument's outstanding resonance, clarity, and warmth.



Image 1.1: Front view of the ESP LTD B-206SM Spalted Maple 6-String Bass Guitar in Natural Satin finish.

2. KEY FEATURES

- **Unique Aesthetic:** Features a spalted maple top with a distinct coloration and grain pattern.
- **Quality Construction:** An affordable yet high-quality 6-string bass with an ash body and Natural Satin finish.
- **Enhanced Playability:** Designed with an extra-thin U-shaped 5-piece maple/jatoba neck for a comfortable playing experience.
- **Versatile Electronics:** Includes passive ESP Designed SB-6 pickups and an active ABQ-3 3-band EQ for diverse tonal shaping.
- **Durable Hardware:** Equipped with black nickel hardware for a sleek look and reliable performance.

3. SETUP

3.1. Unpacking

Carefully remove the bass guitar from its packaging. Inspect the instrument for any signs of damage that may have

occurred during shipping. Retain all packaging materials for future transport or storage.

3.2. Battery Installation

The active electronics of your ESP LTD B-206SM require a 9V battery. Locate the battery compartment on the back of the bass body. Open the compartment, insert a fresh 9V battery, ensuring correct polarity, and close the cover securely. Replace the battery when the sound becomes weak or distorted.

3.3. Stringing

The bass comes pre-strung. If you need to replace strings, ensure you use appropriate 6-string bass strings. Thread each string through the bridge, over the saddles, and through the tuning machine posts. Wind the strings neatly around the posts, ensuring sufficient wraps for tuning stability.

3.4. Tuning

Tune the bass using an electronic tuner. The standard tuning for a 6-string bass is B-E-A-D-G-C (from lowest to highest string). Adjust the tuning pegs slowly until each string reaches the correct pitch.





Image 3.1: Headstock of the ESP LTD B-206SM, showing the tuning machines.

4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

4.1. Controls Overview

The ESP LTD B-206SM features a set of controls designed for versatile tonal shaping:

- **Volume Knob:** Controls the overall output level of the bass.
- **Balance Knob:** Blends the output between the neck and bridge pickups. Turning it fully one way isolates one pickup, while the center position blends both equally.
- **3-Band EQ (ABQ-3):** Provides active control over Bass, Midrange, and Treble frequencies.





Image 4.1: Close-up of the control layout on the ESP LTD B-206SM.

4.2. Pickup Selection

Use the Balance knob to select your desired pickup configuration:

- **Neck Pickup:** Provides a warmer, rounder tone, ideal for smooth bass lines.
- **Bridge Pickup:** Offers a brighter, more articulate tone, suitable for cutting through a mix or for soloing.
- **Both Pickups:** The center position of the Balance knob blends both pickups for a full, balanced sound.

4.3. Equalization (EQ)

The active ABQ-3 3-band EQ allows for precise tonal adjustments:

- **Bass:** Boost or cut low frequencies for added depth or clarity.

- **Midrange:** Adjusts the mid-frequencies, impacting the presence and punch of your tone.
- **Treble:** Controls high frequencies for brightness or to reduce harshness.

Experiment with these controls to find the perfect tone for your playing style and musical context.

Video 4.2: Performance demonstration of a 6-string bass, showcasing various tones and controls.

5. MAINTENANCE

5.1. Cleaning

Regularly wipe down your bass with a soft, lint-free cloth after each use to remove sweat and fingerprints. For a deeper clean, use a guitar-specific polish or cleaner on the body and a dedicated fretboard conditioner for the rosewood fretboard.

5.2. String Replacement

Strings should be replaced periodically, depending on usage, to maintain optimal tone and playability. Change one string at a time to maintain neck tension. Stretch new strings gently to help them settle and hold tune faster.

5.3. Fretboard Care

The rosewood fretboard benefits from occasional conditioning to prevent drying and cracking. Apply a small amount of fretboard oil or conditioner with a clean cloth, let it soak in for a few minutes, then wipe off any excess.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

- **No Sound:** Check the instrument cable, amplifier connection, and ensure the 9V battery is fresh and correctly installed. Verify volume knobs on the bass and amplifier are turned up.
- **Weak or Distorted Sound:** This often indicates a low 9V battery. Replace the battery. Also check cable connections for any shorts or damage.
- **Fret Buzz:** Minor fret buzz can be normal, but excessive buzz may require a neck adjustment (truss rod) or bridge saddle height adjustment. It is recommended to consult a qualified guitar technician for these adjustments.
- **Tuning Instability:** Ensure strings are properly stretched and wound around the tuning posts. Check for worn strings or issues with the tuning machines. Extreme temperature changes can also affect tuning.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Brand	ESP GUITARS
Model Number	LB206SMNS
Body Material	Ash
Top Material	Maple (Spalted)
Neck Material Type	Maple
Fretboard Material	Maple
Number of Strings	6

Scale Length	35 inches
Pickup Configuration	H (Humbucker)
Electronics	Passive ESP Designed SB-6 pickups with active ABQ-3 3-band EQ
Hardware Finish	Black Nickel
Color Name	Natural Satin
Item Weight	12 pounds
Product Dimensions	52 x 5 x 18 inches
Batteries Required	1 x 9V battery

8. WARRANTY & SUPPORT

For warranty information, product registration, or technical support, please refer to the official ESP GUITARS website or contact their customer service directly. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of ownership.

Official ESP GUITARS Website: www.espguitars.com

ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MANUAL

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page’s manual context to help answer it.

Name

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Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question

