

[Manuals.plus](#) /

› [Sterling by Music Man](#) /

› Sterling by Music Man Axis AX3S Electric Guitar User Manual

Sterling by Music Man AX3S-BK-R1

Sterling by Music Man Axis AX3S Electric Guitar User Manual

Model: AX3S-BK-R1

INTRODUCTION

The Sterling by Music Man Axis AX3S electric guitar is a modern interpretation of a classic design, known for its distinctive single-cutaway body and versatile sound. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your AX3S guitar, ensuring optimal performance and longevity.

This instrument features a basswood body, maple neck, and jatoba fretboard, equipped with Sterling by Music Man designed humbuckers for a rich and powerful tone. Its 5-way selector, volume, and tone controls offer a wide range of sonic possibilities, complemented by a vintage-style tremolo system for expressive playing.

KEY FEATURES

- **Model:** Axis AX3S-BK-R1 Guitar in black finish with White Body Binding and matching headstock.
- **Body Material:** Basswood body for balanced tone and comfortable weight.
- **Neck & Fretboard:** Maple neck with a smooth jatoba fretboard for excellent playability.
- **Pickups:** Equipped with Sterling by Music Man designed humbuckers (HH configuration) for powerful and clear sound.
- **Controls:** Intuitive volume and tone controls, paired with a 5-way toggle switch for versatile pickup selection.
- **Bridge:** Vintage-style tremolo system for pitch modulation.
- **Quality Assurance:** All Sterling by Music Man instruments undergo final setup and inspection in the USA.

SETUP

Unpacking and Initial 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 storage.

Tuning

Before playing, ensure the guitar is properly tuned. Standard tuning for a 6-string guitar is E-A-D-G-B-e (from lowest to

highest string). Use an electronic tuner for accuracy.

Connecting to an Amplifier

Connect one end of a standard 1/4-inch instrument cable to the output jack located on the side of the guitar body. Connect the other end to the input of your guitar amplifier. Ensure the amplifier's volume is set to a low level before turning it on.



Figure 1: Close-up of the guitar's controls and output jack.

This image provides a detailed view of the guitar's control layout, including the volume and tone knobs, the 5-way pickup selector, and the input jack for connecting to an amplifier. Familiarize yourself with these components for optimal sound control.

OPERATING

Volume and Tone Controls

- **Volume Knob:** Controls the overall output level of the guitar. Turn clockwise to increase volume, counter-clockwise to decrease.
- **Tone Knob:** Adjusts the treble response. Turn clockwise for brighter tones, counter-clockwise for warmer, darker tones.

5-Way Pickup Selector

The 5-way switch allows you to select different pickup configurations, offering a variety of tonal options:

1. **Position 1 (Bridge):** Activates the bridge humbucker for a bright, cutting tone, ideal for lead playing and aggressive rhythms.
2. **Position 2 (Bridge & Middle Coil Split):** Combines the bridge humbucker with a coil-split sound, offering a slightly thinner, more articulate tone.
3. **Position 3 (Both Humbuckers):** Activates both bridge and neck humbuckers for a full, rich, and balanced tone.
4. **Position 4 (Neck & Middle Coil Split):** Combines the neck humbucker with a coil-split sound, providing a warmer, yet still articulate tone.
5. **Position 5 (Neck):** Activates the neck humbucker for a warm, smooth tone, suitable for rhythm playing and bluesy leads.



Figure 2: Detailed view of the guitar's control layout.

This image shows a close-up of the guitar's main playing surface, including the bridge, both humbucking pickups, and the control knobs and switch. Understanding these components is key to exploring the guitar's full tonal range.

Cleaning

- **Body and Neck:** Use a soft, lint-free cloth to wipe down the body and neck after each use to remove sweat and fingerprints. For deeper cleaning, use a guitar-specific polish or cleaner sparingly.
- **Fretboard:** Periodically clean the fretboard with a dedicated fretboard cleaner and conditioner to prevent drying and cracking.
- **Strings:** Wipe down strings after each use to prolong their life and maintain tone.

String Replacement

Strings should be replaced regularly, depending on playing frequency and style. Old strings can sound dull and affect tuning stability. When replacing strings, change them one at a time to maintain neck tension. Use nickel-wound electric guitar strings for optimal performance.

Storage

Store your guitar in a stable environment, away from extreme temperature changes and humidity fluctuations. A guitar case or gig bag provides protection from dust and physical damage.



Figure 3: Front view of the Sterling by Music Man Axis AX3S electric guitar.

This image presents a full front view of the guitar, illustrating its overall aesthetic and the placement of its components. Regular cleaning and proper storage, as described in this section, will help maintain its appearance and playability.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No Sound from Amplifier	Cable not connected, amplifier off, volume low, faulty cable.	Ensure cable is securely connected to guitar and amp. Turn on amplifier and increase volume. Test with a different cable.
Poor Tuning Stability	Old strings, improper string winding, tremolo use, environmental changes.	Replace old strings. Ensure strings are properly wound around tuning pegs. Allow guitar to acclimate to room temperature.
Buzzing Fret/String	Low action, uneven frets, worn strings.	Check string height (action). If buzzing persists, professional setup may be required. Replace worn strings.
Weak or Intermittent Signal	Dirty output jack, faulty wiring, pickup issue.	Clean output jack. If problem persists, consult a qualified guitar technician.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Number	AX3S-BK-R1
Body Material	Basswood
Neck Material	Maple
Fretboard Material	Jatoba Wood
Number of Strings	6
Scale Length	25.5 Inches
Pickup Configuration	H-H (Humbucker-Humbucker)
Bridge System	Tremolo
Controls	1 Volume, 1 Tone, 5-way Toggle Switch
Color	Black with White Binding
Item Weight	7 pounds
Product Dimensions	36.25 x 1.75 x 12.5 inches
Hand Orientation	Right



Figure 4: Overall view of the Sterling by Music Man Axis AX3S electric guitar.

This image provides a comprehensive view of the guitar, illustrating its full form and design. The specifications listed above detail the materials and dimensions of this instrument.

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Specific warranty details for your Sterling by Music Man Axis AX3S electric guitar are typically provided with the product packaging or can be found on the official Sterling by Music Man website. Please refer to these resources for comprehensive warranty information, including coverage period and terms.

For technical support, service, or any inquiries not covered in this manual, please contact Sterling by Music Man customer service through their official website or authorized dealers. Ensure you have your model number (AX3S-BK-R1) and purchase information ready when seeking support.

You can visit the official Sterling by Music Man store for more information: [Sterling by Music Man Store](#).

© 2024 Sterling by Music Man. All rights reserved.

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

Anonymous

Email

you@example.com

After a successful submission, we securely hash the supplied account or form email before sending it to Microsoft Advertising for conversion attribution. [Privacy details](#).

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