

ESP GUITARS TL-12

ESP LTD TL-12 Thinline 12-String Acoustic Electric Guitar User Manual

Model: TL-12 | Brand: ESP GUITARS

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for choosing the ESP LTD TL-12 Thinline 12-String Acoustic Electric Guitar. This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, maintenance, and care of your instrument. Please read this manual thoroughly to ensure optimal performance and longevity of your guitar.

The TL series features a thinline transducer-electric design with an Acoustic Resonant Chamber, offering a full-bodied acoustic tone with the comfort and feel of an electric guitar. It includes high-quality components such as a Graphtech NuBone-XB nut and saddle, and B-Band pickup technology with an onboard tuner.

KEY FEATURES

- **Body:** Mahogany with a Maple Top
- **Neck:** Mahogany
- **Fingerboard:** Rosewood
- **Bridge:** Rosewood with Graphtech NuBone-XB Saddle
- **Construction:** Set-Neck
- **Scale Length:** 25 inches
- **Frets:** 22 Jumbo Frets
- **Neck Contour:** Thin-U
- **Pickup:** B-Band Electret Film Transducer with B-Band T-7 Preamp and Onboard Tuner
- **Number of Strings:** 12

SETUP

1. Unpacking and Inspection

Carefully remove the 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 in case of a return.

2. Initial Tuning

Your ESP LTD TL-12 is equipped with a B-Band T-7 preamp with an onboard tuner. To tune your guitar:

1. Press the "Tuner" button on the preamp to activate the tuner.
2. Pluck each string individually. The display will show the note being played and indicate if it is sharp, flat, or in tune.
3. Adjust the tuning pegs until the display shows the correct note and indicates it is in tune (usually a green light or centered needle).
4. After tuning, press the "Tuner" button again to deactivate the tuner and conserve battery life.





Figure 1: Front view of the ESP LTD TL-12 Thinline 12-String Acoustic Electric Guitar in Black.



Figure 2: Close-up view of the B-Band T-7 preamp and onboard tuner located on the side of the guitar body.

3. Battery Installation/Replacement

The B-Band T-7 preamp requires one 9V battery for operation. The battery compartment is located on the back of

the guitar body. To access it, you will need a small Phillips head screwdriver to remove the screws on the plate. Ensure the battery is inserted with the correct polarity. Replace the battery when the low battery indicator illuminates or when the sound becomes weak or distorted when amplified.





Figure 3: Rear view of the ESP LTD TL-12 guitar, highlighting the battery compartment access panel.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Connecting to an Amplifier/PA System

Use a standard 1/4-inch instrument cable to connect the guitar's output jack to your amplifier or PA system. Adjust the volume and tone controls on your amplifier as desired.

2. Using the B-Band T-7 Preamp Controls

The onboard preamp allows you to shape your amplified tone:

- **Volume:** Controls the overall output level of the amplified signal.
- **Bass:** Adjusts the low-frequency response. Turn clockwise for more bass, counter-clockwise for less.
- **Middle:** Adjusts the mid-frequency response.
- **Treble:** Adjusts the high-frequency response. Turn clockwise for more treble, counter-clockwise for less.
- **Presence:** Adds clarity and sparkle to the high-end.
- **Phase:** Reverses the phase of the signal. This can help reduce feedback in live situations.
- **Tuner:** Activates/deactivates the onboard tuner.

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Video 1: Demonstration of the ESP TL Series guitar, showcasing its features and sound. This video provides an overview of the instrument's capabilities and design.

MAINTENANCE

1. Cleaning

Regularly wipe down your guitar with a soft, lint-free cloth to remove dust and fingerprints. For a deeper clean, use a guitar-specific polish or cleaner. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents that could damage the finish.

2. String Replacement

Strings should be replaced periodically, depending on how often you play and your playing style. Old strings can sound dull and affect intonation. When replacing strings, change them one at a time to maintain neck tension. Use 12-string acoustic guitar strings of appropriate gauge.

3. Humidity Control

Wood instruments are sensitive to changes in temperature and humidity. Store your guitar in a stable environment,

ideally with relative humidity between 45-55% and temperatures between 65-75°F (18-24°C). Use a humidifier or dehumidifier if necessary, especially in extreme climates, to prevent warping or cracking of the wood.

4. Fretboard Care

Periodically clean and condition the rosewood fretboard to prevent it from drying out. Use a fretboard conditioner or lemon oil (specifically designed for guitar fretboards) to keep the wood hydrated.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound when plugged in	Dead battery in preamp, faulty cable, amplifier off/volume down.	Replace 9V battery, check cable connections, ensure amplifier is on and volume is up.
Weak or distorted amplified sound	Low battery, incorrect preamp settings, damaged pickup.	Replace 9V battery, adjust Bass/Middle/Treble/Presence controls, consult a qualified technician if pickup is suspected.
Guitar won't stay in tune	Old strings, improper string winding, tuning machine issues, environmental changes.	Replace strings, ensure strings are properly wound around tuning posts, check for loose tuning machine screws, maintain stable humidity/temperature.
Fret buzz	Low action, uneven frets, neck relief issues, worn frets.	Adjust action at bridge, check neck relief (truss rod adjustment), consult a qualified technician for fret leveling or replacement.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model	LTD TL-12 (LTL12BLK)
Body Material	Mahogany
Top Material	Maple Wood
Back Material	Basswood
Neck Material	Mahogany
Fretboard Material	Rosewood
Scale Length	25.0 inches

Feature	Detail
Number of Frets	22 Jumbo
Nut & Saddle	Graphtech NuBone-XB
Pickup Configuration	B-Band Electret Film Transducer
Preamp	B-Band T-7 with Onboard Tuner
Number of Strings	12
Item Weight	12 pounds
Product Dimensions	19 x 6 x 48 inches
Power Source	1 x 9V Battery (included)

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information and customer support, please refer to the official ESP GUITARS website or contact your authorized dealer. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

Online resources and additional support may be available through the manufacturer's website:

- [ESP Guitars Official Website](#)