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› Harley Benton JA Electric Guitar Kit User Manual

Harley Benton Harley Benton Electric Guitar Kit JA

Harley Benton JA Electric Guitar Kit User Manual

Model: Harley Benton Electric Guitar Kit JA

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the assembly, operation, and maintenance of your Harley Benton JA Electric Guitar Kit. This kit is designed for enthusiasts who enjoy building their own instruments and requires a certain degree of craftsmanship for successful completion. Please read all instructions carefully before beginning assembly.



Image: The fully assembled Harley Benton JA Electric Guitar Kit, showcasing its natural wood finish, distinctive red tortoise pickguard, and two P90 single-coil pickups. This image represents the final product after successful assembly.

SAFETY INFORMATION

Always prioritize safety when working with tools and electrical components. Failure to follow these safety guidelines may result in injury or damage to the product.

- **Eye Protection:** Always wear safety glasses to protect your eyes from flying debris, dust, or chemical splashes.
- **Hand Protection:** Use gloves when handling sharp tools, wood, or chemicals.
- **Ventilation:** Work in a well-ventilated area, especially when applying finishes, glues, or soldering.
- **Tool Safety:** Use tools correctly and keep them sharp. Store them safely when not in use.
- **Electrical Safety:** Ensure all electrical connections are properly insulated. Disconnect power before working on any electronic components. If you are unsure about wiring, consult a qualified technician.
- **Children and Pets:** Keep all kit components, tools, and chemicals out of reach of children and pets.

KIT CONTENTS

Before starting assembly, carefully unpack and verify that all components listed below are present and undamaged. If any parts are missing or damaged, please contact your retailer.

- Electric guitar body (Rengas wood, natural finish)
- Bolt-on maple neck with binding and maple fretboard
- Headstock (unshaped or pre-shaped, depending on kit version)

- Pickguard (e.g., red tortoise style)
- 2x P90 single-coil pickups
- Bridge and tailpiece assembly (chromed hardware)
- Tuning machines (6-in-line)
- Control pots (Volume, Tone), output jack, and wiring
- Control knobs
- Strap buttons
- Neck plate and screws
- Assorted screws and hardware for assembly
- Strings



Image: Front view of the main components of the Harley Benton JA Electric Guitar Kit, including the natural Rengas wood body, the maple neck, and the red tortoise pickguard with pickup cavities.



Image: Back view of the Harley Benton JA Electric Guitar Kit body and neck, showing the neck pocket and the natural wood grain of the Rengas body and maple neck.

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

The body and neck have been pre-treated with a pore filler. This finish is suitable for varnishing but may be unfavorable for staining, potentially requiring re-sanding if a stained finish is desired.

1. **Body Preparation (Optional Finishing):**

If you wish to paint or stain your guitar, prepare the body and neck surfaces. The existing pore filler is suitable for varnish. For staining, light re-sanding may be necessary to ensure proper stain absorption. Follow the instructions of your chosen finishing product carefully.

2. **Install Tuning Machines:**

Attach the tuning machines to the headstock. Ensure they are aligned correctly before tightening any screws. Some kits may require drilling pilot holes for the screws.

3. **Attach the Neck:**

Carefully align the neck with the neck pocket on the body. Insert the neck plate and secure the neck to the body using the provided screws. Do not overtighten.

4. **Install Bridge and Tailpiece:**

Mount the bridge and tailpiece hardware onto the body. Ensure proper alignment for string path and intonation. Refer to diagrams if available with your specific kit.

5. **Install Pickups and Controls:**

Mount the P90 pickups into the pickguard. Install the volume and tone potentiometers, and the output jack. Follow the provided wiring diagram (if included) or a standard P90 wiring diagram for two pickups, two tone, two volume, and a 3-way switch (if applicable, though the image suggests a simpler setup with two pots and a switch on the pickguard). Solder all connections carefully, ensuring good contact and insulation.

6. Attach Pickguard:

Once the electronics are wired and tested (a quick continuity check can be useful), carefully place the pickguard onto the body and secure it with screws.

7. Install Strap Buttons:

Attach the strap buttons to the designated locations on the body. Pre-drill pilot holes to prevent wood splitting.

8. String the Guitar:

Install the guitar strings. Start with the lowest E string and work your way up. Stretch the strings gently to help them settle.

9. Initial Setup:

After stringing, perform an initial setup. This includes tuning the guitar, adjusting the string action (height) at the bridge, checking the neck relief (truss rod adjustment), and setting the intonation. Numerous online resources and guides are available for detailed guitar setup procedures.

OPERATING YOUR GUITAR

Once assembled and set up, your Harley Benton JA Electric Guitar is ready to play.

- **Tuning:** Use an electronic tuner to accurately tune your guitar to standard EADGB_e or your preferred tuning.
- **Connecting to an Amplifier:** Use a standard 1/4-inch instrument cable to connect the guitar's output jack to your amplifier's input.
- **Volume Control:** Adjust the master volume knob on the guitar to control the overall output level.
- **Tone Control:** Use the tone knob(s) to shape the treble response of your pickups. Turning it down will produce a warmer, darker sound.
- **Pickup Selector:** If your kit includes a pickup selector switch, use it to choose between the neck pickup (warmer tone), bridge pickup (brighter, more aggressive tone), or both pickups combined.

MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance will ensure your guitar remains in optimal playing condition and prolong its lifespan.

- **Cleaning:** Wipe down the body, neck, and strings with a soft, lint-free cloth after each use to remove sweat and grime. Use guitar-specific cleaning products for deeper cleaning or polishing.
- **String Replacement:** Change strings regularly, typically every 1-3 months depending on playing frequency. Old strings lose their tone and intonation.
- **Fretboard Care:** For maple fretboards, occasional cleaning with a damp cloth is usually sufficient. Avoid excessive moisture.
- **Hardware Check:** Periodically check all screws and nuts (tuners, bridge, strap buttons) for tightness. Do not overtighten.
- **Humidity Control:** Store your guitar in an environment with stable temperature and humidity to prevent wood warping or cracking.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Here are some common issues and their potential solutions:

- **No Sound:**
 - Check cable connections (guitar to amp).

- Ensure amplifier is on and volume is up.
 - Check guitar's volume knob.
 - Inspect wiring for loose or broken solder joints.
 - Test with a different cable or amplifier.
- **Buzzing Frets:**
 - String action might be too low. Adjust bridge height.
 - Neck relief might be incorrect. Adjust the truss rod (consult a professional if unsure).
 - Uneven frets. This may require professional fret leveling.
- **Poor Intonation:**
 - Strings may be old. Replace them.
 - Bridge saddles need adjustment. Tune the open string, then check the 12th fret harmonic and fretted note. Adjust the saddle forward or backward until they match.
- **Scratchy Pots/Controls:**
 - Dust or dirt inside the potentiometers. Use a contact cleaner designed for electronics.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	Harley Benton
Model Name	Harley Benton JA Electric Guitar Kit
Model Number	Harley Benton Electric Guitar Kit JA
Body Material	Rengas Wood
Neck Material	Maple
Fretboard Material	Maple Wood
Pickup Configuration	2 P90 Single Coils (Bridge and Neck)
Number of Strings	6
Hand Orientation	Right
Bridge Type	Chromed Hardware
Color	Natural
Manufacturer	Musikhaus Thomann

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information, please refer to the documentation provided by your retailer at the time of purchase. Warranty terms and conditions may vary depending on your region and the retailer.

For technical support or assistance with specific assembly challenges, please contact Harley Benton customer

service or your authorized dealer. Keep your purchase receipt and model number handy when seeking support.

Manufacturer: Musikhaus Thomann

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