



Ovation[®]

viper

OWNER'S
MANUAL

Congratulations on buying an Ovation Viper Guitar. Since its first introduction in 1966, the Ovation has been acclaimed the world over for its dramatic technical advances and musical refinements that literally changed the shape of music.

This owner's manual has been prepared to acquaint you with details of the special features found on your Viper, and to provide you with the facts and tips you will need to maintain your guitar. More detailed information concerning the design, manufacture, and materials used in the making of your Ovation Viper can be found in Ovation literature available from your Authorized Ovation Dealer or by writing to us here at Ovation.

Ovation Quality Policy

We will provide defect free products and service to our customers by understanding and fulfilling the requirements established for each of us.

Care And Maintenance

Like all fine instruments, Ovation Viper guitars require periodic care and maintenance. Your instrument will perform best if it is kept clean. A routine cleaning of the instrument using a clean lint-free cloth and a light coat of a quality guitar polish will keep your Viper looking and performing at its peak. Gold-plated parts especially should be wiped clean after each playing to prevent corrosion from body acids.

We strongly recommend the purchase and use of an Ovation molded guitar case. Specially designed to accommodate Viper guitars, it offers the best possible protection against damage. The inside of the case is plush-lined and form-fitted to hold the guitar snugly and securely. An inside case pocket allows storage of strings and small accessories.

The guitar is held firm in the case by a pad in the lid which presses lightly against the top of the guitar when the lid is closed. This pad can sometimes absorb polish from the guitar, leaving a dull area on it. This can quickly be restored to a high gloss finish with a quality guitar polish. Any marks on the bowl where it has been in contact with the lining of the case can be removed in the same way.

If your instrument features a satin finished top, the satin appearance can be maintained by cleaning with a solution of 50% isopropyl alcohol and 50% water.

Always store the instrument at room temperature, avoiding any excessively hot or cold, damp or dry conditions. The delicate woods used in instrument construction are greatly affected by changes in humidity and temperature. A neck warp or top crack can render any fine guitar unplayable. You may wish to purchase a humidity/moisture packet that can be carried in your case to compensate for any changes in these climatic conditions. Check with your dealer for availability.

Keep your instrument tuned to concert pitch under normal playing and storage situations. However, if the instrument is to be stored for a long period of time, reduce the string tension slightly; one or two turns of each tuning machine will be adequate. There are a few simple precautions that you can take while transport-

ing your Ovation guitar that will minimize the chances of damage. When transporting the guitar in a car, always keep the case on the floor so that it will not move around inside the car in case of a sudden stop. Also, avoid storing the guitar in the trunk of a car, where it will be exposed to extremes of heat and cold. Always avoid freezing temperatures, as this can result in the top finish cracking.

When travelling by air, always loosen the strings slightly before checking the guitar as baggage. The airlines will not be liable for instruments damaged as a result of their being tuned to full concert pitch.

The Hand-Rubbed Urethane Oil Neck Finish

This neck finish is an added option on several Ovation models. If your guitar has it, you will notice a natural wood feel on the neck. It requires a higher level of maintenance than a gloss finished neck.

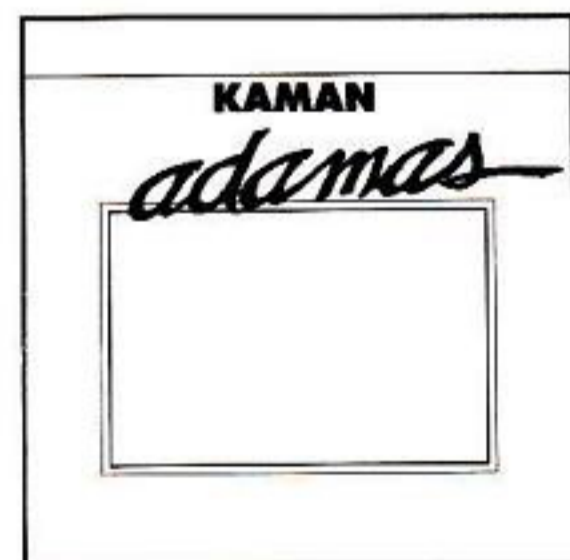
Approximately once a month, if you play daily, you will want to apply a commercially available wax. We recommend...

- ❖ Trewax
- ❖ Lundmark's Clear Paste Wax
- ❖ Butcher's Bowling Alley Paste Wax

They are available at most hardware stores.

Strings

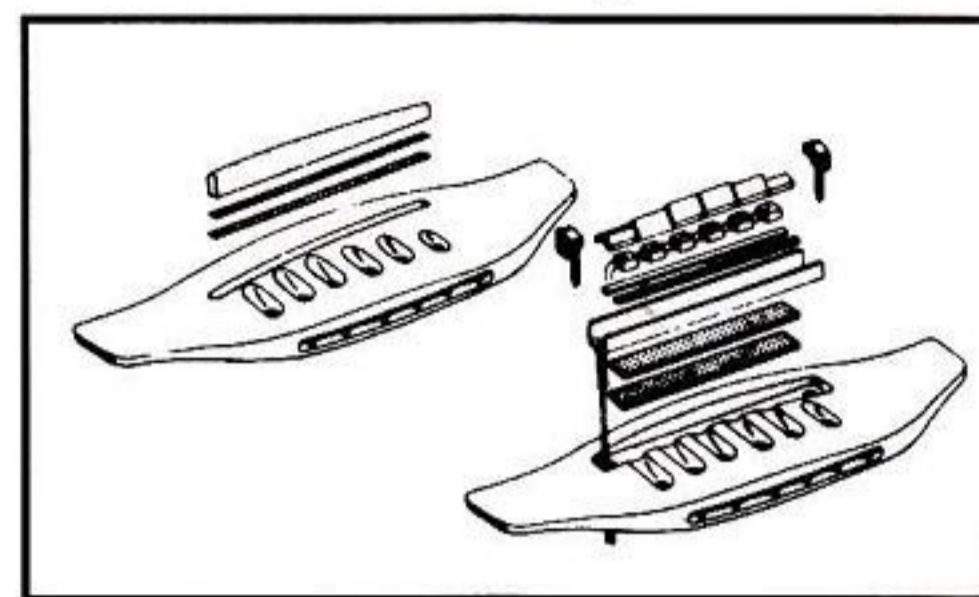
All Ovation guitars are shipped from the factory with strings from Kaman Musical String Corporation. Six string guitars are strung with Adamas light gauge set #1818.



All nylon string models with Omega High Tension set #4242. Twelve string models are strung with light gauge set #1616.

Adamas and Omega strings were especially designed for acoustic-electric guitars and highlight the capabilities of the Viper. We recommend frequent string changes with Adamas or Omega strings for optimum sound and performance. Several different gauges are available from your Ovation Dealer.

The Ovation Bridges



The Ovation bridges found on our Viper guitars are designed to take full advantage of the unique construction of our instruments. Thinner in design, the bridges help transmit the string vibrations more efficiently. "Standard action" for all Ovation steel string guitars is 6/64" at the

bass E string and 4/64" at the treble E string (measured as the distance between the bottom of the string and the top of the 12th fret). This action is normally achieved with 1-3 shims beneath the saddle. These settings were chosen to suit the requirements of a broad range of players. If you wish to change the action, however, use the following procedures:

1. Loosen or remove the strings.
2. Remove the saddle carefully. This is a delicate operation particularly if you have an acoustic-electric model. Be certain not to pull or force the wiring beneath the saddle.
3. For lower-than-standard action, remove the shim beneath the saddle. Removing one shim will lower the action by 1/64" at the 12th fret.

Depending on your playing style, an extremely low action setting may contribute to fret buzz. When occurring because of low action, this is not considered to be a defect in the instrument. If you are in doubt about the action setting of your Viper, consult your Ovation Dealer.

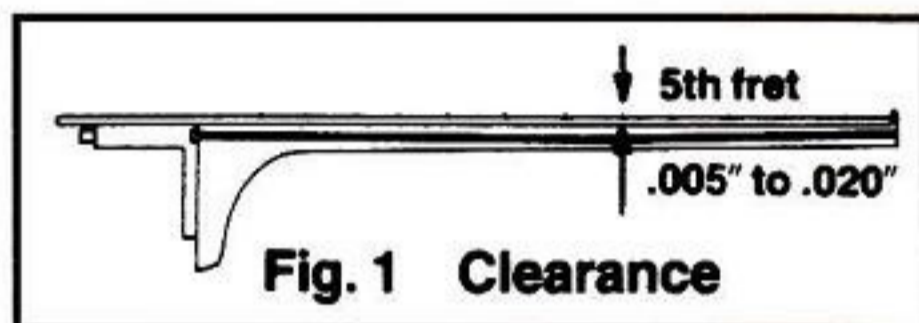
Adjusting The Neck

All Ovation guitars feature an adjustable steel tension rod. The tension rod serves two purposes. It counterbalances string ten-

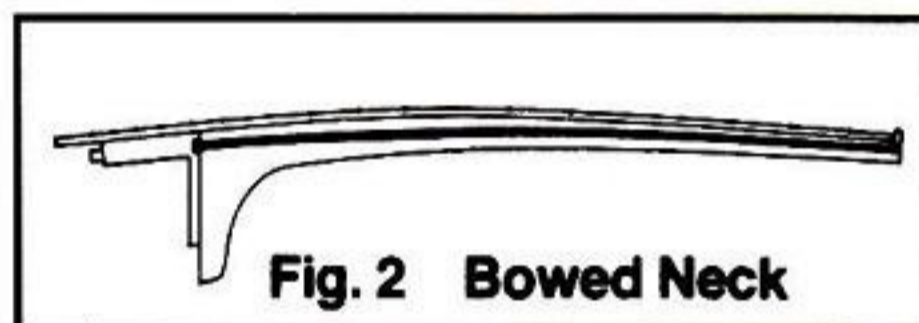
sion, giving the neck additional strength. And it permits adjustment of the neck should changes in humidity, string tension, or string gauge cause the neck to warp or bow. If you wish to adjust the tension rod of your Ovation, please use the procedure which applies to your particular model from among the following. We do, however, recommend that you contact your Authorized Ovation Dealer if you are unsure about any part of the procedure.

To Check For Warp Or Bow In The Neck:

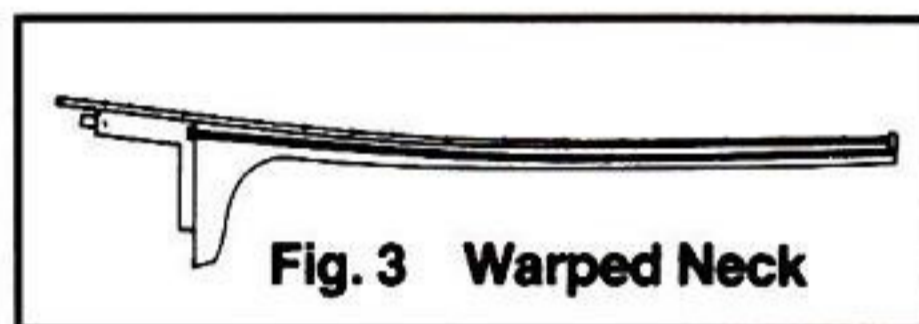
1. Hold the 6th string, E, between the nut and first fret with your left hand; with your right hand, hold the string against the fingerboard at the 13th fret.



2. Check the clearance between the bottom of the string and the top of the 5th fret.



3. The clearance should be a minimum of .005" to .020" depending on the string gauge. It should not be more than .032" (1/32"), or the neck is in a "warped" position and must be adjusted at the tension rod.



4. Check the clearance of the first string, E, in the same manner.

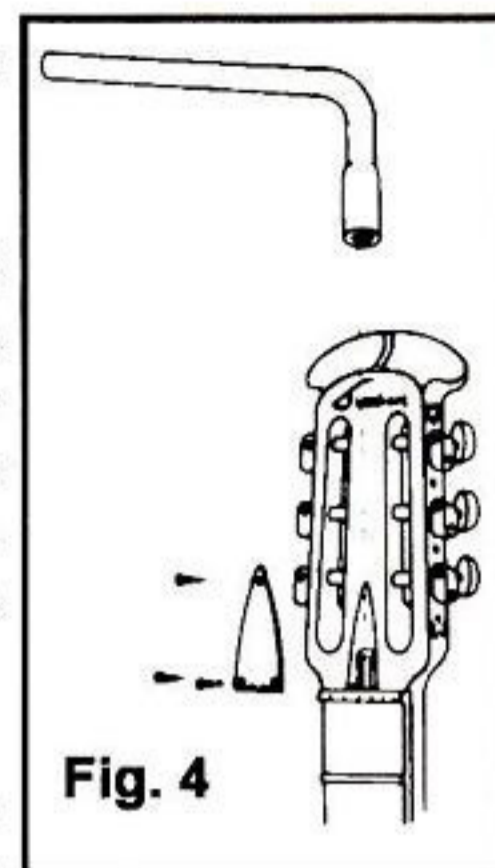
5. If either E string touches the 5th fret, the neck is in a "bowed" position and must be adjusted at the tension rod.

If Your Ovation Has A Truss Rod Cover:

1. To adjust a Viper with a traditional truss rod, remove the rod cover on the guitar peghead.
2. Using a common 1/4 hex nut driver or an Ovation Wrench

(#950014-X-11), adjustments may be made to the neck.


3. Clockwise rotation of the adjustment will tighten the tension rod to correct a warped condition. Use the previous procedure to check your adjustment. Make sure that you do not overtighten the tension rod and lose the clearance at the 5th fret.

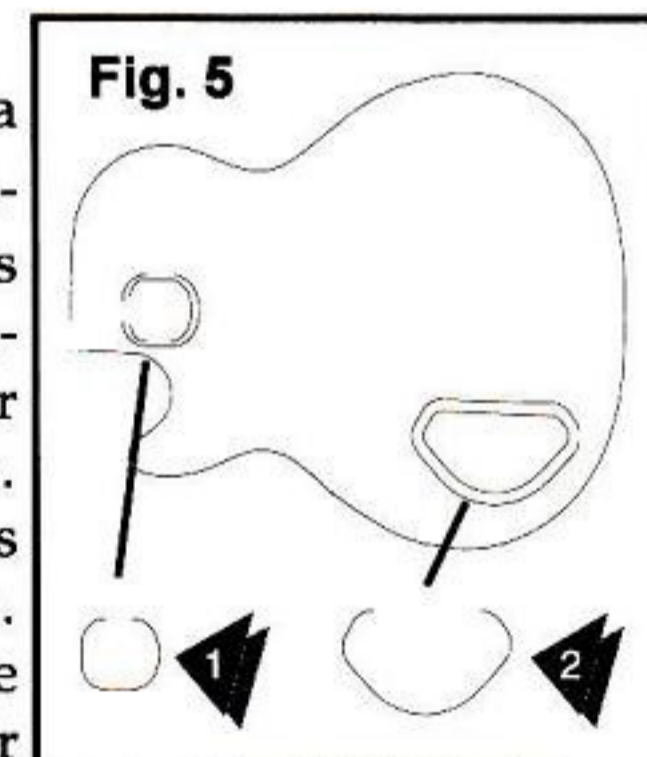


4. Counterclockwise rotation of the adjustment nut will loosen the tension rod to correct a bowed condition. Loosen the tension rod until the proper clearance can be seen at the 5th fret.
5. Replace the rod cover, being careful not to strip the screw holes.


Note: The Kaman Bar adjustment is very sensitive. One half turn on the nut when the rod is under tension will produce a significant change at the first fret, so turn it conservatively and check the neck frequently as you adjust it.

Rear Access Models:

For Rear Access models, access is via the cover  in the back of the guitar (See fig. 5). In all other respects proceed as for other Kaman Bar models. These models require a longer handle adjustment wrench, (#9891-0). Your Rear Access guitar has screws around the edges of the access cover. Remove the screws and remove the cover. Take care not to lose the cover screws. Reverse the procedure to replace the cover.



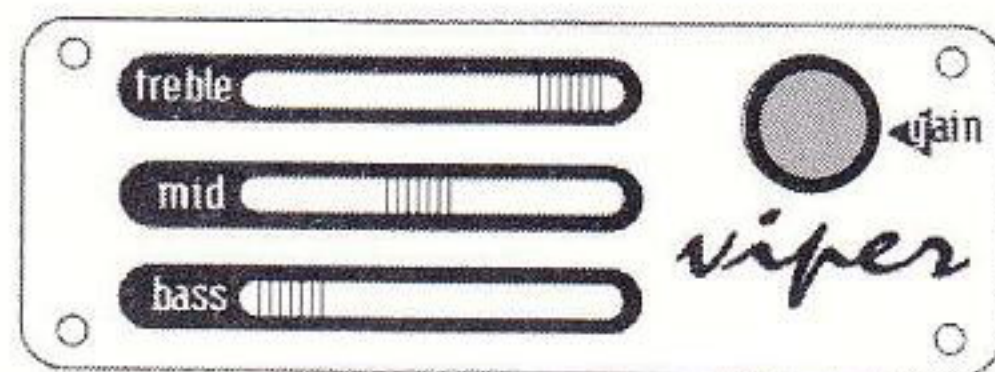
To Replace A Battery:

Simply remove access door  by removing screws (See fig. 5). Take care to match the (+) and (-) terminals when inserting the new battery.

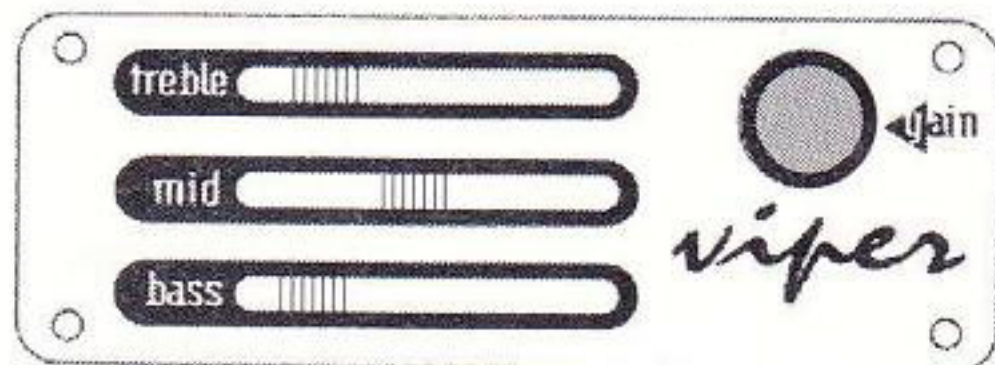
Sample Sounds

Below, you'll find a few sample settings we hope will introduce you to the flexibility of the Viper's EQ section. Of course there are numerous variations you can find through experimentation.

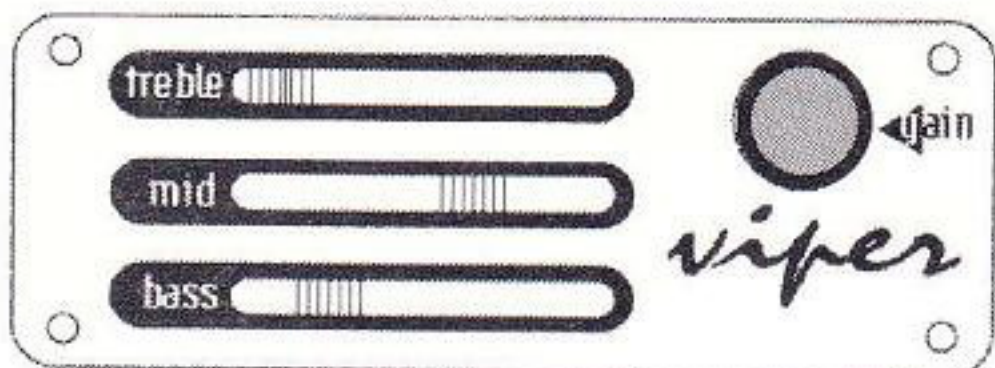
"Jazz"



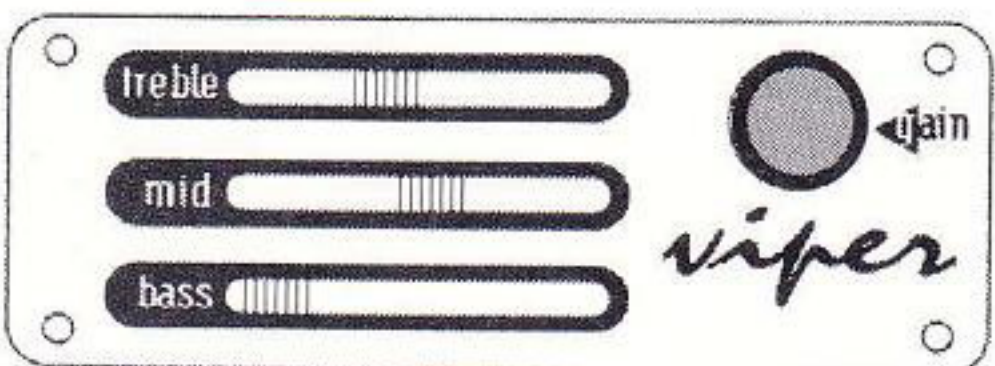
"New Country"



"Traditional Country"



"Ovation"



Ovation Service

If for any reason your Ovation guitar should require repair, we have a Factory Service Department staffed with craftspeople who are familiar with every method of construction used in our instruments. We also have a well-established network of Authorized Ovation Dealers and Service Centers located throughout the world, a listing of which is supplied separately with your purchase. All are trained and equipped to handle any problem that might arise with an Ovation guitar. Because of the unique construction employed in Ovation Roundbacks, we recommend that only an Authorized Ovation Dealer or Service Center service your instrument. Only in this way can we be certain that your problem is handled correctly and that lasting satisfaction is achieved. Our customers are very important to us at Ovation. That's why so many guitar players around the world turn to Ovation for product quality and after-sale service.

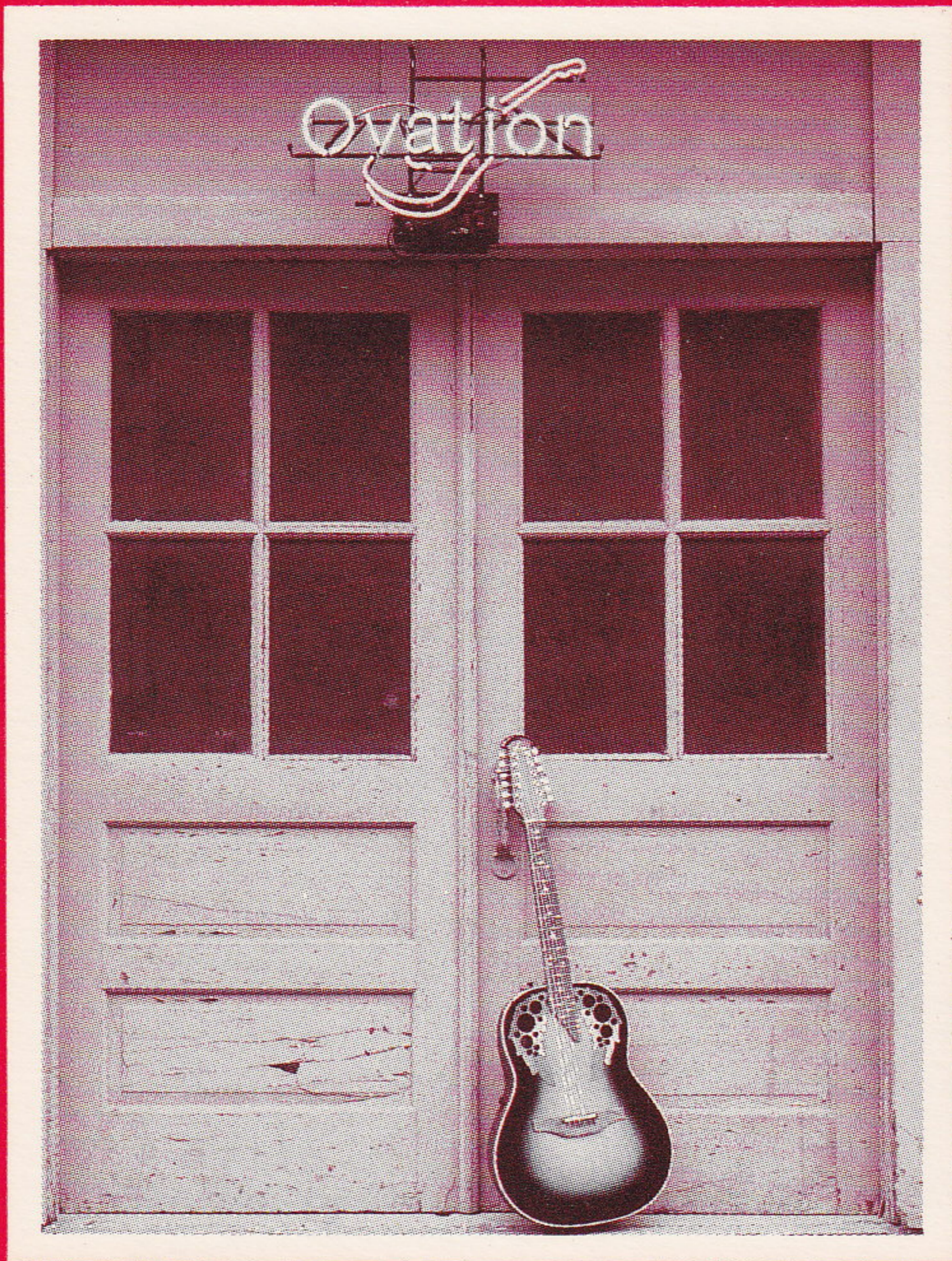
Address service correspondence to:

Ovation Instruments
37 Greenwoods Road
New Hartford, CT
06057

For your records, we suggest you make a note of Model, Serial Number, and the date you purchased your Ovation guitar:

Model # _____

Serial # _____ Date of Purchase ___/___/___



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