

Sterling by Music Man ST-RAY2-BK-M1

Sterling by Music Man Intro Series StingRay Bass Guitar

USER MANUAL - MODEL: ST-RAY2-BK-M1

1. Introduction

Welcome to the Sterling by Music Man family. This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your new Intro Series StingRay bass guitar. The Intro Series StingRay bass is designed for new players, featuring a humbucking pickup with passive electronics for a versatile tone. It includes a narrow 38mm nut width, a contoured body, and a hard maple neck with a satin finish for a comfortable playing experience.

2. Safety Information

- **Handle with Care:** Always handle your instrument carefully to prevent damage from drops or impacts.
- **Environmental Conditions:** Avoid exposing the instrument to extreme temperatures, humidity, or direct sunlight, which can cause warping or finish damage.
- **Cleaning:** Use only approved cleaning products and soft cloths to avoid scratching the finish.
- **Electrical Safety:** When connecting to amplifiers or other electronic equipment, ensure all devices are properly grounded and follow their respective safety guidelines. Disconnect power before making connections.

3. Package Contents

Please verify that all items are present in the package:

- Sterling by Music Man Intro Series StingRay Bass Guitar
- White Pickguard (pre-installed)
- User Manual (this document)

4. Setup

4.1 Unpacking

Carefully remove the bass guitar from its packaging. Retain all packaging materials for future transport or storage.

4.2 Initial Inspection

Inspect the instrument for any visible damage that may have occurred during shipping. If you find any issues, contact your retailer immediately.





Figure 1: Front view of the Sterling by Music Man Intro Series StingRay bass guitar. This image shows the full body, neck, headstock, and controls from the front.

4.3 Connecting to an Amplifier

1. Ensure your amplifier is turned off and its volume is set to minimum.
2. Connect one end of a standard 1/4" instrument cable to the output jack located on the side of your bass guitar.
3. Connect the other end of the cable to the input jack of your amplifier.
4. Turn on your amplifier and slowly increase the volume to a desired level.

4.4 Tuning

The standard tuning for a 4-string bass guitar is E-A-D-G (from thickest to thinnest string). Use an electronic tuner for accurate tuning. Pluck each string individually and adjust the corresponding tuning machine head until the tuner indicates the correct pitch.

5. Operating Your Bass Guitar

5.1 Controls Overview

The Intro Series StingRay bass features passive electronics, typically including:

- **Volume Knob:** Controls the overall output level of the instrument. Turn clockwise to increase volume, counter-clockwise to decrease.
- **Tone Knob:** Adjusts the treble frequencies. Turning clockwise typically brightens the sound, while turning counter-clockwise rolls off high frequencies for a warmer tone.





Figure 2: Angled front view, showing the body shape and control knobs.





Figure 3: Side view, illustrating the instrument's profile.

5.2 Basic Playing Techniques

Hold the bass comfortably, either seated or standing with a strap. Use your fretting hand to press down on the strings against the frets to change pitch, and your picking hand (fingers or pick) to pluck or strike the strings to produce sound.

6. Maintenance and Care

6.1 Cleaning

After each use, wipe down the strings and body with a clean, soft, dry cloth to remove sweat and oils. For the body, a guitar-specific polish can be used periodically. For the fretboard, especially if it's maple, a damp cloth followed by a dry one is usually sufficient. Avoid harsh chemicals.

6.2 String Replacement

Strings should be replaced regularly, depending on usage, to maintain optimal tone and playability. Replace one string at a time to maintain neck tension. Use nickel-wound bass strings of appropriate gauge (e.g., .045-.105).

6.3 Storage

When not in use, store your bass in a gig bag or hard case to protect it from dust, impacts, and environmental changes. Avoid leaning the instrument against walls or furniture where it could fall.





Figure 4: Rear view, showing the back of the instrument.

7. Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound from amplifier	Cable not connected, amplifier off, volume low, faulty cable/amp	Check all connections, turn on amplifier, increase volume, test with different cable/amp

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Buzzing/Humming noise	Poor grounding, faulty cable, interference, single-coil hum (less likely with humbucker)	Ensure proper grounding, try different cable, move away from electronic devices
Strings buzz on frets	Low action, warped neck, worn frets	Adjust bridge saddle height, check neck relief (truss rod adjustment), consult a qualified technician
Poor intonation	Incorrect bridge saddle position	Adjust bridge saddles to ensure notes are in tune across the fretboard. Consult a technician if unsure.

8. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model	ST-RAY2-BK-M1
Body Material	Poplar
Neck Material	Hard Maple
Fretboard Material	Hard Maple
Number of Strings	4
Pickup Configuration	Humbucking (Passive)
Bridge System	Fixed Bridge
Nut Width	38mm (Narrow)
Finish Type	Painted (Black)
Item Weight	8.8 pounds
Product Dimensions	45 x 13.5 x 1.5 inches

9. Warranty and Support

Sterling by Music Man instruments are designed and manufactured to high standards. For information regarding warranty coverage, please refer to the warranty card included with your purchase or visit the official Sterling by Music Man website. For technical support or service, please contact your authorized dealer or Sterling by Music Man customer service.