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ESP GUITARS LB205SMFLNS

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Model: LB205SMFLNS | Brand: ESP GUITARS

INTRODUCTION

The ESP LTD B-205SM Fretless is a 5-string electric bass guitar designed for versatile musical expression. It features a fretless rosewood fingerboard, a swamp ash body with a spalted maple top, and active electronics, providing a distinct tonal palette suitable for various genres. This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your instrument.

SETUP

1. Unpacking and Initial Inspection

Carefully remove the bass 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.

2. Battery Installation

The B-205SM Fretless requires one 9V battery to power its active electronics. The battery compartment is located on the back of the bass. Open the compartment, insert a fresh 9V battery, ensuring correct polarity, and close the cover. A review notes that the battery access cover can be challenging to open; exercise care when accessing it.

Image: Rear view of the bass, highlighting the battery compartment.

3. Stringing and String Type

When replacing strings, ensure you use "super long" scale bass strings to accommodate the instrument's length. For fretless basses, flatwound strings are often recommended as they can help prevent wear and indentations on the rosewood fingerboard, while also providing a smooth, mwah-like tone characteristic of fretless instruments.

4. Initial Setup (Action and Intonation)

Your bass may require minor adjustments to the bridge and neck (truss rod) for optimal playability and intonation. These adjustments are common for new instruments and can be performed by a qualified technician or experienced player. Refer to online tutorials or a luthier for guidance on setting string action and intonation.

5. Strap Selection

Due to the instrument's solid construction, it has a notable weight. Using a wide, padded strap is recommended for comfort during extended playing sessions.

OPERATING

1. Connecting to an Amplifier

Connect a standard 1/4-inch instrument cable from the output jack on your bass to the input of your bass amplifier. Ensure your amplifier's volume is set to a low level before turning it on.

2. Controls Overview



Image: Close-up of the bass body, showing pickups and control knobs.

- **Volume Knob:** Controls the overall output level of the bass.
- **Balance Knob:** Blends the output between the neck and bridge pickups. Turn towards the neck for more warmth, towards the bridge for more articulation.
- **Active EQ Knobs (Bass, Mid, Treble):** These controls allow you to shape the tone of your bass. Adjust them to boost or cut specific frequency ranges to achieve your desired sound.

3. Playing Fretless

The fretless fingerboard requires precise finger placement directly on the desired note's position, rather than behind a fret. This allows for smooth glides, vibrato, and the characteristic "mwah" sound. Practice with a tuner to develop accurate pitch. The fingerboard features lines to assist with intonation guidance.



Image: Full front view of the ESP LTD B-205SM Fretless bass.

MAINTENANCE

1. Cleaning

- **Body:** Wipe the body with a soft, dry, lint-free cloth after each use to remove sweat and fingerprints. For deeper cleaning, use a guitar-specific cleaning solution suitable for satin finishes.
- **Fingerboard:** Clean the rosewood fingerboard periodically with a damp cloth to remove grime. Apply a small amount of lemon oil or a specialized fretboard conditioner to keep the wood hydrated and prevent cracking.
- **Hardware:** Use a soft cloth to clean the bridge, tuners, and control knobs. Avoid abrasive cleaners.

2. String Replacement

Replace strings regularly, as old strings can lose their tone and intonation. When replacing, change one string at a time to maintain neck tension. As mentioned, consider flatwound strings for fretless instruments to protect the fingerboard.

3. Battery Replacement

Replace the 9V battery when the sound becomes weak or distorted, or if there is no output. It is good practice to carry a spare 9V battery, especially for live performances.

4. Storage

Store your bass in a stable environment, away from extreme temperature changes, humidity fluctuations, and direct sunlight. A gig bag or hard case provides protection against physical damage and environmental factors.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound from amplifier	Dead battery, faulty cable, amplifier off/incorrect settings.	Replace 9V battery, check cable connections, ensure amplifier is on and set correctly.
Weak or distorted sound	Low battery, incorrect EQ settings, old strings.	Replace 9V battery, adjust EQ, replace strings.
Buzzing or rattling noise	Low string action, incorrect neck relief, loose hardware.	Adjust bridge saddle height, adjust truss rod (professional recommended), check and tighten hardware.
Difficulty opening battery compartment	Tight fit, design characteristic.	Use a non-marring tool or firm pressure. Exercise caution to avoid damage.

SPECIFICATIONS



Image: Various views of the ESP LTD B-205SM Fretless bass.

- **Model:** LB205SMFLNS
- **Number of Strings:** 5
- **Scale Length:** 34 inches
- **Body Material:** Swamp Ash with Spalted Maple Top
- **Neck Material:** 5-piece Maple/Rosewood
- **Fingerboard:** Rosewood, Fretless
- **Finish Type:** Natural Satin
- **Pickups:** 2 SB-4 Humbucking Pickups (Active)
- **Controls:** Volume, Balance, Active 3-Band EQ (Bass, Mid, Treble)
- **Bridge:** Adjustable Bass Bridge
- **Hardware Color:** Black
- **Battery:** 1 x 9V battery required
- **Item Weight:** Approximately 12.12 pounds (5.5 kg)
- **Product Dimensions:** 44 x 16.33 x 5.67 inches (111.76 x 41.48 x 14.4 cm)

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For detailed warranty information, please refer to the documentation provided with your purchase or visit the official ESP GUITARS website. Warranty terms and conditions may vary by region and retailer.

For further assistance, technical support, or to find authorized service centers, please visit the official ESP GUITARS website or contact your retailer.

Official ESP GUITARS Store: [ESP GUITARS Amazon Store](#)

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