

FOR YOUR RECORDS

Serial # _____

Model _____

Date Purchased _____



B.C. Rich
GUITARS

www.bcrich.com
4940 Delhi Pike • Cincinnati, OH 45238 USA

OWNER'S MANUAL

Introduction

Congratulations for making B.C. Rich your choice of instrument. This manual will explain how to keep your instrument in top shape for years of musical enjoyment.

Controls

Bronze Series guitars

The Bronze Series has 3 controls to adjust the sound of the guitar.

- The first knob (closest to the bridge pickup) is the Master Volume. It controls the loudness of both pickups.
- The next control is the 3-way Pickup Selector. It is used to switch the two pickups on or off. Switching the selector up will engage the neck pickup. The middle position engages both pickups, and switching it down will engage the bridge pickup.
- The final control is the Master Tone control. This changes the tonal characteristics of the pickup(s) currently engaged.

Platinum, Platinum Pro, Acrylic, NJ and Classic Series guitars

These guitars have 4 output controls:

- The first knob (closest to the bridge pickup) is the Volume Control for the bridge pickup. It controls the loudness of this pickup.
- The next control is the 3-way Pickup Selector. It is used to switch the two pickups on or off. Switching the selector up will engage the neck pickup. The middle position engages both pickups, and switching it down will engage the bridge pickup.
- The next control is the Volume Control for the neck pickup. It controls the output of this pickup.
- The final control is the Master Tone Control. This changes the characteristics of the pickup(s) currently engaged.

Exclusive Series guitars

This series has the traditional control set-up found on most archtop guitars with two pickups. It consists of 2 Volume Controls, 2 Tone Controls and a 3-Way Pickup Selector.

Platinum Series basses

Platinum Basses come equipped with 2 passive split-coil bass pickups. The controls are as follows:

- The first knob (closest to the bridge pickup) is the Volume Control for the bridge pickup. It controls the loudness of this pickup.
- The next control is the 3-way Pickup Selector. It is used to switch the two pickups on or off. Switching the selector up will engage the neck pickup. The middle position engages both pickups, and switching it down will engage the bridge pickup.
- The next control is the Volume Control for the neck pickup. It controls the output of this pickup.
- The final control is the Master Tone Control. This changes the tonal characteristics of the pickup(s) currently engaged.

NJ and Innovator Series basses

NJ Basses come equipped with 2 split-coil pickups with an active EQ system. Innovator Basses come equipped with 2 EMG-HZ passive pickups with an Active EQ System. Both Active EQ Systems use a 9-volt alkaline battery for power. For longer battery life, always unplug your bass when not in use.



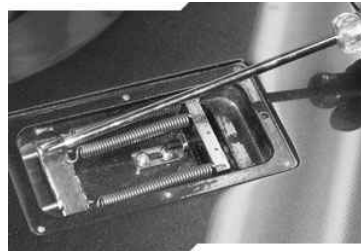
Step 6:

If you're ready to float the tremolo, check your tuning one last time and make any needed adjustments using the range tuner set screw. Then, back the tremolo stop set screw away from the spring block. This will cause the bridge to tilt back toward the body of the guitar and all the strings will go sharp. This is normal.



Step 7:

You must now retune the guitar, this time using a Phillips screwdriver to turn the spring claw screws counter-clockwise to loosen the spring tension (If you added an extra spring to pull the spring block against the tremolo stop screw you should remove it first.)



Step 8:

The good news is that you only have to retune one string. Pluck the string you want to tune (Typically the "A" string for this procedure) and then, while watching the tuner, loosen first one claw screw then the other claw screw the same amount.

Check the tuning and repeat until the string is in tune. When you get the string you chose in tune the other strings will be in tune. This assumes that all the strings were in tune before you released the tremolo stop.

For foreign language translation of this owner's manual, please visit www.bcrich.com.

tuning using the range tuner set screw. Remember: do not use the fine tuner screws to tune the guitar at this point.



Step 4:
A range tuner setscrew is located in the nose of each pivoting saddle.



Step 5:
Using a 1.5mm Allen wrench and the range tuner setscrew, tune your guitar to any tuning you desire. You can increase the pitch of a given string by turning the setscrew clockwise, and decrease the pitch of the string by turning the setscrew counterclockwise. (Remember not to use the fine tuner screws for this tuning.)

Now that you have tuned your guitar to the tuning you want, the bridge should be properly setup, and the fine tuners should be set to the middle of their range.

The way your guitar is set up now is what is called a "blocked" setup. This means that the tremolo can be used for dive effects but you can't pull up on the arm for up bends. You can leave your guitar the way it is, or you can disengage the tremolo stop to return the tremolo to what is called a "floating" setup. However, before you return the bridge to a floating condition, you might want to check your intonation. If your intonation needs adjusting go to the "Setting your intonation" section.

When you do need to change batteries you will get better performance and battery life if you use an alkaline battery. The battery compartment is located on the back of the bass just above the control cavity. It can easily be opened by unscrewing the 2 screws with a Phillips head screwdriver. Changing the battery will not affect your warranty.



The controls for both the NJ and Innovator series are as follows: (see photo)

- #1 is the Master Volume. It controls the output of both pickups.
- #2 is the Blend Control. The purpose of the Blend Control is to be able to select pickups (bridge or neck) and also to be able to blend them together. Turning the knob counterclockwise will bring more of the neck pickup into the mix. Turning it clockwise will bring more of the bridge pickup into the mix. Setting the Blend Control knob in the middle (there is a middle detent position) will place each pickup evenly in the mix.
- #3 is the Bass Boost/Cut Control. It controls the amount of bass (low end) output of the instrument. Turning the knob clockwise will add bass. Turning the knob counterclockwise will decrease the bass output. Once again, there is a center position that will set the bass EQ flat (no cut or boost).
- #4 is the Treble Boost/Cut Control. It controls the amount of high-end output of the instrument. Turning the knob clockwise will add treble. Turning the knob counterclockwise will decrease the treble output. Once again, there is a center position that will set the treble EQ flat (no cut or boost).

Climate, Humidity and Your Guitar

Damage done to an instrument as a result of too little, or too much, humidity is not covered by the manufacturer's warranty. Cracks resulting from a lack of humidity are not due to a manufacturing defect, but are considered neglect, and educating yourself could save you some heartaches...and expense.

Do not leave your instrument in a hot car, direct sunlight, near a stove, heater, an attic or other area where the temperatures are high. Cold temperatures can also damage your guitar. If you must take your instrument out in the cold, let it warm back up before taking it out of the case. This will keep the finish from cracking or clouding. It will also keep your fretboard from drying out and cracking.

Cleaning

Like all fine instruments, your B.C. Rich requires periodic care and maintenance. One of the most important ways to maintain the beauty of your instrument and prolong its string life is regular cleaning. Perspiration can actually contain acids that are corrosive to the strings as well as the metal parts of the guitar. After playing, wipe down your instrument's finish, strings, fretboard, and metal parts (bridge, tuners, etc.) with a soft cloth. The finish should be polished only as needed to avoid polish build-up that will dull the appearance. When you do need to polish, use a soft treated cloth or cotton rag. Also, only use a polish formulated for musical instruments to avoid build up. Follow these simple steps and your instrument should shine for years to come.

Bridge Adjustments

Bronze Series Guitars

The Bronze Series Guitars have a one-piece adjustable bridge. These are adjusted by turning the two screws on each side of the bridge with a flathead screwdriver until the desired height is achieved. Loosening the strings before adjustment will keep the screws from becoming scratched or blemished.

Platinum, Acrylic, Exclusive, and Classic Series Guitars

The Tune-O-Matic Bridge is adjusted by turning the two finger screws on each side of the bridge until you reach the desired height.

Platinum Pro, NJ, and Neck Thru Series Guitars

The Licensed Floyd Rose Tremolo plate on the Platinum Pro, Neck Thru and SpeedLoader-NJ models must be kept parallel to the body for proper intonation and tuning. To adjust, open the back cavity of the guitar and adjust the two claw screws. This can be a time consuming task but once the bridge is balanced, it shouldn't need adjustment unless you decide to change string gauges.

If the bridge is tilting towards the neck, tighten the claw screws, return your guitar to pitch, and see if the bridge is parallel.

Changing Strings with a Licensed Floyd Rose

Changing strings on a guitar equipped with a locking tremolo may seem tedious at first but with a little practice the process will become second nature. Changing one string at a time will keep the proper tension on the neck and tremolo, which, in turn, will make tuning your guitar back to pitch much easier.

SETTING THE FINE TUNER RANGE ON THE SPEEDLOADER TREMOLO

Like the Original Floyd Rose, there are several situations that will cause the SpeedLoader fine tuners to run out of range. If this happens don't panic, the fine tuner range can be reset.

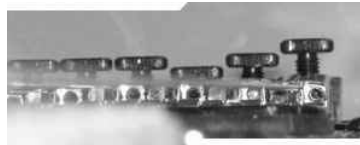
To reset the fine tuner range first engage the tremolo stop and set the bridge position as described in the "Setting up the SpeedLoader Tremolo Bridge base plate."

With the base plate set properly and the tremolo stop properly engaged, you are ready to set your fine tuner range. If only one or two of the fine tuners are out of range you may want to try adjusting them without engaging the tremolo stop.



Step 1:

The first thing you do to reset the range of all the fine tuners is to position all the fine tuner screws to the middle of their possible movement.



Step 2:

One way to do this is to turn the low "low E" string fine tuner screw all the way up, then turn the "D" string fine tuner screw all the way down.

Now, position the "A" string fine tuner screw half way between the "E" and the "D" fine tuner screw positions.



Step 3:

Now, leaving the "A" string fine tuner where you set it, reposition all the other fine tuner screws to match the height of the "A" string fine tuner screw.

You should now have all of the fine tuner screws set to the middle of their range.

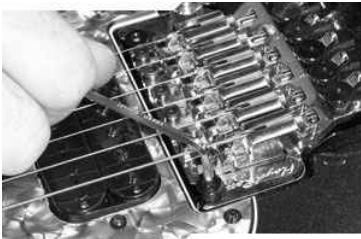
Ignore the fact that your guitar is now completely out of tune, we're going to fix that next.

At this point you're ready to tune your guitar using the range tuner set screw. You can set your guitar up for standard pitch, any open tuning, or any drop



Step 6:

Now check the base plate position. If it is not parallel to the face of the guitar body turn the setscrew until the base plate is parallel.



Step 7:

After you get the base plate parallel, check your string action. If your strings are too high or too low for you, adjust the action with the two rocker screws, using a 3mm Allen wrench until the action is where you like it.

When you get the base plate parallel with the face of the guitar, the action properly adjusted, and the tremolo stop firmly engaged with the spring block, you are ready to set the fine tuner range or intonate the guitar.

These procedures follow...

1. Loosen the locking nut that corresponds to the string being changed with the 3mm allen wrench.
2. Loosen the string completely by turning the tuning key on the headstock.
3. Loosen the saddle lock screw with the 3mm allen wrench.
4. Remove the string.
5. Remove any broken string bits with a small magnetic screwdriver or long nose tweezers.
6. Return the tremolo fine tuners to their mid point position.
7. Cut the ball end and extra wraps off the new string.
8. Insert the new string into the tremolo lock box.
9. Tighten the saddle screw securely but do not over tighten.
10. Slide the string thru the string post on the headstock.
11. Leave enough slack for about three turns around the post.
12. Tune to pitch.
13. Once all the strings have been replaced and stretched, tune the guitar to pitch, lock down the nut, and use the fine tuners for minor adjustments.

Intonation

Use an electronic tuner and tune your instrument to standard pitch. Play an open string and then compare it to the fretted note at the 12th fret. These notes should read the same on the tuner.

- * If the fretted note on the 12th fret is flatter (lower) than the open note, move the saddle forward toward the neck.
- * If the fretted note on the 12th fret is sharper (higher) than the open note, move the saddle back away from the neck.

For an accurate reading, be sure to retune the string to pitch after each adjustment of the saddle. Bronze and Platinum guitars require a Phillips head screwdriver for this adjustment. Models with the Licensed Floyd Rose will need the supplied 2.5mm allen wrench.

The quality of strings affects intonation as does string gauge. An adjustment of the intonation will most likely have to be made if the string gauge is changed.

Neck Adjustments

Each B.C. Rich Guitar is carefully adjusted at the factory, as well as by our Quality Control Department before shipping. The truss rod and string height are set for optimum action and playability with the gauge string supplied.

Occasionally an instrument's neck may need adjustment as a result of string tension or climactic changes. The curvature of the neck should be slightly concave. The amount depends on the player's personal taste.

Truss rod adjustment should only be performed by a B.C. Rich Authorized Service Center. Over adjustment can cause permanent damage that will not be covered by the warranty.

REMOVING SPEEDLOADER GUITAR STRINGS

*For use with SpeedLoader™ bridges only.

Please note: SpeedLoader strings are offered in two scale lengths: 25.5 inches and 24.75 inches. If you're not sure what scale length your guitar is, consult the guitar manufacturer or the store where you purchased the guitar.

Make sure you have purchased the correct scale length strings for your guitar. The string scale length appears in the lower left corner of the string package.

To purchase strings go to: www.floydrose.com or ask for them at your local dealer.



Step 1:

To replace a string, push down on the back of the saddle of one of the strings.



Step 2:

Then, pull back on the sliding latch by placing the first finger of your free hand on the black knob protruding out the back of the saddle then placing your thumb on the fin sticking up just behind the fine tuner screw and pull the latch back with a pinching action between the thumb and first finger.



Step 3:

Once you have pulled back on the sliding latch, release the saddle and allow it to rotate forward.



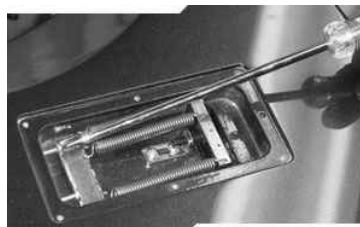
Step 3:

If this part is missing stop right here and get one installed by a qualified guitar repairman. You can get this part from www.floydrose.com.

Depending on the guitar you purchased, the tremolo stop may or may not be engaged with the spring block.

We will assume it is not engaged and show you how to engage it.

Take the 3mm Allen wrench and turn the setscrew until it touches the spring block.



Step 4:

Now, tighten the springs with the spring claw screws so the spring block is pulled tightly against the setscrew.



Step 5:

Another way to pull the spring block against the tremolo stop set screw is to add another spring to the spring block and claw. Using this method is preferred because it will be easier to re-float the tremolo after setting up the bridge.

SETTING UP THE SPEEDLOADER TREMOLO BRIDGE BASE PLATE



The proper setup of the SpeedLoader Tremolo Bridge looks exactly like a properly setup Original Floyd Rose Tremolo Bridge. By the way, the SpeedLoader Tremolo will retrofit an Original Floyd quite easily.

The first thing you'll want to do is check to see if the top surface of the base plate of the bridge is sitting parallel to the top surface of the guitar.

If the base plate appears to be tilted forward away from the top surface of the guitar or tilted back closer to the top of the guitar, then an adjustment should be made.



Step 1:
To level the base plate, first take the spring cover plate off the back of the guitar.



Step 2:
Inside the spring cavity you should find a tremolo stop.



Step 4:
Now remove the bullet from the saddle.



Step 5:
If you are replacing a broken string, when you unlatch the pivoting saddle there will be no tension on the string to pull the pivoting saddle forward, so you'll have to pivot the saddle forward with your finger.

You can now remove the bullet on the other end of the string from the nut by simply sliding it out the back of the nut.



This is what the safety catch looks like up close. (see above)

Step 6:
If you try to release a saddle and pull back on the sliding latch and it won't budge, release everything and start over making certain that you don't turn the sliding latch sideways. If the sliding latch turns on its shaft, the safety catch portion of the sliding latch will not line up properly with the safety catch portion of the pivoting saddle and will cause binding.

The safety catch is there to prevent the string from accidentally releasing while playing or changing strings.

LOADING SPEEDLOADER STRINGS



Step 1:
To put on the new string simply slide one of the bullets into the nut, then place the other bullet into the appropriate saddle and push down on the back on the saddle until you hear, or feel, a snap.



Step 2:
This sound is the spring-loaded sliding latch snapping into place. If you don't hear or feel the snap, push the sliding latch toward the saddle until it catches. Making sure the sliding latch is all the way forward to its locked position is important because if it isn't two things will happen:

- 1) The replaced string will be held sharp, and;
- 2) the safety catch will not be engaged and the string could suddenly and unexpectedly be released and fly across the room.



Step 4:
Then do a couple of stretching pulls on the string.



Step 5:
The string is now seated and no more stretching is necessary, just play. In fact if you stretch the string too vigorously you will damage the string. Just play the string in for a bit and re-adjust your tuning with the fine-tuning screw as needed.

If the string you're replacing was tuned to your desired pitch, the new string you install should be able to be tuned to that pitch with the fine tuner screw. If the fine tuners do not have enough range to tune the new string to the previous pitch you will need to adjust the range tuner setscrew as described below. See "Setting the fine tuner range on the SpeedLoader Tremolo".

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