



Shipping Your Instrument

Proper packing is an absolute necessity when shipping your guitar safely. Please do not attempt to ship your guitar without it. We suggest a visit to your nearest music shop and ask for an empty cardboard shipping carton and request one, they receive guitars in them all the time. Don't forget to ask for the top and bottom inserts that keep the guitar stabilized once inside it. Shipping your guitar this way provides protection from wear and tear on your case and from theft. When you're ready to ship you can start by placing crumpled paper on top of and underneath the headstock. Enough so the peg head sits slightly up and off the neck rest. This will help reduce the chances of neck damage by stabilizing it. Do not overdo it though there should be some compression felt when you close the case lid. Place your case in the cardboard carton you got from the guitars shop with the two inserts, fill the spaces around the case with more crumpled paper. This will help insulate against a sudden rise or drop in temperature during shipment. You can sticker it fragile, breakable, or handle with care, but we recommend never labeling it "Musical Instrument" or "Guitar".

NEVER take tension off the strings when shipping your guitar. This is a dangerous practice as the machine heads and headstock are the heaviest parts of the guitar, and the string tension from proper tuning serves to counteract the stresses these parts place on the instrument. Some people on the internet will tell you that loosening the strings is a good idea but it is NOT.

Always insure your guitar for its full value, and when you receive your instrument immediately examine it for damage. If at all possible, do this while still in the baggage room or presence of the delivery person. This will negate the question of whether and/or where any damage occurred.

Here are the packing instructions we include with our RA documents:

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DO



Make sure there is good support beneath the headstock. Newspaper or brown packing paper works well. It should be firm and rigid enough that the headstock is sitting on the paper, elevating it slightly above the neck rest. Don't forget to place some more paper on top of headstock as well. Maintain string tension in your standard tuning.

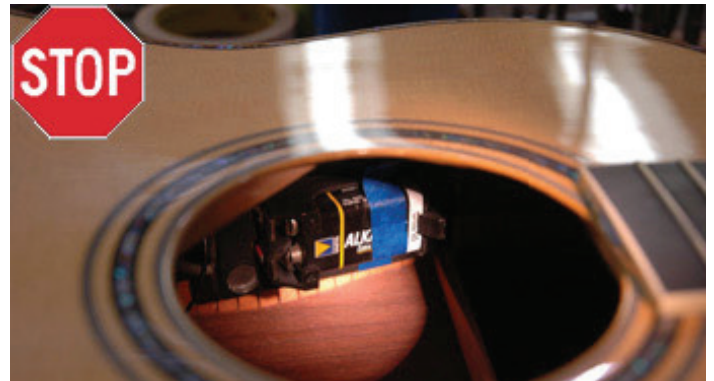
DO NOT



NEVER ship your guitar without support under the headstock. The tuning machines on the guitar weigh a substantial amount; and if the box were to fall over during shipping, the tuners could "snap" backwards, and shear the headstock right off of the neck.



If you have a pickup installed on your instrument, make sure to remove the battery and secure it inside your case compartment. This will prevent the battery from coming loose during transit and damaging the inside of your guitar. Should you have an aftermarket sound hole pick, remove it and place in compartment as well. NEVER have anything else in your case.



NEVER leave the battery connected to your pickup during transport. Though the battery clip is designed to keep the battery in place during normal conditions, it is not built to withstand the shock of a sudden drop. We are not responsible for these damages.



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When shipping your guitar, you want to make sure that the guitar is placed in a durable cardboard box with top and bottom inserts. Most music stores regularly take delivery of guitars and probably have an extra box they will give you for free. Another benefit of this is often the packing materials are still inside the box. This provides the instrument with some protection and stability.



Always pack the case inside of the box with adequate packing. Cardboard is preferable but multiple layers of bubble-wrap are also effective. If you obtain a used box from a music store, ask them if they have the original packing materials. You want to make sure that the top, and bottom of the case are supported and not directly in contact with the outside of the box.

DO NOT



NEVER ship your guitar solely in its case. This method WILL result in damage or theft. Your guitar case is built only for everyday use. Baggage handlers and couriers are much more aggressive conditions. Your guitar has no protection from the elements in this scenario as well. It is not unusual for freight forwarders to store packages/pallets on the tarmac at an airport for hours - Can you imagine if this black case sat in the sun at 100 degrees?



Foam chips do not protect your instrument. The guitar will settle through the chips to the top or bottom of the box. This method can cause serious impact damage if the box is dropped. Foam chips or "peanuts" are also a major pollutant and not eco friendly.