




# MAESTRO GUITARS

CARE & FEEDING GUIDE



T O N E  R E M A S T E R E D

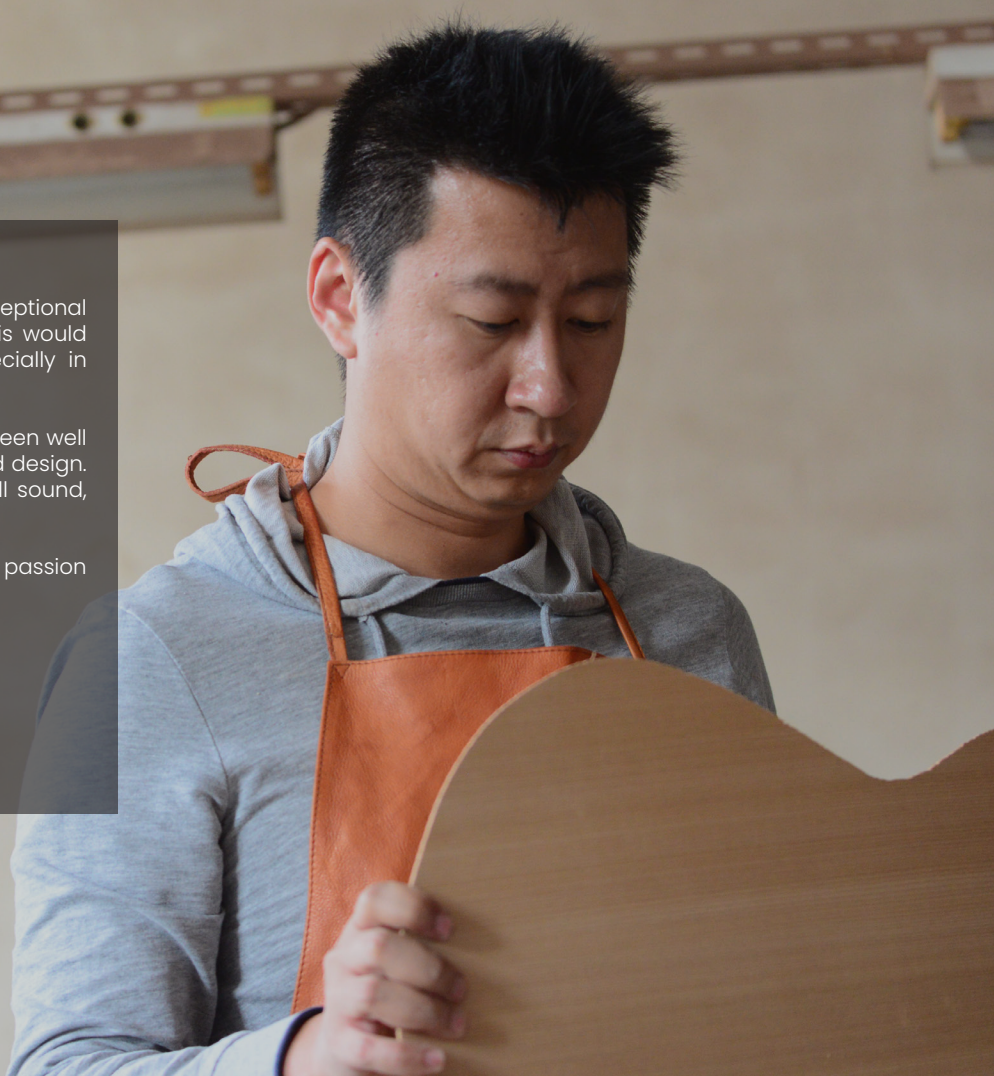
Thank you for choosing Maestro Guitars.

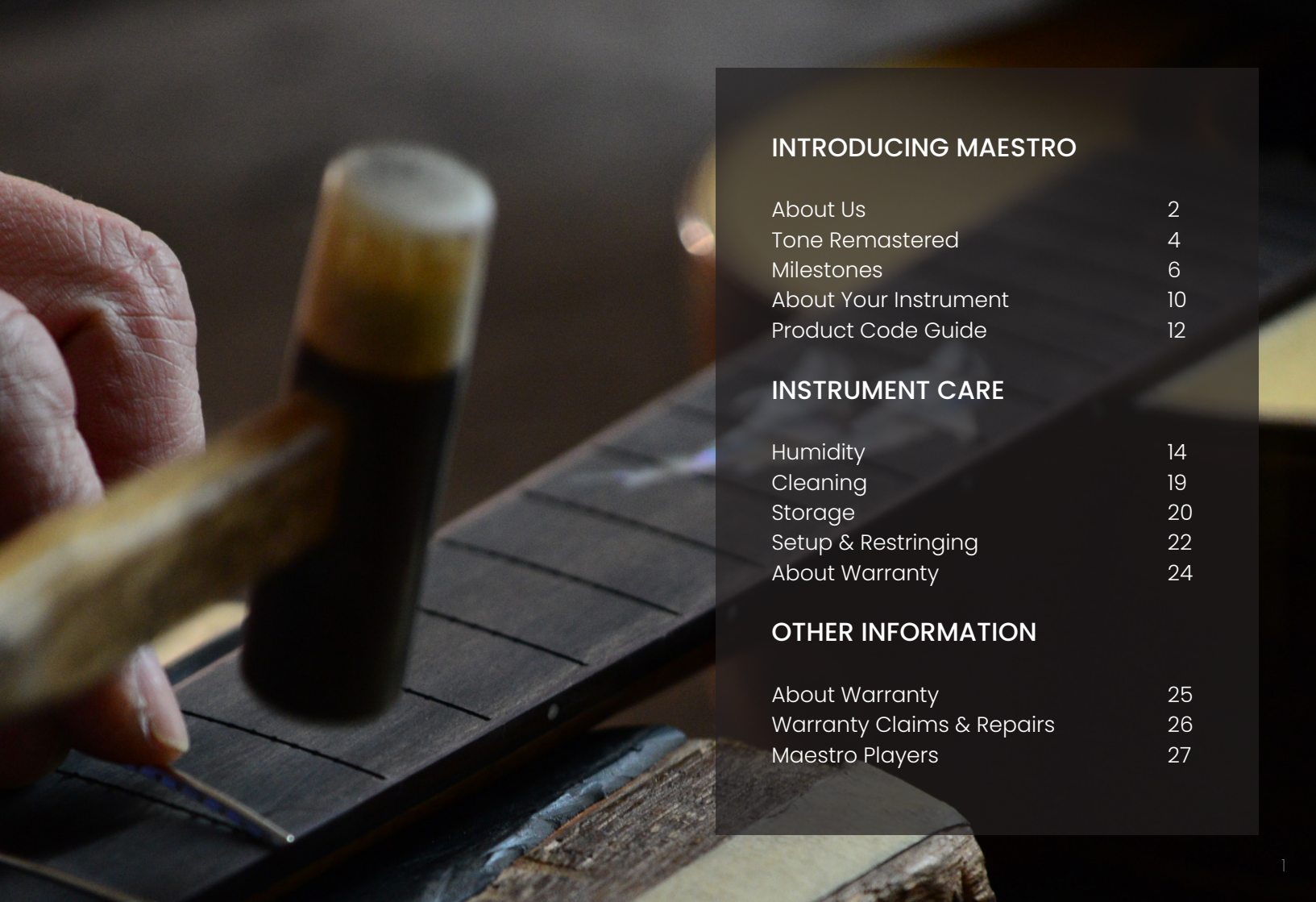
I started Maestro Guitars out of a desire to make exceptional instruments more accessible. I never imagined this would turn into a lifelong dedication to this craft, especially in making the most responsive instruments possible.

You will notice every detail in your instrument has been well thought out – from raw materials, components, and design. Why? We want you to have an instrument that will sound, play, and look far more than what you paid for.

I hope your instrument will inspire you to pursue your passion the same way I am living mine.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Maestro', is positioned below the 'Sincerely Yours,' text. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long vertical stroke extending downwards.



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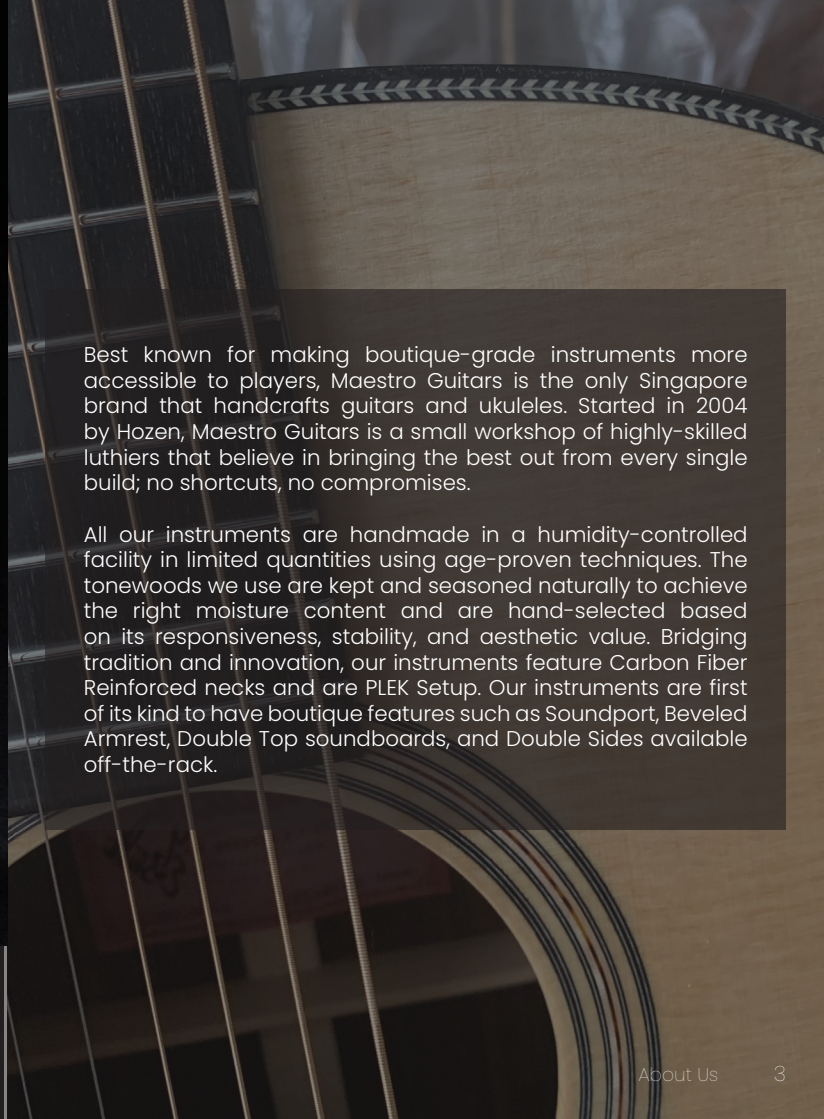
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## | ABOUT MAESTRO

More about  
Maestro



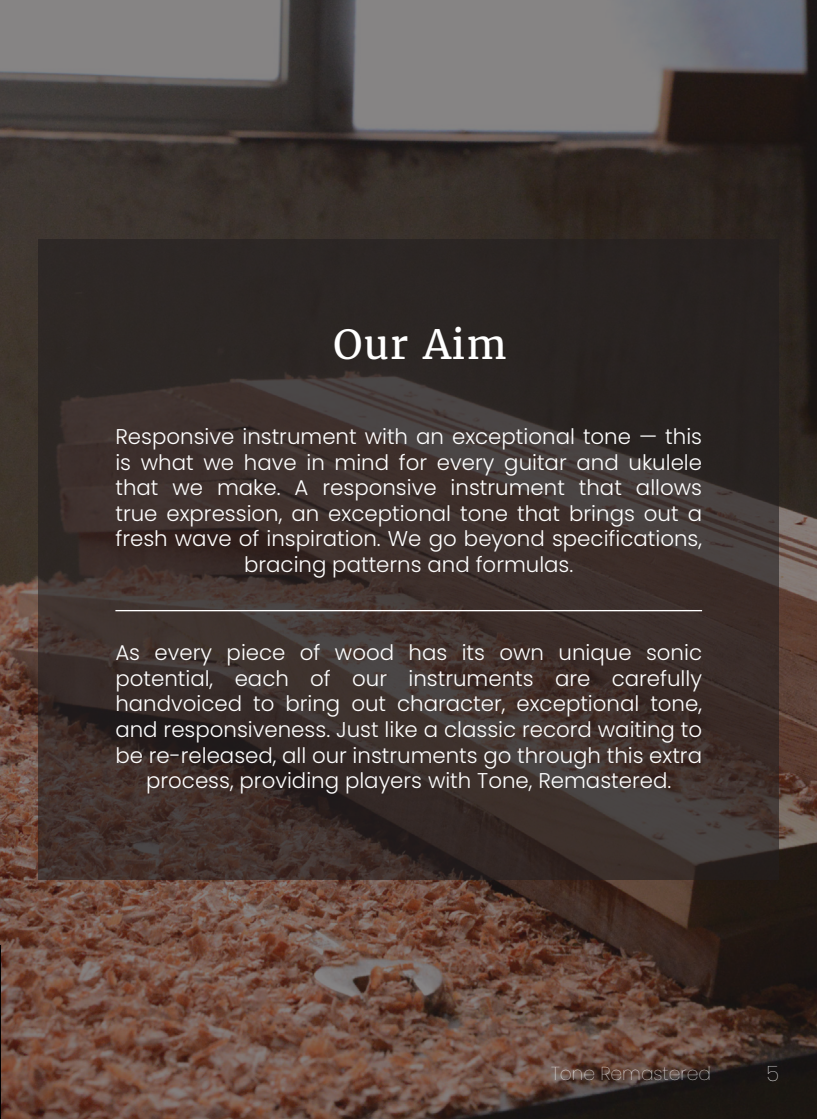
Best known for making boutique-grade instruments more accessible to players, Maestro Guitars is the only Singapore brand that handcrafts guitars and ukuleles. Started in 2004 by Hozen, Maestro Guitars is a small workshop of highly-skilled luthiers that believe in bringing the best out from every single build; no shortcuts, no compromises.

All our instruments are handmade in a humidity-controlled facility in limited quantities using age-proven techniques. The tonewoods we use are kept and seasoned naturally to achieve the right moisture content and are hand-selected based on its responsiveness, stability, and aesthetic value. Bridging tradition and innovation, our instruments feature Carbon Fiber Reinforced necks and are PLEK Setup. Our instruments are first of its kind to have boutique features such as Soundport, Beveled Armrest, Double Top soundboards, and Double Sides available off-the-rack.





T O N E   
R E M A S T E R E D



## Our Aim

Responsive instrument with an exceptional tone — this is what we have in mind for every guitar and ukulele that we make. A responsive instrument that allows true expression, an exceptional tone that brings out a fresh wave of inspiration. We go beyond specifications, bracing patterns and formulas.

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As every piece of wood has its own unique sonic potential, each of our instruments are carefully handvoiced to bring out character, exceptional tone, and responsiveness. Just like a classic record waiting to be re-released, all our instruments go through this extra process, providing players with Tone, Remastered.



## | MILESTONES

Started in 2004 with the vision of offering value-for-money instruments, Maestro Guitars evolved into one of the leading makers of premium guitars and ukuleles in the world. The once small dream of having his own guitar brand birthed Hozen's lifelong commitment of making finely handmade instruments more accessible. Our story of resilience, dedication, and passion may serve as an inspiration for others to find their purpose and chase after their dream.

Hozen's family are the first piano builders in Singapore. Though he was exposed to the trade at a very young age, he did not develop a keen interest in the instrument business until 2001, when he started helping his father in instrument repairs. What was supposed to be a holiday became a life changing trip for Hozen when he accompanied his father to the Music China exhibition in 2003. Having met guitar manufacturers, he was inspired to start his own. He later studied the possibility of building guitars by importing parts and assembling them in Singapore. The rest is history.

Hozen conceived the idea of building guitars by importing parts and assembling them in Singapore

2003

The Maestro Concept Store opens in Excelsior with 24 guitars in display

2004

Maestro starts exhibiting in tradeshows like Music China and later on Messe Frankfurt

2005

Hozen underwent training with Chris Horton in Goa, India

2006

Hozen introduced Carbon Fibre Reinforced Necks into all their guitars. Even launching the custom and masterclass series, together with ukuleles as well

2007

Maestro procured its own facility in Singapore, which continues to serve as its HQ to this date

2008

Hozen set up a new production facility in Guangzhou that allowed him to assemble his own team of builders

2009



2010

The new workshop goes into production, and focuses on handcrafting exquisite instruments

2011

Maestro started offering builds from exotic tonewoods, as well as incorporating boutique features like Florentine Cutaway and Soundport on their instruments

2012

Introduced the Island Series ukuleles and made Beveled Armrest an option for the Custom Series

2013

Launched the Double Top Series, which was made using Nomex Honeycomb and built by selected luthiers. Maestro also started using Elixir for their strings after being recognized by Elixir Strings

2014

Hozen acquired a PLEK Station and underwent PLEK training with his team

2015

Hozen studies voicing under Ervin Somogyi, ushering Maestro into its new era of guitars and ukuleles, releasing the Private Collection along the way

2016

Applying the new voicing concept he studied, Hozen redesigned and made new bracing patterns for the Custom Series guitars, as well as the new Advanced Hybrid Bracing for the Private Collection

2017

A new headstock for the guitars was designed, giving better string spacing. Hozen also started the development of the Traditional and Crossover series, together with a new ukulele shape

2018

The Traditional and Crossover Series was launched in NAMM 2018. New options like the 6 or 8 string ukulele was added along with a new voicing approach to for the Double Top Series

2019

On Maestro's 15th anniversary, it released models made from wood of tropical fruit trees. As well as improvements made to the Island Series Ukuleles

2020

The Cardinal Series was born, which were individually handvoiced guitars. The Private Collection was also greatly improved in terms of design and tone

2021

Amidst the restrictions and challenges of the pandemic, we were able to maintain our production capacity while improving quality. Also launching [shop.maestroguitars.com](https://shop.maestroguitars.com), allowing dealers and customers to conveniently choose actual pieces.

2022

With his undying desire to make boutique-grade instruments more accessible, Hozen introduced the new Somogyi Mod-D shape and the Original Series 2.0, which features our signature CSB options complete with Fanned Frets and Manzer Wedge.



## ABOUT YOUR INSTRUMENT

### Individually-voiced

Bracing Patterns and dimensions affect the tonal characteristics of an acoustic guitar, there is no formulaic way of guaranteeing the best tone for every single instrument. Every piece of wood is different and this is why our founder, Hozen, take time to personally hand voice every single instrument himself. Trained by the godfather of guitar voicing, Ervin Somogyi, every Maestro will have a very delicate response, rich in projection and full of character.

### Hand-selected Tonewoods

We source for the best tonewood all over the world and naturally season them for years to ensure they are responsive and have the ideal stability. Tonewood we use in your instrument goes through rigorous grading on how fast on the transmission speed of sound, richness of tap tones, stiffness deflection and woodgrain are.

### No Shortcuts

To achieve the very best quality, there are no shortcuts. We marry the best of modern marvels to time-tested methodology of handcrafting. For the necks, we use old school dovetail joints with carbon-fiber reinforcement to promote stability and sustain better energy transfer. Time tested Hide-Glue with ultra-thin PU finish to maximize tonal vibrations. We choose to do most of the process by hand and limit our production because we can have a better control of the final result.

### PLEK Setup

Our spirit of relentless perfections brings us to using the PLEK to achieve precision setups impossible with traditional method. Considering the string oscillation and how the neck changes under tension, the machine shave our Japanese-made frets down to a hundredth of a millimeter. Perfectly cut frets lend themselves to a better playing experience, better intonation and increased levels of harmonic content. The best playability to inspire you to keep playing your new Maestro ever more.





AUSTRALIAN BLACKWOOD **AB**  
 ANCIENT BOG OAK **AO**  
 BOIS DE ROSE **BD**  
 BLOODWOOD **BL**

BOCOTE **BO**  
 BRAZILIAN ROSEWOOD **BR**  
 AFRICAN BLACKWOOD **BW**  
 COCOBOLO **CO**  
 SPANISH CYPRESS **CY**  
 FLAMED MAPLE **FM**  
 QUILTED SAPELE **FS**  
 FLAMED WALNUT **FW**  
 INDIAN ROSEWOOD **IR**  
 PACIFIC KOA **KO**  
 FLAMED LONGAN **LO**  
 LYCHEE **LY**  
 MALAYSIAN BLACKWOOD **MB**  
 MACASSAR EBONY **ME**  
 KHAYA MAHOGANY **MH**

SPALTED MANGO **MO**  
 MADAGASCAR ROSEWOOD **MR**  
 AFRICAN OVANGKOL **OV**  
 AFRICAN PADAUK **PA**  
 PERNAMBUCO **PB**  
 PALE MOON EBONY **PE**  
 PURPLE HEART **PH**  
 SENEGAL ROSEWOOD **SG**  
 SANTOS ROSEWOOD **SR**  
 TASMANIAN MYRTLE **TM**  
 "THE TREE" **TT**  
 WENGE **WE**  
 ZIRICOTE **ZC**  
 AFRICAN ZEBRAWOOD **ZW**  
 SPECIAL REQUESTS **00**

35MM 1  
 37MM 2  
 43MM 3  
 44MM 4  
 45MM 5  
 48MM 6  
 52MM 7

3-PIECE BACK 3  
 6-STRING 6  
 8-STRING 8  
 BARITONE B  
 FANNED FRET F  
 SLOTTED HEADSTOCK H  
 MANZER WEDGE J  
 LEFT HANDED L  
 ADIRONDACK BRACING Q  
 12-STRING T  
 HYBRID BRACING U  
 TORREFIED WOOD W  
 BEVELED BODY REST Z

YEAR OF  
MAKE

SERIAL  
NUMBER

BACK &  
SIDES

NUT WIDTH

OTHER  
OPTIONS

22011014VEMRCSB4AWFJX

MONTH  
OF MAKE

BODY  
SHAPE

SIGNATURE  
OPTIONS

SOUNDBOARD

SERIES

**RA** RAFFLES  
**RO** ROSETTA  
**SI** SINGA  
**VE** VERA  
**VI** VICTORIA  
**TE** TEMASEK  
**ME** MERIDIAN  
**OM** OM  
**OO** OO  
**TO** O  
**DR** DREADNOUGHT  
**SD** SLOPE DREADNOUGHT  
**AL** ALTO  
**BA** BARBERO  
**BS** BASS

**NO** NOVA  
**US** SOPRANO  
**UC** CONCERT  
**UT** TENOR  
**UB** BASS  
**SS** SUPER SOPRANO  
**SC** SUPER CONCERT  
**ST** SUPER TENOR  
**GL** GUITALELE

**C** FLORENTINE CUTAWAY  
**S** SOUNDPORT  
**B** BEVELED ARMREST  
**V** BEVELED CUTAWAY

**-** STIKA SPRUCE  
**-** LUJIANG SPRUCE  
**A** ADIRONDACK SPRUCE  
**C** WESTERN RED CEDAR  
**D** DOUBLE TOP  
**E** ENGELMANN SPRUCE  
**G** GERMAN SPRUCE  
**K** PACIFIC KOA  
**M** MAHOGANY  
**N** MANGO  
**O** PORT ORFORD CEDAR  
**P** AFRICAN PADAUK  
**R** SINKER REDWOOD  
**S** SWISS SPRUCE  
**0** SPECIAL REQUESTS

**-** ORIGINAL/  
DOUBLE TOP/  
ISLAND/  
CARDINAL  
**V** TRADITIONAL  
**Y** CROSSOVER  
**X** PRIVATE/  
CUSTOM BUILD

PRODUCT  
CODE GUIDE



# |INSTRUMENT CARE

## Humidity

Your Maestro instrument is built in a humidity-controlled workshop with a Relative Humidity of 45% to 55% to ensure it is able to adapt to humidity and climatic changes when proper measures are taken. Ideally, your instrument should be stored within the same RH range to prevent any unwanted effects of extreme humidity conditions.

Wood is hygroscopic in nature. The wood in your instrument absorbs or releases moisture depending on the humidity conditions in the environment – this occurs regardless of age, material or build quality and is the cause of wood shrinking or expanding.

The effects of exposure to extreme humidity accounts for the majority of instrument repairs. Aside from being costly, the effects of such damages might not be reversible.

## Relative Humidity

Relative Humidity is the prevailing degree of moisture held in the atmosphere relative to the temperature. The higher the temperature, the more moisture there is in the atmosphere, and vice versa. Wood absorbs moisture when the RH is high (i.e. the presence of a lot of moisture in the atmosphere).

On the other hand, the wood will release moisture when the RH is low due to the lack of moisture in the atmosphere. These humidity changes may cause the wood in your instrument to expand and contract as it releases and absorbs moisture.

The initial step in protecting your instrument from humidity-related damages is the use of hygrometers, a tool detecting the humidity level.

We will recommend using Boveda 49% RH 2-Way Humidity Control to prevent humidity damage to your instrument.



## **| To protect your instrument in high humidity:**

- Store your instrument in an environment where the RH is between 45% to 55%.
- Store your instrument in an ideal, controlled environment (e.g. an air-conditioned room). The air-conditioning unit does not need to be running for the entire day - a few hours a day is sufficient.
- Store your instrument away from wet areas such as bathrooms, piping, and windows.
- Use dehumidifiers to maintain the humidity level in your room at ideal levels. It is worth investing in electric dehumidifiers if your place is very humid.
- Place dehumidifying packs/silica gel packs with your instrument if you plan to store it in a case for an extended period. Make periodic checks on your instrument to ensure that it is not taking in unwanted moisture/to replace the dehumidifying packs when required.
- If your instrument is showing signs that it has absorbed too much moisture, immediately loosen the strings and dehumidify it. If possible, send it to the nearest Maestro Dealer or any other guitar technician for dehumidification.

## **| To protect your instrument in low humidity:**

- Store your instrument in an environment where the RH is between 45% to 55%.
- Let your instrument acclimatise by keeping it in the case for a few hours if you are transporting it to a place with a very low humidity.
- Store your instrument in an ideal, controlled environment (e.g. an air-conditioned room). The air-conditioning unit does not need to be running for the entire day - a few hours a day is sufficient.
- Place a humidifier (e.g. a Humistat) inside your instrument to introduce moisture to it, especially when you are keeping your instrument in a case for an extended period.
- If your instrument is showing signs of extreme dryness, immediately loosen the strings and humidify it. If possible, send it to your nearest Maestro Dealer or technician to prevent further structural damage.



## Cleaning your instrument

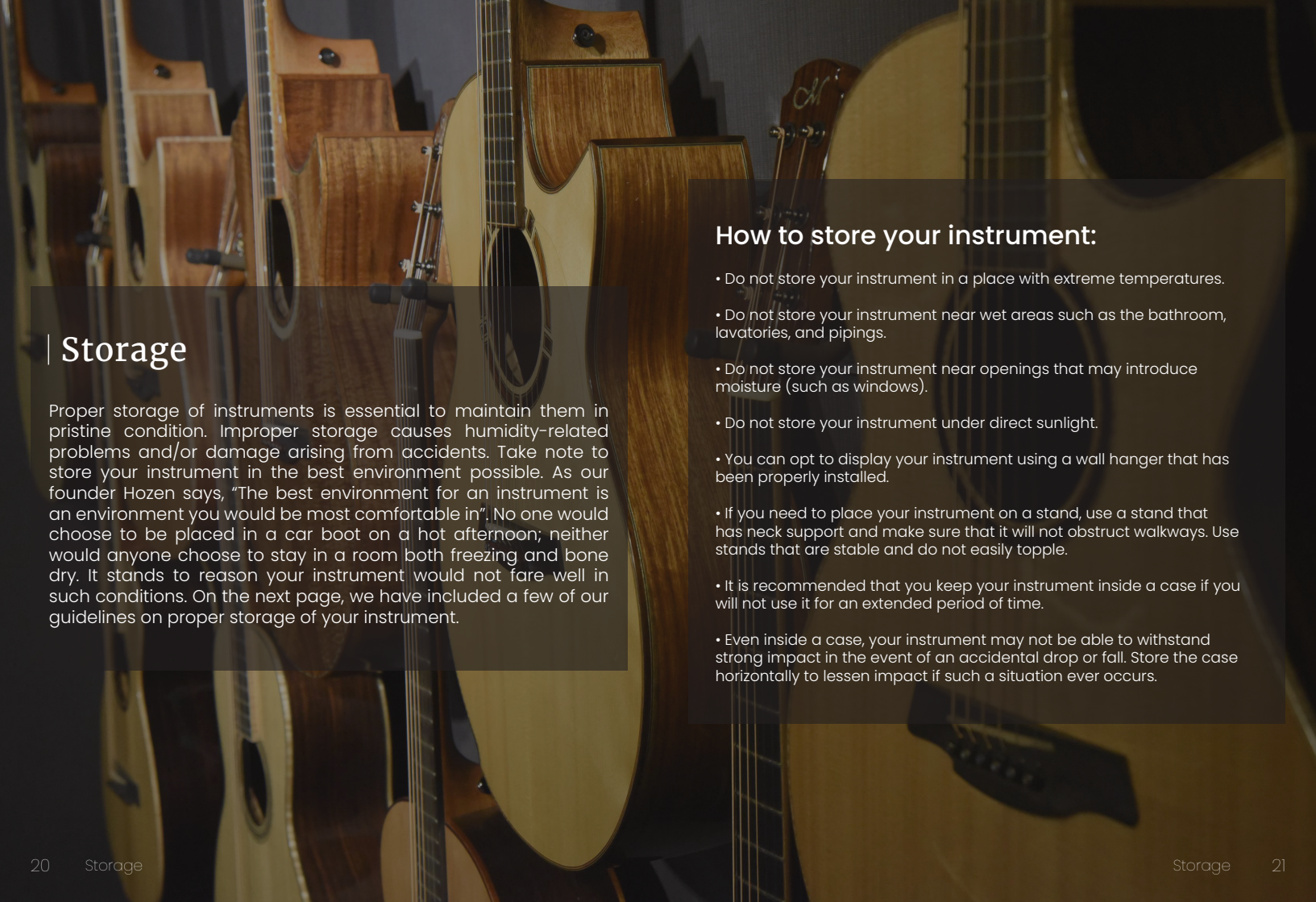
Sweat and oil from your hands introduced to your instrument during play affects it in a number of ways - marks and stains are left on the finish in the long run, and the protective coating on strings can be corroded.

### How to clean it

Maintain the finish by wiping your instrument down with a Maestro Microfiber Cloth after play. Use a silicone-free wax to remove stubborn dirt and marks (avoid using traditional wooden furniture polishes - certain brands contain chemicals thin down the finish).

Be mindful if your instrument sports Nitrocellulose finish, as it is extremely delicate and requires extra care. Wipe your fretboard using a Maestro Microfiber Cloth after play to alleviate rusting of the frets and strings. Your fretboard should be cleaned regularly as well - we recommend using "Fret Butter" or boiled linseed oil for the fretboard itself, and 0000 steel wool for the frets.





## | Storage

Proper storage of instruments is essential to maintain them in pristine condition. Improper storage causes humidity-related problems and/or damage arising from accidents. Take note to store your instrument in the best environment possible. As our founder Hozen says, “The best environment for an instrument is an environment you would be most comfortable in”. No one would choose to be placed in a car boot on a hot afternoon; neither would anyone choose to stay in a room both freezing and bone dry. It stands to reason your instrument would not fare well in such conditions. On the next page, we have included a few of our guidelines on proper storage of your instrument.

### How to store your instrument:

- Do not store your instrument in a place with extreme temperatures.
- Do not store your instrument near wet areas such as the bathroom, lavatories, and pipings.
- Do not store your instrument near openings that may introduce moisture (such as windows).
- Do not store your instrument under direct sunlight.
- You can opt to display your instrument using a wall hanger that has been properly installed.
- If you need to place your instrument on a stand, use a stand that has neck support and make sure that it will not obstruct walkways. Use stands that are stable and do not easily topple.
- It is recommended that you keep your instrument inside a case if you will not use it for an extended period of time.
- Even inside a case, your instrument may not be able to withstand strong impact in the event of an accidental drop or fall. Store the case horizontally to lessen impact if such a situation ever occurs.

# Setup & Restringing

## Action:

Action refers to the distance of the strings from the frets and determined by the height of the nut and saddle. With a high nut, the distance between the string and the first few frets will be too high, making it more difficult for the player. If the distance between the string and the first few frets are too low, fret buzz will occur.

## Nut height:

Nut height is adjusted by sanding the nut down. Alternatively, individual string action can be adjusted by filing the nut slot down. Besides string action, another thing to consider at the saddle area is the break angle of the strings.

## Break angle:

Break angle refers to the degree of slope of the strings from the saddle to the bridge. The ideal break angle of the strings is  $45^\circ$  (give or take a few degrees of difference). Too low of a break angle lessens string tension, making strings sound softer. Too high of a break angle increases tension, causing the top to deform due to the amount of pull of the strings. Ideal saddle height and break angle is based on the height of your bridge.

## Bridge:

A high bridge area might be caused by bloating - this can be solved by dehumidifying your instrument. If the bloating is irreversible, the saddle will need to be lowered and break angle will be compromised. If the problem lies in the bridge being too thick.

## When to change strings:

Ensure that your instrument sounds its best by changing your strings every 1-3 months, depending on how often you play your instrument. Changing your strings regularly will help alleviate intonation problems and buzzing. Traditional series, Cardinal Series, Original Series and Private Collection instruments are strung with Elixir Nanoweb Phosphor Bronze HD Light 0.013-0.053. Our classical guitars and Island Series ukuleles are strung with Aquila Super Nylgut strings



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Hozen示范如何更换弦线



Find out how we  
change strings



## Other Information

### Warranty Coverage

One Year - Parts (tuning hardware, pickguard, plating, bridge, electric components) and labour

Limited lifetime - Top, back, sides and neck

At Maestro Guitars, we take pride in our workmanship and guarantee our Original Series, Island Series, Masterclass Series, Private Collection, and Custom Build instruments against defects in materials and workmanship from the date of purchase for the lifetime of the original owner.

Register your instrument online at:  
[www.maestroguitars.com/warranty](http://www.maestroguitars.com/warranty)

### Warranty Exceptions

Wear from normal use, improper string gauge usage; damage that results from abuse, neglect, accident, or from exposure of the guitar to extreme temperature or humidity conditions; settling of the finish (considered as "normal use"); setup, action and tone or anything that is considered a matter of personal preference. Unauthorized repairs or alterations will void this warranty. Hardware not manufactured by Maestro Guitars is warranted to the original manufacturer.

Shipping and insurance charges to and from the authorized repair facility are the responsibility of the customer. Shipping damages are not our responsibility and insurance should be undertaken. This warranty will take the place of any other warranty, expressed or implied. You may have other rights under local law. In cases where repair or servicing is contracted out to a third-party, Maestro Guitars will not reimburse any of the cost of the work done.



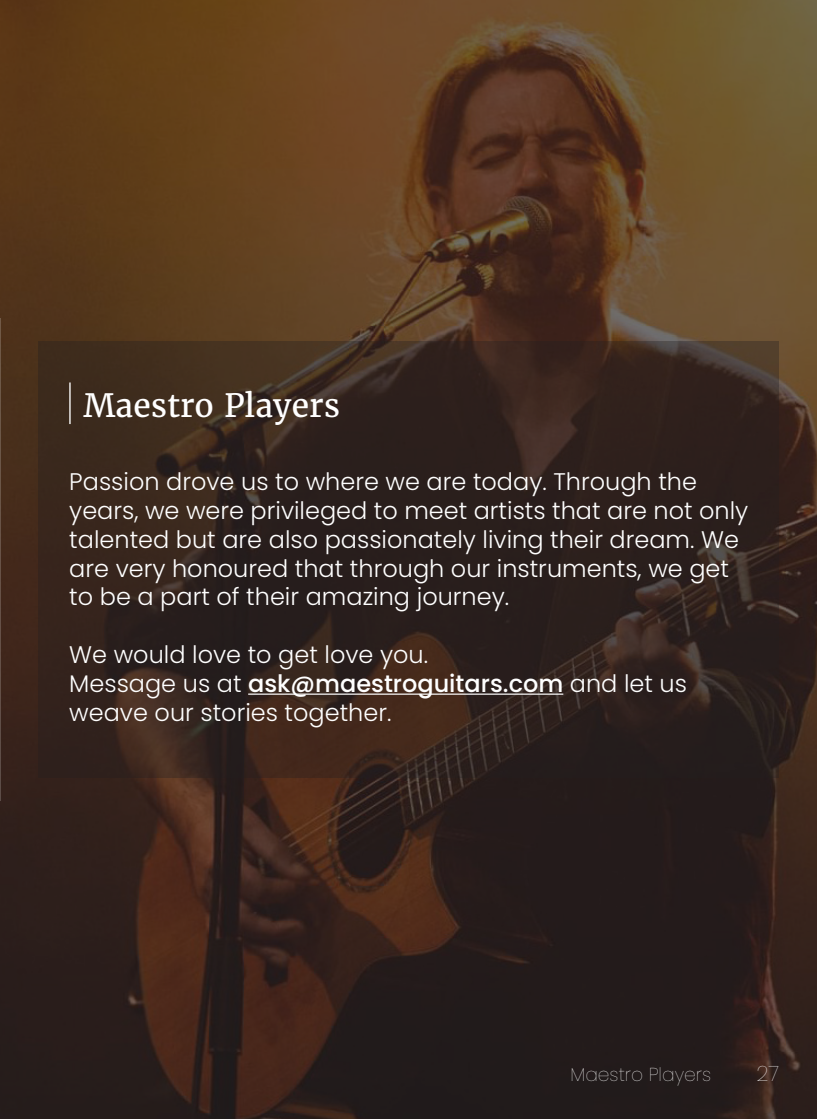


## | Warranty Claims & Repairs

Contact the Authorized Maestro Dealer you purchased your instrument from or send us an email regarding your warranty issue and attach your proof of purchase. Our technician will inform you or your Maestro Dealer on further instructions and recommendations on how to service your instrument.

**If necessary, you will need to send your instrument to:**

**Maestro Guitars, 9 Kaki Bukit Road 2 #04-34 Gordon Warehouse Building Singapore 417842.**



## | Maestro Players

Passion drove us to where we are today. Through the years, we were privileged to meet artists that are not only talented but are also passionately living their dream. We are very honoured that through our instruments, we get to be a part of their amazing journey.

We would love to get love you.  
Message us at [ask@maestroguitars.com](mailto:ask@maestroguitars.com) and let us weave our stories together.

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