

Fender 0118012712

Fender American Ultra Stratocaster Instruction Manual

Model: 0118012712

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the setup, operation, and maintenance of your Fender American Ultra Stratocaster. Designed for professional guitarists, this instrument combines unique comfort with extensive tonal possibilities. Key features include a Modern D neck profile, Ultra rolled fingerboard edges, a tapered neck heel for upper fret access, and a 10-inch to 14-inch compound-radius fingerboard for precision and comfort. The guitar is equipped with Ultra Noiseless Vintage pickups and advanced wiring options to deliver a wide range of tones without hum. Sculpted rear body contours enhance playing comfort and aesthetics.

SETUP

Initial Inspection

Upon unboxing, carefully inspect your American Ultra Stratocaster for any signs of damage. Ensure all components, including the strings, tuners, and bridge, are securely in place. The guitar is factory-set, but minor adjustments may be necessary after shipping.

Tuning

Use a reliable electronic tuner to accurately tune your guitar. The standard tuning for a 6-string guitar is E-A-D-G-B-e (from thickest to thinnest string). The high-quality tuners on your Stratocaster are designed for stable tuning.

Connecting to an Amplifier

Insert a standard 1/4-inch instrument cable into the output jack located on the lower bout of the guitar body. Connect the other end of the cable to your amplifier's input. Ensure your amplifier is set to a clean channel for initial sound checks.



Front view of the Fender American Ultra Stratocaster, showcasing the Ultraburst finish, maple fingerboard, and pickguard with three single-coil pickups.

OPERATING YOUR STRATOCASTER

Pickup Selector Switch

Your American Ultra Stratocaster features a 5-way blade pickup selector switch, allowing access to various pickup combinations:

1. **Position 1 (Bridge):** Activates the bridge pickup for a bright, cutting tone.
2. **Position 2 (Bridge and Middle):** Combines the bridge and middle pickups for a quacky, articulate sound.
3. **Position 3 (Middle):** Activates the middle pickup for a balanced, clear tone.
4. **Position 4 (Middle and Neck):** Combines the middle and neck pickups for a warm, bell-like tone.
5. **Position 5 (Neck):** Activates the neck pickup for a full, mellow tone.

Volume and Tone Controls

- **Volume Knob:** Controls the overall output level of the guitar.
- **Tone 1 Knob:** Controls the tone for the neck and middle pickups.
- **Tone 2 Knob:** Controls the tone for the bridge pickup. This knob also features an S-1 Switch.

S-1 Switch

The S-1 Switch, integrated into the Tone 2 knob, provides additional tonal versatility. When engaged (pushed down), it alters the pickup wiring to offer unique series or parallel combinations, expanding the sonic palette beyond the standard 5-way switch settings. Refer to the detailed wiring diagram for specific configurations.

Tremolo System

The tremolo system allows for pitch modulation effects. Use the tremolo arm to raise or lower the pitch of the strings. Proper setup and stringing are crucial for optimal tremolo performance and tuning stability.



A detailed view of the guitar's body, highlighting the three Ultra Noiseless single-coil pickups, volume and tone knobs, and the tremolo bridge system.

MAINTENANCE

Cleaning

- **Body:** Wipe the body with a soft, lint-free cloth after each use to remove fingerprints and sweat. For deeper cleaning, use a guitar-specific polish.
- **Neck and Fingerboard:** The maple neck and fingerboard can be cleaned with a damp cloth. Avoid excessive moisture. For the maple fingerboard, a light application of lemon oil or a specialized fretboard conditioner can help maintain its condition, but use sparingly.
- **Hardware:** Periodically clean metal hardware (tuners, bridge) with a dry cloth to prevent tarnishing.

String Replacement

Replace strings regularly to maintain optimal tone and playability. Use nickel strings of appropriate gauge for your guitar. When replacing, change one string at a time to maintain neck tension. Stretch new strings gently to help them settle and hold tune.

Storage and Humidity

Store your guitar in its case when not in use to protect it from dust, impacts, and environmental changes. Maintain a stable humidity level (ideally 45-55%) to prevent wood warping or cracking, especially for the maple neck and fingerboard.



Close-up of the headstock, displaying the Fender logo and six tuning machines, essential for maintaining string tension and pitch.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Excessive Hum or Noise

Your American Ultra Stratocaster is equipped with Ultra Noiseless Vintage pickups designed to minimize hum. If you experience excessive hum:

- Check your instrument cable for damage or loose connections.
- Ensure your amplifier and other equipment are properly grounded.
- Test the guitar with a different cable or amplifier to isolate the issue.
- Verify that the S-1 switch is not inadvertently engaged in a setting that might introduce noise with certain effects.

Tuning Instability

If your guitar struggles to stay in tune:

- Ensure strings are properly stretched after installation.
- Check for worn or improperly wound strings around the tuning posts.

- Lubricate the nut slots with graphite or a specialized nut lubricant.
- Inspect the tremolo system for any binding or friction points.

No Sound Output

- Confirm the volume knob on the guitar and amplifier is turned up.
- Check the instrument cable for continuity.
- Ensure the guitar is properly plugged into the amplifier.
- Verify the amplifier is powered on and functioning correctly.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Number	0118012712
Body Material	Alder
Neck Material	Maple
Fretboard Material	Maple Wood
Color	Ultraburst
Pickup Configuration	3 Ultra Noiseless Single-coil Pickups with S-1 Switch
Bridge System	Tremolo
Scale Length	25.5 inches
Number of Strings	6
Hand Orientation	Right
Item Weight	11 pounds
Product Dimensions	42 x 16 x 6 inches

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information, product registration, or technical support, please visit the official Fender website or contact Fender customer service. Keep your proof of purchase for any warranty claims.
Official Fender Website: www.fender.com