OWNERS MANUAL

Congratulations on your purchase of a new MINISTAR guitar or bass. These revolutionary instruments offer the best playing action and sound quality possible in a truly portable package. All of the details necessary for a great guitar have been carefully addressed. **The frets** on your MINISTAR have been hand trued and polished to keep buzzes and rattles to an absolute minimum. **The string height** has been set at the optimum level to provide you with an action that is second-to-none. **The pickups** employed on all MINISTAR guitars and basses have been designed to provide the tone quality and response you expect and demand. **Select hard rock maple** construction offers tons of sustain from a rigid platform that runs the entire length of the instrument. All MINISTARS feature high quality, high ratio, **die-cast tuning machines** that are smooth and precise and do not slip. We have done everything possible so you can enjoy your MINISTAR. Due to the reasonable price of all MINISTARS, you may want to own several. Each model has been designed to replicate the sound and feel of a specific guitar type. Both string scale length and pickup configurations are the same as the original. In fact, you can own three or four different MINISTARS for less than the price of one of the originals.

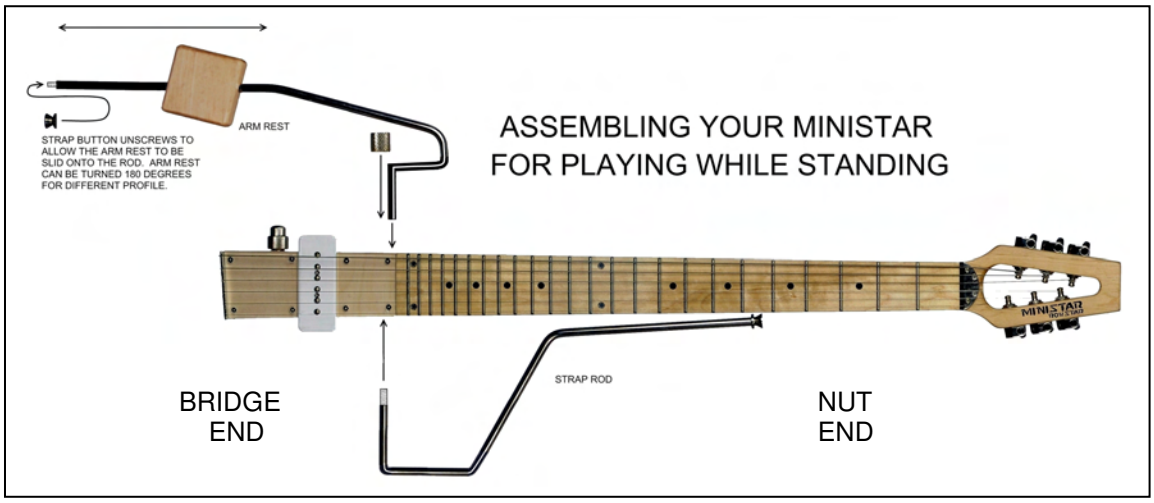
If you read and follow the instructions in this manual, you can enjoy trouble-free performance from your MINISTAR guitar or bass for years to come. Feel free to contact us at www.ministarguitars.net if you have any questions or comments. For now, just enjoy your new MINISTAR.

HOW TO ASSEMBLE YOUR MINISTAR

The MINISTAR comes with body extension, curved-horn simulation strap rods and a cushioned sit-down leg rest to allow you to play while standing or while sitting. The three rods and one knurled locking knob are provided with your MINISTAR. You will also find a square wooden block to support the forearm. This wooden block must be installed on the body extension rod. This is the U-shaped curved rod that does not have exposed threads on the end. Simply unscrew the strap button on the other end of this rod, slide the block onto the rod, and re-attach the strap button. The block can be installed in either direction, and you can try both to find which orientation works best for you. Think of this block as being the worn place you see on the face of all old, heavily used guitars You can position this block to allow you to rest your arm on it comfortably, to fit your playing style.

ASSEMBLING THE MINISTAR TO PLAY WHILE STANDING WITH THE INCLUDED SHOULDER STRAP (picture 1)

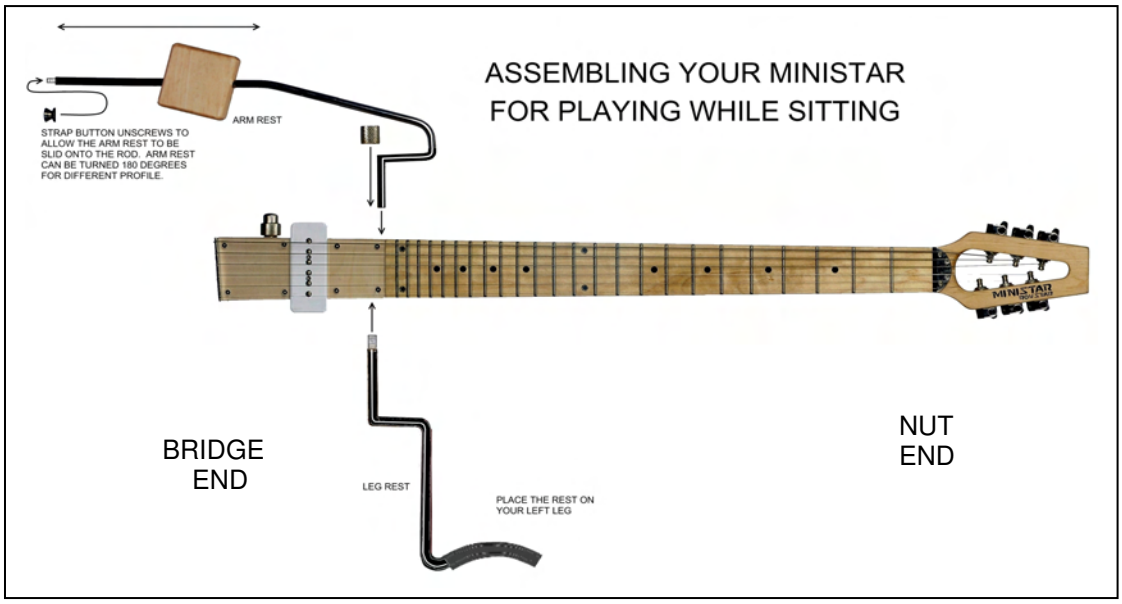
There are two adjacent holes in the upper side of your MINISTAR. Insert the U-curved rod with the block, into the rear most hole. Insert the long, gently curved horn simulation rod into the hole located on the lower side of your MINISTAR. Push this rod through the MINISTAR until the threads are exposed on the upper side, immediately next to the first rod. The knurled knob is then screwed onto these exposed threads. The knob will come in contact with the U-curved extension rod as you securely tighten it. This single knob holds both rods in place. The included shoulder strap can now be installed on the strap buttons at the ends of the two rods. Adjust the length of the shoulder strap so that the MINISTAR is at a comfortable playing position. Play a little on the MINISTAR to find the position on the curved-horn simulation rod that is occupied by your right forearm. Slide the wooden block on the upper-body extension rod to a comfortable forearm playing position, and you are good to go.



PICTURE 1

ASSEMBLING THE MINISTAR TO PLAY WHILE SITTING (picture 2)

Insert the U-shaped extension rod into the rear most hole in the upper side of the MINISTAR. Insert the cushioned leg rest rod into the hole located on the lower side of the MINISTAR and push it through so that the threads are exposed on the upper side, next to the U-shaped extension rod. Screw the knurled knob onto these threads. The knob will come in contact with the U curved extension rod as you tighten it. This single knob holds both rods in place. Tighten securely. The leg rest is placed on your LEFT leg. This provides a balance point for the guitar. You may now use the block on the extension rod to control the position of the MINISTAR.



PICTURE 2

BRIDGE ADJUSTMENT

The height of the strings is factory pre-set. If you feel it is necessary, you can adjust the string height at the bridge end of your MINISTAR or BASSTAR by loosening the screws that secure the bridge to the end of your instrument. Using a plastic mallet or not metallic object, gently tap the bridge up or down, left or right, or even tilt it to find the best string height for your playing style. Once you have achieved your desired action height, tighten the bridge screws to secure the setting.

THE ADJUSTABLE NUT

The string height at the nut is factory preset. If you feel it is necessary to adjust the nut, slightly loosen the 2 screws closest to the headstock end of the guitar/bass, and then raise or lower the metal plate/nut assembly by turning the 2 adjustment screws located next to the nut until all the strings are just barely touching the 1st fret. Then, raise the plate about ½ to 1 complete turn on each screw so that the strings just barely clear the 1st fret. Re-tighten the 2 screws at the rear of the plate.

We recommend you have your store salesman show you how to make these sensitive adjustments.

You now have the BEST PLAYING GUITAR OR BASS possible. The most expensive guitar or bass in the world cannot have a closer action than that which you can attain with your MINISTAR or BASSTAR.

CONTROLS & FUNCTIONS

VOLUME AND TONE CONTROLS

The STACKED VOLUME and TONE CONTROLS offered on some models allow adjustment of the output volume, (the smaller top knob,) and the tone quality (the outer/lower control.) Turning clockwise on the independent knobs increases volume or treble, and turning counter-clockwise lowers the volume or cuts higher frequencies.

PICKUP SELECTOR SWITCHES

Several models have a pickup selector switch. The TESTAR and LESTAR feature a 3-position switch. The rear position turns on the neck pickup, the center position turns on both pickups, and the forward position selects the bridge pickup. The CASTAR has a 5-position switch set up as follows. The rearward, or first position turns on the neck pickup. The second position turns on both the neck and center pickups. In this position, these pickups are out of phase and also operate as a humbucking pickup. The third or center position turns on the center pickup. The fourth position turns on both the center and the bridge pickup. In this position, these pickups are out of phase and operate as a humbucking pickup. The forward-most position five, turns on the lead/bridge pickup for maximum treble.

PHASE SWITCH (TESTAR only)

The TESTAR features a PHASE switch that operates as follows. When the pickup selector is in the center position with both the lead and rhythm pickups on, the phase switch is used to change the sound from a normal sound to the hollow out-of-phase sound. The phase switch has no discernable effect unless both pickups are on with the pickup selector in the center position.

MICRO-ADJUSTABLE VIBRATO ON CASTAR

The CASTAR features a knife-edge vibrato with micro-adjustment capability. There are 2 small Phillips-head screws at the bottom of the bridge plate located between the first and second string mount holes, and the fifth and sixth string mount holes. Screwing these inward will move the bottom of the bridge toward the body. It also limits the amount of upward pitch change. If screwed in far enough, the vibrato becomes a solid bridge for maximum sustain when playing, yet you can still push down on the vibrato handle for dive-bomb effects whenever they are needed. If you want a floating vibrato, loosen the screws so that both up and down pitch changes are possible when using the vibrato handle. Do not screw the screws out too far, as they may disconnect from the springs. When changing strings, screw the LOCK SCREW, (located in the center of the bridge,) all the way in, to securely lock the bridge. This allows the strings to be removed and replaced without the vibrato mechanism coming loose. Once the strings have been replaced, loosen this screw to return to normal vibrato operation. This screw can also be positioned to limit the downward pitch change range.