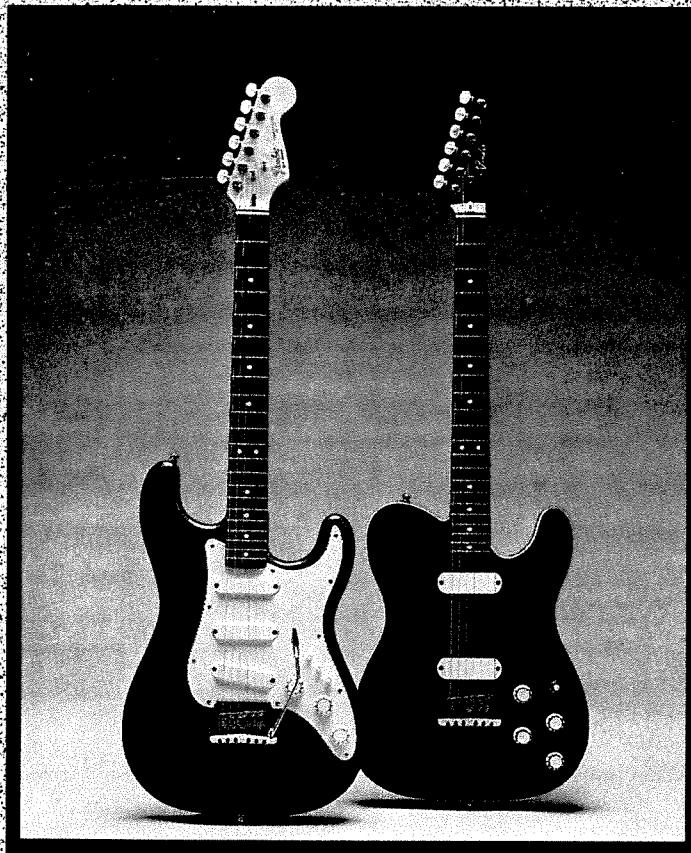


Elite

S E R I E S



THE SOUND THAT CREATES LEGENDS

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Thank You...

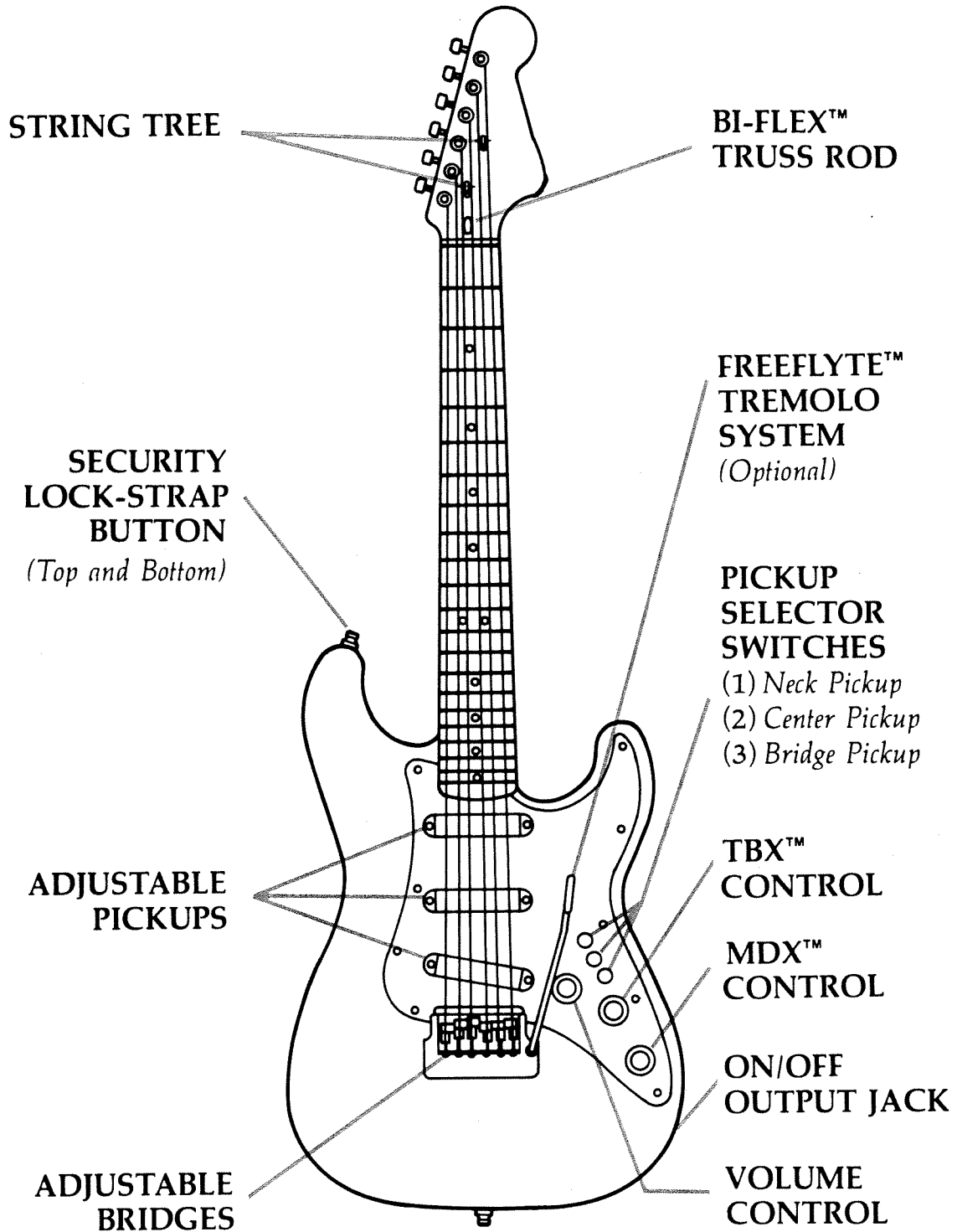
We are pleased that you have selected one of our fine quality Fender Elite Series guitars. This instrument incorporates the highest quality components with the finest workmanship and is warranted to give you complete satisfaction.

The Elite Series guitars contain many standard features and new improvements developed by Fender engineers. As a result, you are assured of receiving an instrument of superior quality, lasting beauty and exceptional playability.

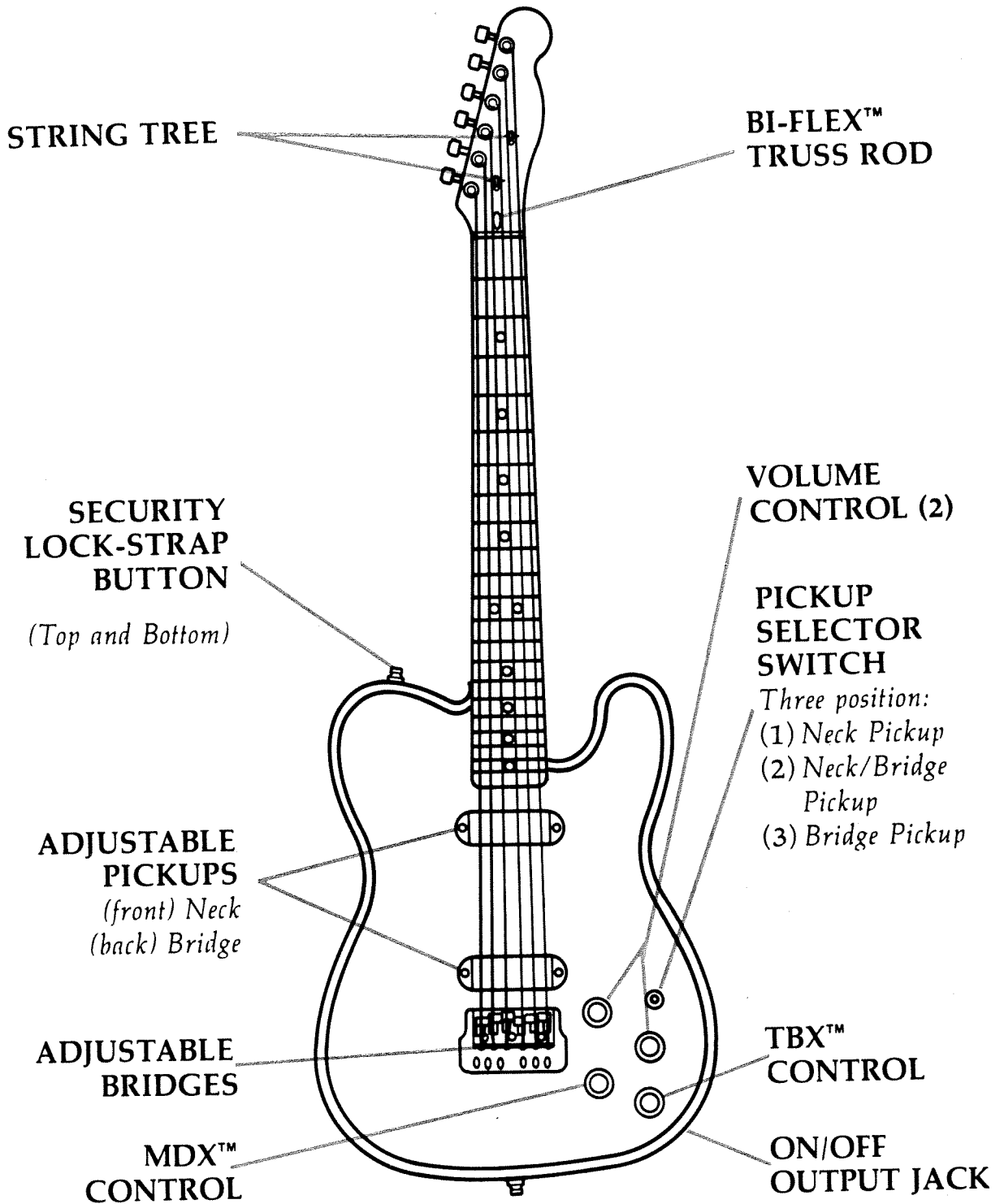
Your playing pleasure will be enhanced if you become thoroughly acquainted with all of the features of your instrument. We urge you to take the necessary time to familiarize yourself with the many new features and electronics described in this manual, and then begin to enjoy the ultimate in playing comfort and satisfaction.

The Fender logo is written in a stylized, cursive script. The letters are dark and have a slightly irregular, hand-drawn appearance. The 'F' is particularly prominent, with a long, sweeping tail that curves under the 'e'.

Stratocaster Elite Features:



Telecaster Elite Features:



The Fender Elite Series guitars are equipped with specially designed active circuitry that offers extremely wide tonal flexibility, exceptional noise reduction and increased output — all without sacrificing the legendary Fender sound. Its efficient design makes for surprisingly low battery consumption. If properly used, the 9-volt battery should be good for about one year, although it is recommended that it be changed every six months, or as soon as you notice any deterioration in sound.

The special deep extension On/Off Output Jack acts as the on/off switch for the instrument's circuitry. When the instrument is unplugged, there is no drain on the battery. To prolong battery life, the instrument should be unplugged when it is not being played.

The battery pocket on the Stratocaster is located on the back of the instrument and the cover is easily removed with the use of a Philips head screw driver. On the Telecaster, the battery cover is part of the back pocket cover.

The Volume Control allows you to regulate the overall output of the instrument. With active electronics, when the volume is turned down there is no noticeable change in the tonality of the instrument. This allows you to adjust the amplifier to deliver the guitar sound you desire at a volume level that leaves room to turn the guitar up for soloing. The Stratocaster is equipped with one

Master Volume, while the Telecaster has a separate Volume Control for each pickup allowing you to mix the sound from the individual pickups when they are used together.

TONE CONTROL

The Elite Series guitars have a unique tone circuit that features Fender's new TBX™ Tone Control (Pat. pending) and MDX™ Mid-Range Control.

The TBX™ Control has a center detent position that gives you the standard Fender sound. By rotating the knob clockwise, you will notice increased presence and brightness. Rotating the control from the detent position, counterclockwise, it works like a normal tone control.

The MDX™ Control gives a variable boost of up to 6db in a specially selected frequency range. When using this control, you can get a remarkably accurate simulation of even the hottest humbucking pickups.

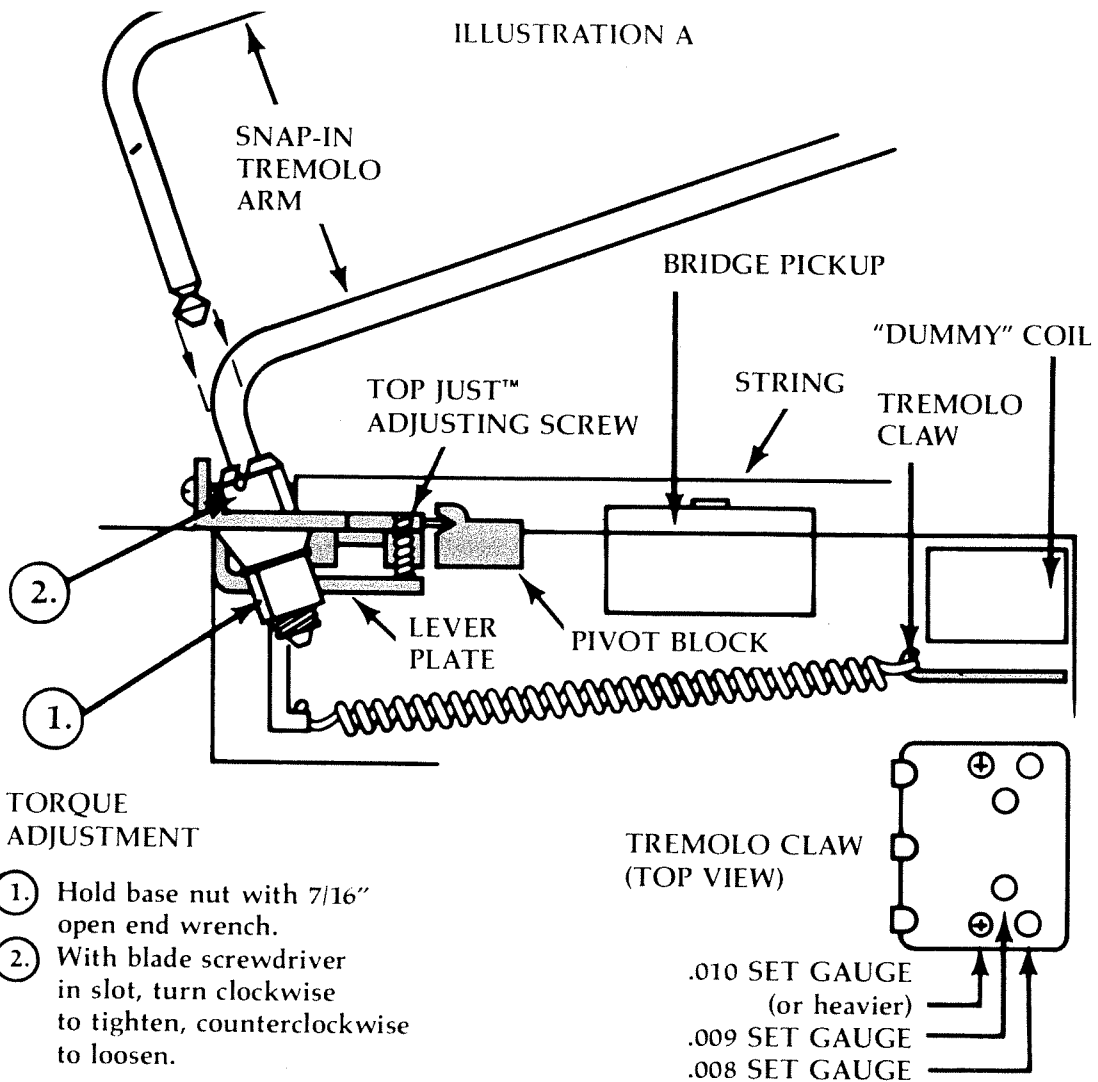
By experimenting with these controls, you will find your new Fender guitar can cover a wide range of tonal possibilities; from the mellowest jazz sounds to the brightest country licks—from the funkier R&B rhythms to the hottest rock leads.

ADJUSTABLE PICKUPS

The Pickups on your Fender Elite Series guitar are fully adjustable for height. Adjustments are made by turning the Pickup Adjustment Screws located at either end of the pickups. To raise a pickup, turn the adjustment screw counterclockwise; to lower, turn clockwise. (see Adjustment Procedure #4 on page 15).

FREEFLYTE™ TREMOLO SYSTEM (Pat. pending)

The new Freeflyte™ Tremolo System (optional) on the Fender Elite Stratocaster incorporates many new features. Among them, a unique snap-in, torque-adjustable tremolo arm (Illus. A), and a hardened steel, knife-edged blade that pivots in a special V-grooved block mounted on the face of the guitar. The knife-edge of the bridge is held in this pivot block by the string and spring tensions.



This revolutionary system provides for smooth, virtually friction-free, tremolo action. The spring tension is adjustable using a specially designed Top-Just™ adjusting system. With the 2.5mm Allen wrench, turn the Allen head screw (Illus. A), located on the front edge of the bridge plate, clockwise to tighten and counterclockwise to loosen until you have the tension set to your personal requirements.

The Elite Stratocaster guitars are strung with .010" gauge set of strings. If different string sets are used, the spring tension may be modified by resetting the Tremolo Claw (Illus. A—additional inline holes have been predrilled) for .009" or .008" gauge sets, as desired.

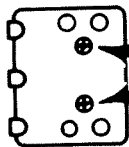
The Freeflyte™ Tremolo System is set at the factory with the bridge flush with the top of the guitar. This allows the player to lower the pitch when depressing the tremolo arm. This also offers maximum resistance to de-tuning when bending individual notes. If you have need to adjust your Fender Elite Stratocaster, the following procedure is the standard set at the factory:

1. Loosen the strings.
2. Remove the pickguard, "dummy" coil and bridge pickup.
3. Remove the springs, one at a time, from the Tremolo Claw by inserting a blade screwdriver between the spring loop and the claw edge and bend backward (over the individual claw) until the spring slides free.

4. Rotate the Top-Just set screw counterclockwise until flush with the top of the bridge plate, and remove bridge from pivot block.
5. Make certain the Tremolo Claw is positioned for the gauge strings that you are using. There are two sets of pre-drilled holes to assure proper location.
6. Replace bridge and refasten the springs to the Tremolo Claw (reverse step 2 procedure).
7. Replace "dummy" coil, bridge pickup and pickguard.
8. Rotate Top-Just set screw clockwise until screw contacts lever plate (an increased resistance will be felt at this point). Note position of hex wrench handle. From this point, rotate set screw clockwise 8 complete revolutions.
9. Tune instrument to standard pitch.

The Freeflyte™ Tremolo System may also be set with the bridge slightly raised above the top of the guitar. This allows the player to raise and lower the pitch when raising and lowering the tremolo arm. It also produces small amounts of de-tuning when bending individual strings. If you wish to operate the tremolo in this manner, follow this procedure:

1. With strings installed (using .010 gauge set), but not tuned to pitch and claw set in middle mounting holes, rotate adjustment screw counterclockwise until screw no longer contacts lever plate (at this point screw turns freely)



Use middle mounting holes when bridge is floating.

2. Upon clockwise rotation, note position of wrench when screw first re-contacts lever plate. From this position continue to turn screw clockwise for eight (8) complete revolutions.
3. Depress tremolo lever and insert $\frac{3}{32}$ wood shim under rear edge of bridge plate. Stretch strings during this process.
4. Tune instrument to standard pitch. Set action and intonation.
5. Rotate adjustment screw counterclockwise, slowly. This will decrease spring tension. When correct adjustment is achieved spacer will slide out.
6. Recheck tuning of "A" string. If sharp, turn adjustment screw counterclockwise. If flat, turn adjustment screw clockwise.

ADJUSTABLE BRIDGES

The bridge on the Fender Elite Series guitars features a top load stringing system. The strings are inserted into the slots in the bridge plate behind the bridge saddles. Pull each string into its own individual slot and string the guitar as normal. This new stringing method allows for a more moderate amount of string tension that is closer to today's playing styles.

String Height Adjustment

Each Bridge may be adjusted to the desired height by turning the two Height Adjustment Screws on each section (see Adjustment Procedure #3 on page 14).

Intonation Adjustment

The Bridge also allows length adjustment of each string to assure perfect intonation. For greater accuracy, these adjustments should be made when strings are in new condition. To adjust each string see Adjustment Procedure #7 on page 16.

Changing String Gauges

Fender Elite Series guitars are set at the factory for regular gauge strings. If heavier or lighter gauge strings are used it may be necessary to readjust the instrument. On tremolo models the bridge may need to be re-balanced.

After restringing tremolo models, tighten the Top Just™ screw 2-3 turns. Depress the tremolo arm and slide a 3/32" wood shim under the back edge of the tremolo bridge. Tune the instrument to pitch insuring that the shim stays firmly in place. Make all necessary adjustments to neck curvature, intonation, bridge and nut height (see Adjustment Procedure page 11). Then, depress the tremolo arm and carefully remove the wood shim. Loosen the Top Just™ screw until the instrument returns to pitch.

This places the bridge at the correct height for normal tremolo operation and assures proper balance between spring and string tensions.

NECK ANGLE ADJUSTMENT

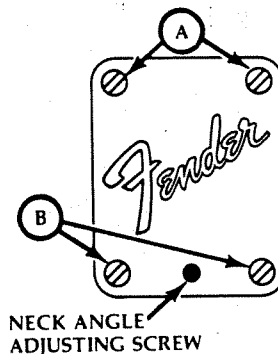
The Fender Elite Series features a new 4-bolt neck angle adjustment for adjusting the pitch of the neck to the body. Fender instruments are designed

using almost no neck angle. They are adjusted at the factory to maximize the adjustment features of the bridge section.

You can custom adjust the neck angle to change the height of the strings from the body surface. This will necessitate readjusting the bridge height to accommodate your playing style.

If you wish to increase or decrease the amount of neck angle, be sure to check the height of the bridge saddles to insure that they are not already at the extreme limits of adjustment. They will determine how much neck angle you can have. You cannot increase or decrease the neck angle beyond the adjustment range of the bridge saddles.

To adjust the neck angle, loosen the four neck plate mounting screws. The two screws (A) nearest the edge of the body should be loosened about 1/4-turn each. The two screws (B) located toward



the center of the body should be loosened approximately 2 turns.

Insert the special 1/8" Allen wrench (supplied with the instrument) into the hole in the neck mounting plate. Rotate the wrench, gently, until you feel it engage in the hex socket. Turn the wrench

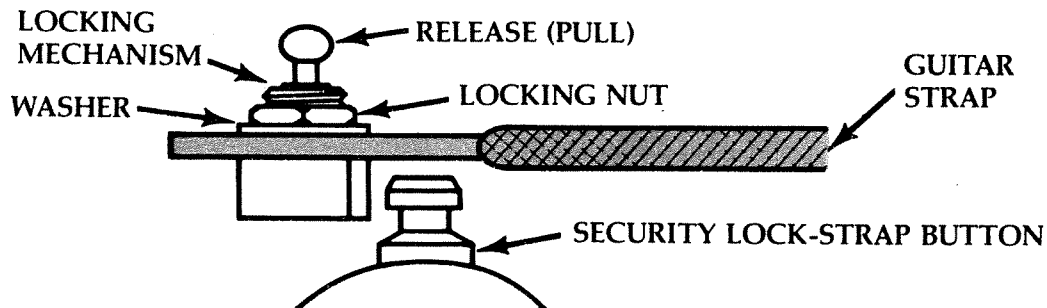
clockwise if you wish to increase the amount of neck angle, counterclockwise if you wish to decrease the amount of neck angle.

After the adjustment is complete, re-tighten the four neck plate screws, being careful not to over-tighten. The screws should be tightened until they feel completely seated, but should not be forced. Overtightening can cause cracking of the fretboard. Re-check the allen screw to make sure it is not left loose to vibrate.

SECURITY LOCK-STRAP SYSTEM

Fender Elite Series guitars are equipped with security lock-strap buttons. Attach the specially designed locks directly to your strap. Slip the locking mechanism over the strap button and pull it into position until it

snap locks. Your strap is now secure on the instrument and cannot be removed unless you pull the lock release button.



ADJUSTMENT PROCEDURE

Because of travel, climatic conditions and differences in playing styles, you might have need to adjust your Fender Elite guitar. If it becomes necessary, the following procedure is the standard set at the factory. To make these adjustments, you will need the following:

- 1—2.5mm Allen Wrench (supplied)
- 1—1/8" Allen Wrench (supplied)
- 1—Capo
- 1—Feeler gauge
- 1—6" Mechanics ruler
- 1—1.5mm Allen Wrench (supplied)

1. Tuning

Tune the instrument to standard pitch.

2. Adjust Neck Curvature

Sight down the neck and check for irregularities. Install a capo at the first fret, depress the 6th string at the last fret with your left hand. Using

a feeler gauge, check the gap between the bottom of the 6th string and the top of the 8th fret. The recommended string clearance should be no more than .018" nor less than .008". No other fret should show a gap greater than that measured at the 8th fret. No intermediate frets should be higher than the line running from the first to the last fret.

If an adjustment is necessary, insert the 1/8" Allen wrench (supplied) into the truss rod adjustment hole. Rotate it gently until you feel it engage in the hex socket.

As you sight down the neck from the headstock, if it is too concave, turn the wrench clockwise. If it is too straight or convex, turn the wrench counterclockwise while periodically checking the gap with the feeler gauge.

3. Set Bridge Height

The recommended string clearance at the twelfth fret should be:

Strings 1-4 $5/64" \pm 1/64"$

Strings 5-6 $3/32" \pm 1/64"$

Repeat the same check using the first string.

Periodically re-check tuning for standard pitch.

If the nut feels loose and the neck is still not correctly adjusted, continue turning the wrench counterclockwise until you begin to feel some resistance.

If extreme resistance is felt while adjusting in either direction, **do not** continue adjusting. Take

the instrument to the nearest authorized Fender dealer or service center for inspection.

4. Set Pickup Height

Depress all strings at the last fret. Check the distance from the bottom of the first and sixth strings to the top of the pole piece. The measurement should be as follows:

1st String — $1/16''$

6th String — $3/32''$

5. Set Nut Height

The string clearance at the first fret should be as follows:

Strings 1-3 .018"

Strings 4-6 .020"

Strings should appear to be spaced equally from center to center. The outside two strings should appear to be equally spaced from the edge of the neck approximately $3/32''$ from the outer edge.

6. Check for fret rattle

With the instrument plugged into your amplifier and the pickup selector switch in the neck position, pick in the area between the neck and bridge pickups. Play each fret position, holding the pick parallel to the plane of the body, to determine that the strings do not buzz or rattle against successively higher frets.

Bend the first and second strings at the 12th, 15th and 17th frets up one whole tone in pitch. The notes should ring true without choking off.

Due to differences in playing styles and picking techniques, action settings that produce no string rattle for one player may rattle when another player plays the instrument. If you have followed all the adjustment procedures listed and set the string action at the top end of the string height, but are still experiencing fret rattle take the instrument to an authorized Fender dealer or qualified service center.

7. Adjust Intonation (Recheck tuning)

With an electronic tuner, the pickup selector switch in the neck pickup position and the tone control rolled off to '0', check the intonation of each string by playing the 12th fret harmonic and comparing it to the actual fretted note. The pitch should be the same \pm 1 cent.

On tremolo instruments, after setting intonation, recheck bridge height. If bridge has to be reset, recheck intonation and repeat until both specifications are met.

8. Tremolo Check

Test tremolo to insure that it will vary any given pitch, up or down, at least one-half step and that it will return to relative pitch. If desired, you may adjust the tremolo so that it rests directly on the surface of the guitar. However, this will not allow you to use it to raise the pitch.

CARE OF YOUR FENDER GUITAR

Your new Fender Elite Series guitar is precision made to give you many years of satisfaction. A few simple

maintenance procedures will help you keep your instrument playing like new.

After you have finished playing, thoroughly wipe the entire guitar, including the strings, with a clean, soft cloth. A regular routine for cleaning your instrument with Fender Polish is recommended.

Avoid exposing the guitar to any chemical or substance that might mar the finish, as well as, to direct sunlight or other sources of excessive heat, humidity or shock.

You **must** use extreme caution when a thoroughly chilled instrument is to be played. It is important to avoid sudden changes in temperature since this may cause checking to the finish. While this condition does not affect the tone, it does mar the finish.

Let the instrument warm up safely in its own case. Then, open the case gradually allowing warm air to enter slowly. After the instrument is removed, leave the case open so it, too, can warm up thoroughly. If exposure to temperature extremes is unavoidable, as during shipping, string tension should be reduced to avoid possible damage.

Change your strings often. Dirty, corroded or worn strings cause loss of sustain, loss of treble frequencies and faulty intonation.

If your guitar needs repair, refer all such work to your Authorized Fender Dealer whose trained personnel and complete service facilities assure your satisfaction.

Fender
**Musical
Instruments**

Fender is a unit of CBS Musical Instruments
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Printed in U.S.A.

021639