

Ovation®

OWNER'S MANUAL

Congratulations on buying an Ovation Roundback Guitar. Since its first introduction in 1966, the Ovation Roundback 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 Roundback, 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 Roundback can be found in Ovation literature available from your Authorized Ovation Dealer or by writing to us here at Ovation.

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.

Strings

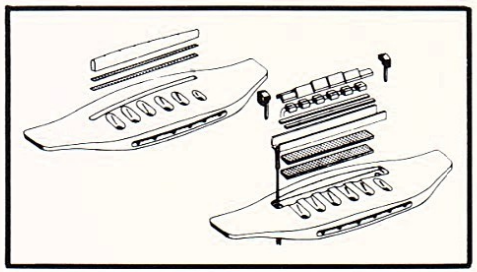
All Ovation guitars are shipped from the factory with strings from Kaman Musical String Corporation. Six string guitars are strung with Adamas light gauge set #1818.





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 Roundback. 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 Roundback 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 (except cutaway models) is 7/64" at the bass E string and 5/64" 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. Cutaway models are shipped with 1 or 2 shims only to achieve a slightly lower action. The installation of 1 additional shim beneath the saddle should achieve "standard action." For nylon string models, "standard action" is 10/64" at the bass E string and 8/64" at the treble E string, measured in the same way. 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 usually considered to be a defect in the instrument. If you are in doubt about the action setting of your Roundback, 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 tension, 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.

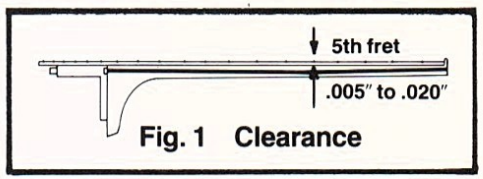
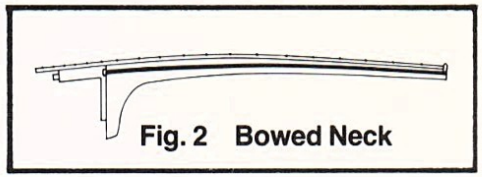
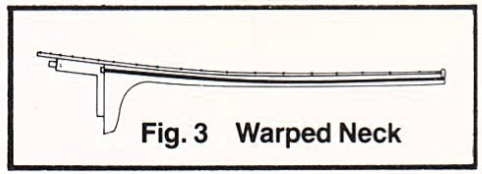


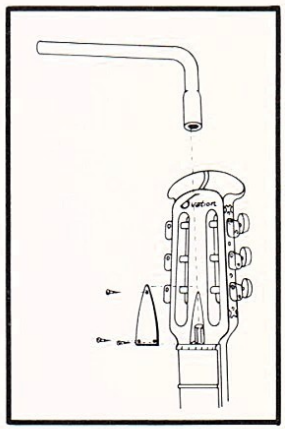
Fig. 1 Clearance


Fig. 2 Bowed Neck


Fig. 3 Warped Neck

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.

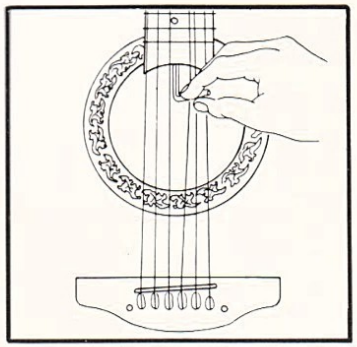
IF YOUR OVATION HAS A TRUSS ROD COVER:



1. To adjust a Roundback with a traditional truss rod nut, remove the rod cover on the guitar peghead.
2. Using a 1/4" hex nut driver or an Ovation Adjustment Wrench, adjustments may be made to the neck.
3. Clockwise rotation of the adjustment will tighten the tension rod to correct a warped position. 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 position. 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.

IF YOUR OVATION HAS A KAMAN BAR™:

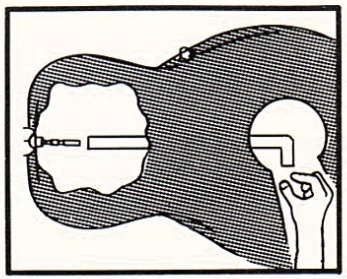
1. To adjust a Roundback with a Kaman Bar, find the Kaman Bar adjustment located at the heel of the neck on the inside of the bowl.
2. Reaching inside the guitar, place the Ovation adjustment wrench (#9834-0, available from your Dealer) on the tension rod adjustment nut. The adjustment socket is located just beneath the guitar top. Be certain the adjustment wrench is securely in position.



3. Clockwise rotation of the tension rod adjustment will tighten the tension rod to correct a warped position. Use the previously outlined 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 until the proper clearance can be seen at the 5th fret.

SPECIAL 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:

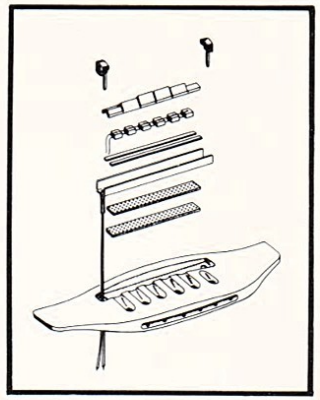


For Rear Access models, access is via the door in the back of the bowl. In all other respects proceed as for other Kaman Bar models. If your Rear Access guitar has a screw in the center of the access door, loosen the screw until the door can first be slid to one side, then to the other, to remove it. Take care not to completely remove the screw. Reverse the procedure to replace the door. If the access door does not have a screw, use a coin in the cut-out section at the edge of the door to lift up the door. Slide first to one side then the other to remove it. To replace the door reverse this procedure.

ULTRA SERIES:

Ultra Series guitars have a conventional truss rod. The adjustment procedure is the same as for Kaman Bar models. Use a 50mm Allen Wrench, available from your music dealer or hardware store.

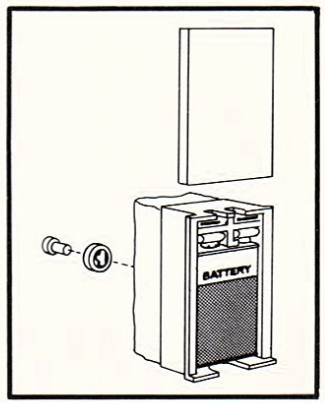
The Ovation Acoustic-Electric



Many Ovation Roundback guitars come with the now famous built-in acoustic-electric pickup and preamplifier system. Located directly beneath the Delrin saddle which automatically compensates for intonation, six piezoelectric transducers amplify not only the vibrations of the strings from the top of the saddle, but also transmit their mechanical action on the guitar top. Your particular model may have a volume control only or both volume and tone controls, and may have a mono output only or both mono and stereo outputs. All contain a built-in FET or OP-24 preamplifier that helps to minimize feedback and reduces hum and line noise. The stereo versions are wired so that the output of strings 1, 3, and 5 go to one channel, and strings 2, 4, and 6 to the other when used with the stereo "Y"-cord supplied with these particular units. Separation of right and left channels is achieved when used with a stereo amplifier or two separate amps.

The preamplifier used in the Ovation acoustic-electric guitars obtains its power from a single, 9-volt battery found in the battery box inside the bowl. For optimum performance, we recommend using a 9-volt alkaline battery. Current is drawn only when a cord is plugged into the guitar, so frequency of battery replacement will depend on how often the acoustic-electric feature is used. Always remember to unplug your guitar when not in use. This will extend the battery life considerably. A typical alkaline battery should provide approximately 2,000 hours of continuous operation under normal use and should yield a life of about six months. Noise or distortion detected in the output is usually a sign that a new battery is required.

TO REPLACE A BATTERY:



1. Loosen the bass strings until you can put your hand inside the sound hole.
2. Turn the external screw at the waist of the guitar ¼ turn counterclockwise. The battery case is now loose and can be moved.
3. Slide the cover off the battery box; insert the new battery and replace the cover.
4. Locate the rubber mount of the battery case up against the screw and make ¼ turn clockwise.
5. Tune the loosened strings up to pitch.

TO REPLACE A BATTERY (REAR ACCESS MODELS):

Access to the battery is via the door in the back of the guitar (see previous page) otherwise the procedure is the same as steps 2 - 4 above.

Service And Warranty

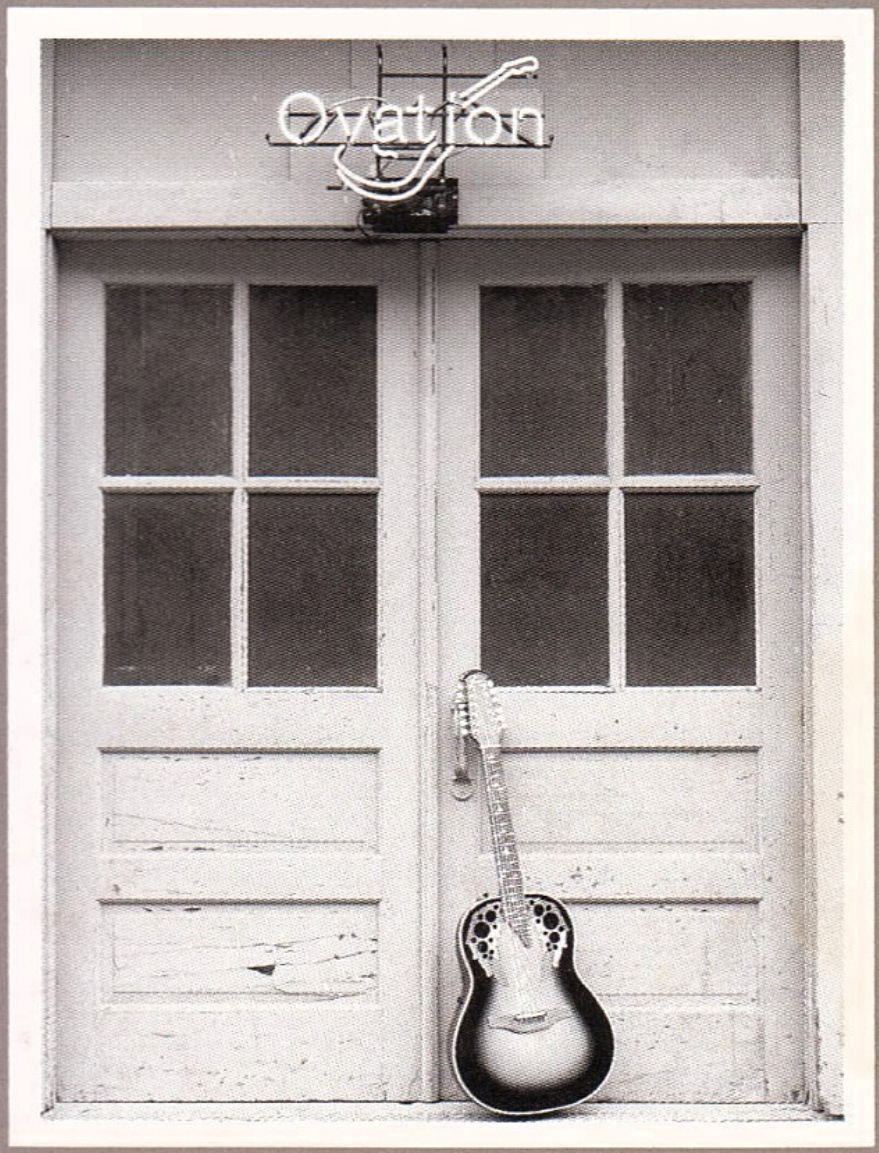
If for any reason your Ovation Roundback should require repair, we have an active Factory Service Department staffed with craftspeople who are familiar with every method of construction used in our instruments. We also have an established network of Authorized Ovation Dealers and Service Centers located throughout the world. 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.

Further details regarding our warranty can be found on the hang-tag accompanying each instrument.

Address service correspondence to—
Ovation Instruments, 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__/__/__



Ovation®

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