Maintenance

Our congratulations and deepest thanks on making Ibanez your choice of instrument. Ibanez standards are second to none. All Ibanez instruments are set up to our strict quality control standards before shipping. The purpose of this manual is to explain how to maintain your instrument’s finish and to keep your guitar playing as it did when it left our factory.

C LEANING

Regular cleaning of your guitar is one of the most important ways you can maintain the finish and lengthen string life. After playing, wipe down your instrument to remove any perspiration from the instrument. Perspiration can actually contain acids that can corrode the strings and metal parts of the guitar. Observe finish problems such as pinholes or nicks from polishing, fingerboard cracks from flexing, oil finished guitars should be wiped clean immediately after playing with a dry cotton rag only. If your guitar has become discolored due to extended use or heavy perspiration, factory appearance, see a qualified guitar repair person about methods to restore the oil finish to its original factory appearance.

ST RING AND TUNING MACHINES

If strings become dull, discolored, or produce a dull sound or buzz, replace the strings with new ones. For best results we recommend replacing one string at a time, this will help to avoid removing the string tension from the neck. When replacing strings with different gauge strings, it may be necessary to adjust the truss rod tension. (We recommend only qualified technicians perform this.) Instruments that have tremolo systems installed may need to be adjusted after string replacement as changes in string tension can cause the tremolo to raise or lower. Ibanez guitars and basses are factory equipped with the following string gauges. Please follow the instructions below for your particular model.

ACTION

Ibanez guitar and bass string action is set at the factory. However there are many reasons that an instrument’s string height can change. Instruments can be affected by changes in temperature and humidity. High string action can make the guitar difficult to play. If the string action is too low, fret buzz or uneven notes can occur. To remedy this, follow the instructions for the particular type of bridge installed. In the case of string action, make sure the guitar is in flat and the truss rod is adjusted properly. Ibanez action is set at the 14th fret (voltage: 12th fret). The action may also need to be readjusted after the neck has been adjusted or strings have been changed to a different gauge. Follow the instructions in the relevant bridge manual to make adjustments.

INTONATION

Intonation is the operation of adjusting the location of the string to the saddle to compensate for different string gauges or different tunings. Follow the instructions of the particular bridge intonation below. Intonation is properly set when the 12th fret note and the 12th fret harmonic are exactly the same note. This is the center point of the scale and the most accurate way of setting a standard scale length. With the harmonic note as the standard, if the fretted note is flat move the bridge saddle forward toward the headstock (a) to decrease the string length. If the fretted note is sharp, move it back away from the headstock (b) to increase the string length intonation adjustments.

The intonation can be adjusted by moving the saddle forward or backward using an Allen wrench. For best results we recommend replacing one string at a time. This will help to avoid removing the string tension from the neck and keep the vibrato spring under tension.

PICKUPS

The output level of the instrument as well as the quality of the signal can be affected by the pickup height. Pickup height should be adjusted until the volume of neck and bridge pickups are almost equal with both volume knobs open. The volume may drop drastically if the pickup height is too low. As the pickups are magnetic, fret buzzing and distortion may occur if the pickup is too close to the strings. Use a small screwdriver to make adjustments to raise or lower the pickup.

The height adjustment of the tailpiece can be raised or lowered using the three height adjustment studs on either side of the tailpiece (B).

Bridge

The strings are installed by pulling the ball end into the slot (A) and hooking the ball end below the string catch (B).

To raise or lower the string action, insert the correct Allen wrench into the slot (A) of the saddle. To raise the saddle turn the wrench clockwise and to lower the saddle turn the wrench counter clockwise.

Intonation adjustments can be made by adjusting the intonation screws (B) at the rear of the bridge clockwise to move the saddle back and counter clockwise to move the saddle forward.

Bridge Location

Below is the standard location of the bridge for AF, AFS and AG guitars. Adjust the location to obtain proper intonation.

Art1,2 Bridge

The intonation can be adjusted by moving the saddle forward or backward using a Slot head (-) screwdriver on the adjustment screws. String height is controlled by tightening or loosening the two height adjustment studs or spinners. The string height can be changed by loosening the two height adjustment studs or spinners on either side of the bridge (A).

The intonation can be adjusted by moving the saddle forward or backward using an Allen wrench. The string height is controlled by raising or lowering the two height adjustment studs or spinners on either side of the bridge (A).

Bridge >>

FXB-50

This bridge is set up to our strict quality control standards before shipping. The purpose of this manual is to explain how to maintain your instrument’s finish and to keep your guitar playing as it did when it left our factory.

For best results we recommend replacing one string at a time. This will help to avoid removing the string tension from the neck and keep the vibrato spring under tension.

To replace the strings on the VB80D and VBVRD, thread the new strings under the front tailpiece retainer bar (A). On VFX70 there is no front retainer bar.

Art3, Gibraltar III Bass

The bridge can be adjusted by turning the thumb wheel screws located on either side of the bridge. Clockwise lowers the string action; counter clockwise raises the string action. As the bridge is not fixed to the body, intonation can be adjusted by increasing the strings and moving the location of the bridge forward or backward.
ACT TREMOLO

REPLACING THE STRINGS
ACT tremolo allow two styles of string installation.

1) The strings are installed by putting the ball end into the string slot and hooking the ball end below the string catch at the rear of the tremolo unit. (Figure 1)

2) The strings are installed by putting the ball end into the string slot and hooking the ball end in the string catch at the bottom of the tremolo unit. This increases string tension and adds sustain. (Figure 2)

TREMOLO ARM INSTALLATION
The tremolo arm can be inserted and removed very easily. Insert the arm into the armhole on the tremolo base plate. Pull up on the arm to remove it.

ARM ROTATION TORQUE
The rotation torque of the arm can be adjusted by raising the tremolo and inserting a 2.0mm Allen wrench in the screw (Figure 3, (A)) on the tremolo block. Turning this screw clockwise will tighten the arm torque and turning the screw counter-clockwise will loosen the arm torque.

ADJUSTING THE TREMOLO SPRINGS
ACT Tremolo is designed to function optimally when it is installed approximately parallel with the surface of the guitar body. The angle at which the tremolo is attached can be adjusted by changing the length of the tremolo springs under the tremolo unit. Use a Phillips (+) screwdriver to turn the tremolo tension adjustment screws to adjust the length of the tremolo springs. (Figure 3, (B)) If the tremolo is tilted forward toward the neck of the guitar, turn the screws clockwise to tighten the springs. Conversely, if the tremolo is tilted backward away from the neck, turn the screws counter-clockwise to loosen the springs. Tune the guitar actually, re-check the angle of the tremolo, and repeat the adjustment until the tremolo angle is correct.

ADJUSTING THE ACTION
To adjust the entire tremolo unit up or down, use a 3.0mm Allen wrench to turn the stud bolt (Figure 4, (C)) located at the left and right of the tremolo unit. (This cannot be adjusted for each individual string.)

ADJUSTING THE INTONATION
Use a 2.0mm Allen wrench to loosen the saddle lock screws (Figure 4, (D)) of each saddle, and move the saddle. Firmly tighten the saddle lock screws, tune the guitar, and then check the intonation. Repeat these adjustments until the intonation is correct.

ARM ROTATION TORQUE
The rotation torque of the arm can be adjusted by raising the tremolo and inserting a 2.0mm Allen wrench in the screw (Figure 3, (A)) on the tremolo block. Turning this screw clockwise will tighten the arm torque and turning the screw counter-clockwise will loosen the arm torque.