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Blue Ridge BR-160A

Blueridge BR-160A Historic Craftsman Series Dreadnought Guitar Instruction Manual

Model: BR-160A

Introduction

This manual provides essential information for the setup, operation, and maintenance of your Blueridge BR-160A Historic Craftsman Series Dreadnought Guitar. Understanding these guidelines will help ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your instrument.

The Blueridge BR-160A is crafted with a solid Adirondack spruce top and solid Indian rosewood back and sides, designed to deliver a rich, articulate tone. Its slim mahogany neck offers comfortable playability, complemented by distinctive herringbone marquetry and snowflake position markers.



Image: The Blueridge BR-160A Historic Craftsman Series Dreadnought Guitar, showcasing its classic design and wood grain.

Setup

Proper initial setup is crucial for playability and sound quality.

1. Unpacking and Initial Inspection

Carefully remove the guitar from its packaging. Inspect the instrument for any visible damage that may have occurred

during shipping. Check the neck, body, and headstock for cracks, dents, or other irregularities. Ensure all tuning machines are securely fastened.

2. Acclimatization

Allow the guitar to acclimatize to its new environment for at least 24 hours before making any adjustments or extensive playing. Sudden changes in temperature or humidity can affect the wood.

3. Tuning

The BR-160A features nickel-plated 14:1 tuners for smooth and precise tuning. Use an electronic tuner for accuracy. Standard tuning for a 6-string guitar is E-A-D-G-B-e (from thickest to thinnest string).



Image: Close-up of the Blueridge BR-160A headstock, showing the tuning machines and Blueridge logo.

4. String Action and Truss Rod Adjustment

The string action (height of strings above the fretboard) is factory-set, but may require minor adjustment based on playing style and environmental factors. The guitar is equipped with a truss rod for neck relief adjustments. **It is recommended that truss rod adjustments be performed by a qualified guitar technician** to prevent potential damage to the neck.

Operating

The Blueridge BR-160A is designed for a wide range of acoustic playing styles, from strumming to fingerpicking.

Playing Position

Hold the guitar comfortably, either seated or standing, ensuring your fretting hand has full access to the fretboard and your picking/strumming hand can move freely over the strings and soundhole. The dreadnought body shape is designed to project sound effectively.

Sound Characteristics

The solid Adirondack spruce top and Indian rosewood back and sides contribute to a balanced tone with strong projection, clear highs, and deep lows. The guitar's sound will evolve and improve with playing over time, a process known as "opening up" or "breaking in" the wood.

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Video: A demonstration of the Blueridge BR-160A Historic Craftsman Series Dreadnought Guitar being played, highlighting its acoustic properties.

Maintenance

Regular maintenance will preserve your guitar's condition and playability.

1. Cleaning

- **Body:** Wipe the body with a soft, lint-free cloth after each use to remove sweat and oils. For deeper cleaning, use a guitar-specific polish sparingly.
- **Fretboard:** Periodically clean the fretboard with a fine steel wool (0000 grade) to remove grime, then condition with a small amount of lemon oil or a specialized fretboard conditioner. Avoid getting oil on the frets or body finish.
- **Strings:** Wipe strings clean after playing to extend their life and maintain tone.

2. Humidity Control

Acoustic guitars are sensitive to humidity. Maintain a relative humidity level between 45% and 55% to prevent cracking, warping, or other wood-related issues. Use a guitar humidifier in dry climates and a dehumidifier in excessively humid environments. Store the guitar in its case when not in use for better environmental stability.

3. String Replacement

Replace strings regularly, typically every 1-3 months depending on playing frequency. Old strings lose their brightness and intonation. When replacing, change one string at a time to maintain neck tension. The BR-160A uses alloy steel strings.

4. Storage

Store your guitar in a hard case or gig bag when not in use to protect it from dust, impacts, and environmental fluctuations. Avoid exposing the guitar to extreme temperatures (e.g., direct sunlight, car trunks) or rapid temperature changes.

Troubleshooting

Here are solutions to common issues you might encounter:

1. Buzzing Strings

- **Cause:** Low string action, uneven frets, or insufficient neck relief.
- **Solution:** Check neck relief (should have a slight forward bow). If action is too low, the saddle may need to be raised. Fret leveling may be required for uneven frets. **Consult a professional technician for these adjustments.**

2. Poor Intonation

- **Cause:** Old strings, incorrect saddle placement, or bridge issues.
- **Solution:** Replace old strings. If the issue persists, a professional setup may be needed to adjust the saddle or bridge.

3. Tuning Instability

- **Cause:** New strings stretching, improperly wound strings on tuning posts, worn tuners, or environmental changes.
- **Solution:** Stretch new strings thoroughly. Ensure strings are correctly wound around the tuning posts (2-3 wraps per post). If tuners are worn, they may need replacement. Maintain consistent humidity.

Specifications

Key specifications for the Blueridge BR-160A Dreadnought Guitar:

Model Number	BR-160A

Top Material	Solid Adirondack Spruce
Back Material	Solid Indian Rosewood
Side Material	Solid Indian Rosewood
Neck Material	Mahogany
Fretboard Material	Indian Rosewood
Number of Strings	6
Scale Length	25.62 inches
Tuners	Nickel-plated 14:1
Dimensions	40 x 16 x 5 inches
Item Weight	4 pounds

Warranty and Support

For warranty information and customer support, please refer to the documentation provided with your purchase or visit the official Blue Ridge website. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.
If you require professional service or repairs, contact an authorized Blue Ridge dealer or a certified guitar technician.

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