

Strings

S6 & S6 Flame: D'Addario EXP16 Coated Phosphor Bronze (.012-.053).

N6: D'Addario EXP45 Coated (Normal Tension).

B4: D'Addario EXL170 Long Scale (.045-.100).

To change them, feed the string through the string ferrule on the back of the instrument, over the saddle, and to the tuner post. Make sure to leave enough slack in the string to get two or three good wraps around the post.

More wraps than this will cause tuning problems later. Tune the string to pitch, then stretch the string at the 12th fret. Repeat these steps until the wraps are tight and the string stays in tune.

After playing it's always a good idea to completely wipe down the body, fretboard, strings, and hardware prior to putting your guitar away. The natural oils from your fingers can, over time, damage the finish and hardware of your instrument.

Any quality guitar polish/cleaner can be used on your Michael Kelly instrument if it has a gloss finish. We recommend not using furniture polish because it will leave a filmy residue that will build up over time.

Cleaning & Maintenance

Fretboard Maintenance

You should only deep clean your fretboard once or twice a year so you don't disturb the natural moisture of the wood. Cleaning too much could dry out the fretboard and create cracks in the wood. It's also important to oil the board twice a year. We recommend bore or mineral oil for this. Just remove the strings, apply a small amount of your preferred oil to the fretboard and let it sit for a while to soak in. After about 30 minutes wipe off any residual oil and restring.



Truss Rod Adjustment

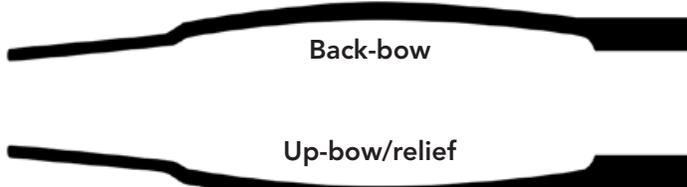
The first step is to "eyeball" the neck by turning the guitar on its side and looking down the fretboard. You will be checking to see if the neck is straight, has a back-bow, or too much relief. Make sure your guitar is tuned to pitch before checking the neck. Some players like a perfectly straight neck and some like to keep a bit of relief in their necks. A perfectly straight neck might not work if you pick hard and still like very low action. If that's the case a small amount of relief will be better for you.

Sight down the neck from the headstock to see how much of a bow or back-bow the neck has. To do this hold the neck up to eye level and sight along the edge of the fretboard on both treble and bass sides. If the neck is bowed, you will have to tighten the truss rod. If the neck has a back-bow you will have to loosen the truss rod.

Place the 4 mm allen wrench supplied with your guitar on the adjustment nut of the truss rod and turn gently in small increments. Turn the allen wrench towards the treble side to loosen and towards the bass side to tighten. Keep checking the neck with each small turn until the neck has the desired straightness.

Make sure to not tighten the rod too much (when it becomes hard to turn) because it could result in stripping the threads or perhaps even breaking the rod itself.

Once you have made your adjustments to the neck you might have to adjust the action of the strings to prevent fret buzz.



String Action

Unless you are experienced in making adjustments to the size and shape of an acoustic saddle it's best to have this done by a professional.

Rick Turner models are equipped with two control pots that feature 10 "soft" denents which enables you to lock in your tone even during transport. The first pot is the master volume and the second is the master tone. The USA made Dtar Wave-Length Undersaddle Pickup and Preamp utilize two AA batteries to produce 18 volts of headroom. The Dtar system also has a bass and treble boost that can be set by opening the control cover and adjusting the two small trim pots located on the Dtar preamp itself. Once these are set the player can adjust the overall bass and treble by turning the master tone pot on the front of the guitar. The output jack of the guitar is a component of the Dtar system and turns the system off when not connected to a guitar cable for better battery life.

Controls



Battery Replacement

To replace the two AA alkaline batteries open the control cover cavity on the back of the guitar and remove the battery pouch, You might have to loosen the Dtar jack and move it to the side to remove the battery pouch. Always use alkaline batteries for better battery performance.

