

**INDIO**

**Classic Electric Guitar User's Manual**

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## SAFETY WARNINGS AND GUIDELINES

Please read this entire manual before using this device, paying extra attention to these safety warnings and guidelines. Please keep this manual in a safe place for future reference.

- If using a strap, ensure that the strap is securely attached to the guitar. Do not lift or swing the guitar about by the strap. The strap could come loose, causing the guitar to fall to the ground or to hit other persons nearby.
- Do not treat the instrument roughly. Do not put excessive force on the switches and knobs.
- Do not put your face close to the guitar when changing the strings or tuning the guitar. A string could suddenly break, which could cause facial and eye injuries. It is recommended to wear safety glasses when changing strings or tuning the guitar.
- After changing the strings, use a pair of wire cutters to trim the string ends. Be aware of the sharp ends of the strings after they are trimmed.
- Clean the guitar using a soft, dry cloth only. Take care to avoid injury from the sharp string ends at the headstock.
- To prevent damage to the guitar, do not lean it against a wall where it could fall over. For best results, use a guitar stand.
- Do not store the instrument near a heat source, such as a fireplace or stove. Do not leave it in direct sunlight. Do not leave it in a hot vehicle, especially during the summer.
- Avoid exposing your instrument to extremes in temperature and humidity. If exposure cannot be avoided, loosen the strings and allow cold instruments to gradually warm up.
- When connecting or disconnecting the guitar to an amplifier, ensure that the amplifier is either powered off or that the volume is turned all the way down.

## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing this Indio Guitar! Your new guitar is a precision musical instrument, which if properly cared for, will give decades of faithful service.

Before using this guitar, you should check the setup and adjust as necessary. Performing a setup will ensure that the neck is straight and that the action (string height) and intonation are correct. As you use and transport your guitar, the strings will wear out and parts may come loose or require adjustment. While you can take your guitar to a luthier for maintenance, doing your own maintenance will help you fine tune the guitar's setup to suit your individual playing style and preferences.

This manual includes instructions for basic operation, replacing the strings, adjusting the neck, adjusting the action, adjusting the intonation, cleaning, and other maintenance. Note that there are a lot of websites and instructional videos with this information available, so feel free to supplement the information in this manual with other sources.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

The Monoprice Customer Service department is dedicated to ensuring that your ordering, purchasing, and delivery experience is second to none. If you have any problem with your order, please give us an opportunity to make it right. You can contact a Monoprice Customer Service representative through the Live Chat link on our website **[www.monoprice.com](http://www.monoprice.com)** during normal business hours (Mon-Fri: 5am-7pm PT, Sat-Sun: 9am-6pm PT) or via email at **[support@monoprice.com](mailto:support@monoprice.com)**

## PACKAGE CONTENTS

Please take an inventory of the package contents to ensure you have all the items listed below. If anything is missing or damaged, please contact Monoprice Customer Service for a replacement.

1x Electric Guitar with Installed Strings

1x Heavy-Duty Zippered Gig Bag with Shoulder and Backpack Straps

1x Truss Rod Wrench (all models)

1x Saddle Height Adjustment Wrench (California Classic and Retro Vision models only)

1x Bridge Height Adjustment Wrench (California Classic models only)

1x Tremolo Bar (California Classic models only)

## PREPARATION FOR USE

Prior to first use, remove the plastic film from the pickups and other parts of the guitar.

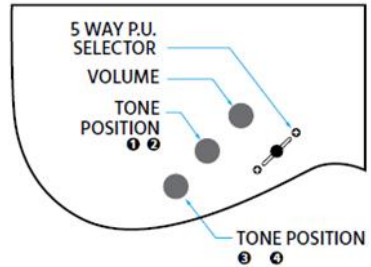
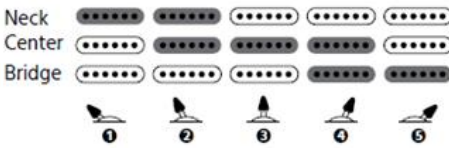
Next, check your setup by following the instructions in the *CHECKING YOUR GUITAR'S SETUP* section, below.

Finally, tune the guitar. To help the guitar stay in tune, stretch the strings as described in the *STRING REPLACEMENT* section.

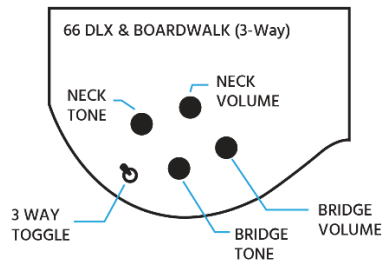
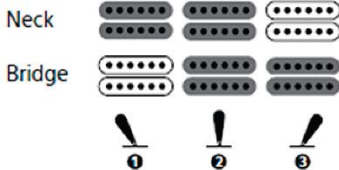
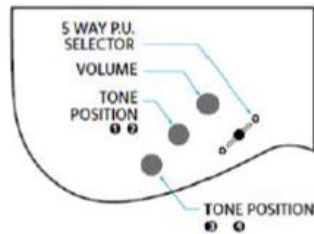
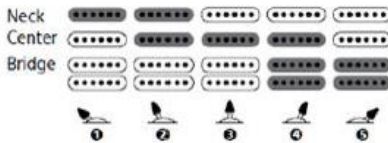
# SWITCH AND KNOBS

Each guitar has a switch to select which of the individual pickups or pickup combinations will be used to alter the basic tone. Additionally, they each have volume and tone adjustment knobs. Following are the switches and knobs for each of the three electric guitar models. Note that the selected pickups are depicted in a dark shade.

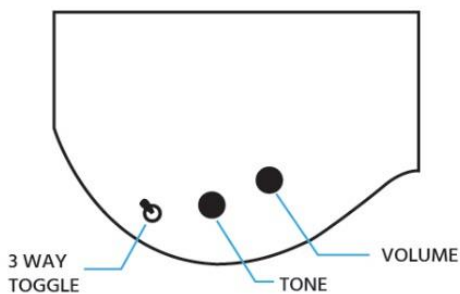
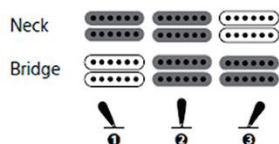
## CALIFORNIA (5-Way)



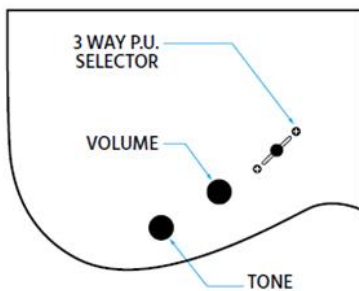
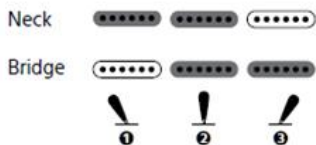
## California HSS (5-Way)



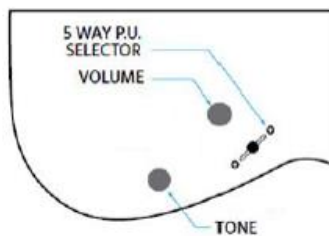
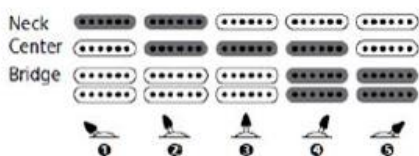
## 66 CLASSIC (3-Way)



## RETRO (3-Way)



## Helix (5-Way)



## CHECKING YOUR GUITAR'S SETUP

Perform the following steps to check your guitar's setup. The guitar should be tuned after each adjustment and before beginning the next step.

1. Replace the strings if desired. Refer to the *STRING REPLACEMENT* section for details on how to change the strings.
2. Use a capo to fret all the strings at the 1st fret, then fret the 6th string (low E) at the last fret. Use a feeler gauge to measure the distance between the string and the top of the 8th fret. The gap should be about 0.010" (0.25mm). If there is not enough gap, you will need to increase the neck relief by loosening the truss rod. If there is too large of a gap, you will need to reduce relief by tightening the truss rod. See the *NECK ADJUSTMENT* section for details on how to adjust the truss rod.
3. Use a ruler with markings every 1/64" or 0.5mm to check the unfretted action (string height) for the 1st and 6th strings at both the 1st and 12th frets. The amount of action is mostly a matter of personal preference. If the action is too high, it will be difficult to play, but if the action is too low, the strings will buzz against the frets.

The ideal distance between the bottom of the 1st string (high E) and the top of the 1st fret should be about 1/32" (0.8mm), while the distance between the bottom of the 6th string (low E) and the top of the first 1st fret should be about 1/64" (0.4mm).

The ideal distance between the bottom of the 1st string (high E) and the top of the 12th fret is about 5/64" (2.0mm), while the distance between the bottom of the 6th string (low E) and the top of the 12th fret should be about 3/64" (1.2mm).

Refer to the *STRING-THROUGH BRIDGE*, *HARDTAIL BRIDGE*, or *FULCRUM BRIDGE* sections for details on how to adjust the string height for each individual model.



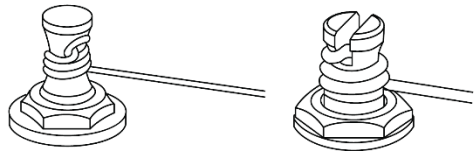
- Using a digital guitar tuner, check the tuning of each string when unfretted and when fretted at the harmonic (12th fret). If the tuning is different on any string, that string needs to have the intonation adjusted.

Refer to the *STRING-THROUGH BRIDGE*, *HARDTAIL BRIDGE*, or *FULCRUM BRIDGE* sections for details on how to adjust the intonation for each individual model.

## STRING REPLACEMENT

Over time the strings will wear out, resulting in a dull and lifeless sound, or even buzzing or inaccurate pitch. Replace the strings when they begin to rust, become discolored, sound bad, or fail to hold tune. All of the strings should be replaced as a set at the same time. Do not use strings that have been bent, twisted, or otherwise damaged. Take care that the string does not cross over itself. Replace the strings one at a time. Removing all strings at once can cause stress on the neck or affect tremolo balance.

Feed the string through the bridge, then wind the string around the tuning machine post two or three times from above, using about 2-3 inches of length.



New guitar strings will stretch and will easily lose tune during normal playing, especially when doing bends. You can simply retune each time the strings get out of tune or you can stretch the strings manually to get through most of the stretch range before playing.

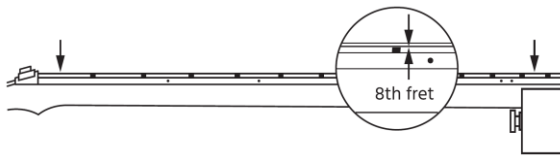
To do this, tune the guitar, then gently pull each string away from guitar several times. Be careful not to pull too much, especially on the thinner strings. Repeat this process of tuning and stretching several times until pulling the strings does not change the tuning by any substantial amount.

## NECK ADJUSTMENT (all models)

*Caution! Improper truss rod adjustment can result in damage to your guitar, including breaking the neck! Take great care when adjusting the truss rod and make only minor adjustments. If you are unsure of any step, you should have the truss rod adjusted by a professional luthier.*

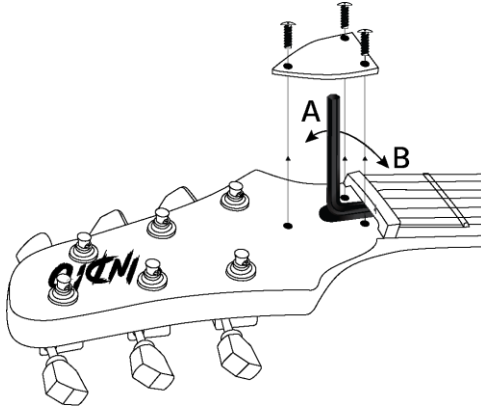
The neck is constantly bearing the tension of the strings, and its curvature will be subtly affected not only by the state of tuning and the string gauge, but also by changes in temperature and humidity. If you experience problems such as string buzz or muted notes even after the action and tuning are adjusted correctly, you should check and adjust the curvature of the neck. Perform the following steps to check and adjust the curvature of the neck.

1. Tune your guitar.
2. Use a capo to fret all strings at the 1st fret.
3. With the guitar in normal playing position, fret the 6th string (low E) at the last fret, then use a feeler gauge to check the gap between the bottom of the 6th string and the top of the 8th fret. The gap should be about 0.010" (0.25mm).



- If there is not enough gap, you will need to increase the neck relief by loosening the truss rod by turning it counterclockwise (towards the high E string).
- If there is too large of a gap, you will need to reduce relief by tightening the truss rod by turning it clockwise (towards the low E string).
- If the gap is correct, no adjustment is necessary.

4. If your guitar is a Route 66 model, use a #1 Phillips screwdriver to remove the screws securing the truss rod cover to the headstock.
5. Using the included truss rod wrench, turn the truss rod no more than 1/4 turn in the direction indicated in step 3 above.



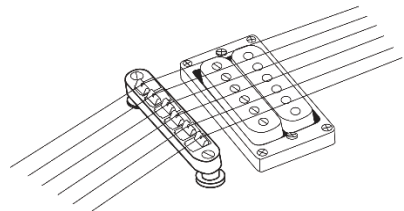
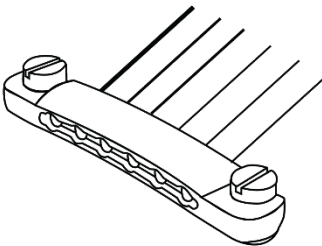
6. Repeat steps 1-3 and 5-6 until no further adjustment is necessary.

## STRING-THROUGH BRIDGE (Route 66 models only)

Replace the strings by feeding the new string through the holes in the back of the guitar body, then feed them over the saddle.

Adjust the intonation by moving the saddle forward or backward using the intonation adjustment screw and a flat head screwdriver.

Adjust the height by turning the screws at each end of the bridge using a flat head screwdriver.

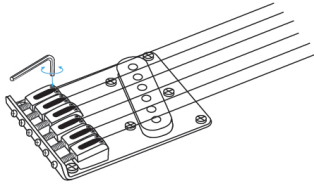


## HARDTAIL BRIDGE (Retro Vision models only)

Replace the strings by feeding the new strings through the holes in the back of the guitar body, then feed them over the saddles.

Adjust string height using the included Saddle Height Adjustment Wrench to adjust the Allen screws on each side of the saddles.

Adjust the intonation by moving the saddle forward or backward using the intonation adjustment screw at the rear of the bridge and a #1 Phillips screwdriver.



## FULCRUM BRIDGE (California Classic models only)

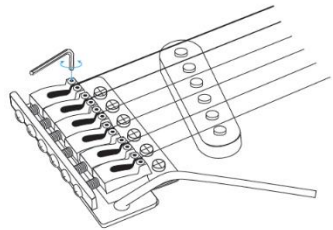
If you want to use the tremolo, insert the tremolo arm into the bridge, then turn it clockwise to tighten it onto the saddle.

Change the strings by feeding the strings through the holes in the back of the guitar body, then feed them over the saddles.

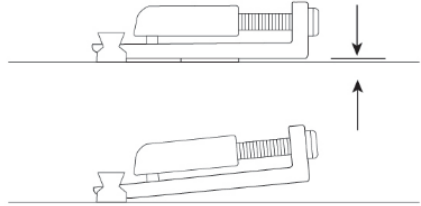
Adjust the overall string height by adjusting the two Allen screws at the front of the bridge using the Bridge Height Adjustment Wrench.

To adjust the intonation, use a #2 Phillips screwdriver to move the saddle forward or backward using the intonation adjustment screw at the rear of the bridge.

For optimal tremolo performance, ensure that the tremolo bridge is flat against the guitar body. This is done by changing the balance between the string tension and the tremolo spring tension. Perform the following steps to adjust the bridge angle.

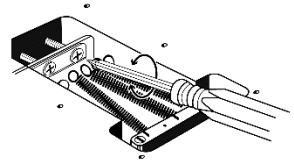


1. Tune the guitar as normal, then check the bridge angle.



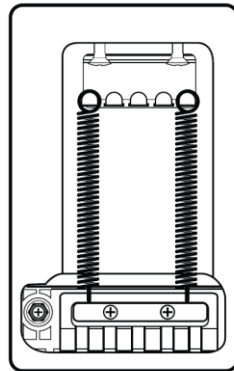
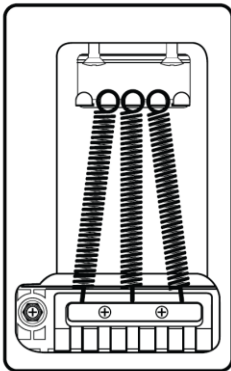
2. Using a #2 Phillips screwdriver, remove the six screws securing the plastic cover to the back of the guitar body.

3. If the back of the bridge (the open side) is too close to the guitar body, loosen the screws inside the spring housing. If it is too high, tighten the screws.



4. Repeat steps 1 and 3-4 until the tremolo bridge is at the proper angle and the guitar is tuned properly.
5. Place the plastic cover over the opening, then secure it in place in place using the six screws removed in step 2.

When it ships from the factory, the tremolo springs are arranged as shown in the image below and to the left. This gives the greatest amount of spring tension. You can reduce the spring tension by moving the upper ends of the springs so that they are parallel or even by removing one or more springs, as shown in the image below and to the right. Note that you will need to reduce string tension before adjusting the spring tension.



## WILKINSON BRIDGE (Helix models only)

If you want to use the tremolo, insert the tremolo arm into the bridge, then tighten the tremolo locking screw using the Saddle Height Adjustment and Tremolo Lock Wrench. If you tighten it all the way, it will lock the tremolo arm in place, but if you back off a bit from fully tight, the tremolo arm will be free to swing into and out of playing position.

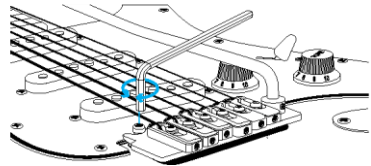
Change the strings by feeding the strings through the holes in the back of the guitar body, then feed them over the saddles.

Adjust the overall string height by adjusting the two Allen screws at the front of the bridge using the Bridge Height Adjustment Wrench.

To adjust the intonation, first use the Hold Down and Intonation

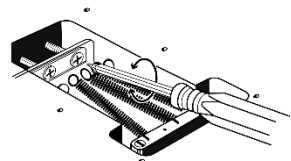
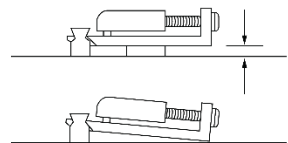
Adjustment Wrench to loosen the hold down screw at the top of the

saddle. Next, to move the saddle forward or backward using the intonation adjustment screw at the rear of the bridge and the included Hold Down and Intonation Adjustment Wrench.



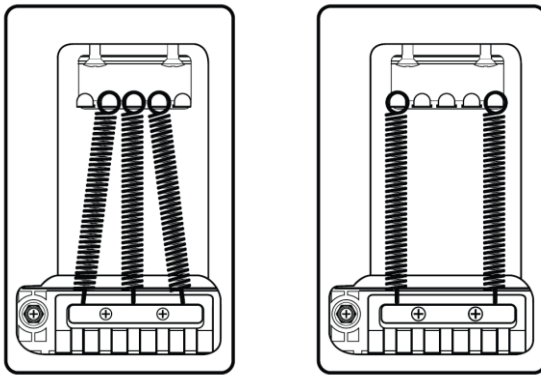
For optimal tremolo performance, ensure that the tremolo bridge is parallel to the body. This is done by changing the balance between the string tension and the tremolo spring tension. Perform the following steps to adjust the bridge angle.

6. Tune the guitar as normal, then check the bridge angle.
7. Using a #2 Phillips screwdriver, remove the six screws securing the plastic cover to the back of the guitar body.
8. If the back of the bridge (the open side) is too close to the guitar body, loosen the screws inside the spring housing. If it is too high, tighten the screws.



9. Repeat steps 1 and 3-4 until the tremolo bridge is at the proper angle and the guitar is tuned properly.
10. Place the plastic cover over the opening, then secure it in place in place using the six screws removed in step 2.

When it ships from the factory, the tremolo springs are arranged as shown in the image below and to the left. This gives the greatest amount of spring tension. You can reduce the spring tension by moving the upper ends of the springs so that they are parallel or even by removing one or more springs, as shown in the image below and to the right. Note that you will need to reduce string tension before adjusting the spring tension.



## MAINTENANCE

After playing, use a lint-free cloth to wipe sweat, oil, fingerprints, and grime from all parts of the guitar, including the strings, frets, fretboard, neck, headstock, tuning pegs, bridge saddle, tailpiece, pickups, neck, and guitar body. This will help prevent corrosion and will keep your guitar looking like new for years to come!

Periodically check that strap buttons are tight and securely anchored in the guitar body. Depending on the guitar model, check that the other parts are tight and secure.