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The Guitar Player Repair Guide - 3rd



Synopsis

(Book). This expanded edition for beginners to experts is a step-by-step manual to maintaining and repairing electric and acoustic guitars and basses. Players learn how to set up a guitar and keep it in top form by mastering basic maintenance. Features an essential DVD that makes guitar maintenance easier than ever. New features include set-up specs of leading players; stronger coverage of guitar electronics, including pickups and wiring diagrams; and expanded coverage of acoustics.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dan Erlewine's latest edition of the Guitar Player Repair Guide is a worthy update. There are numerous additions and updates anyone familiar with the previous editions should check out. If you are new to the guitar, this book is the maintenance and repair guide than will help you maintain your investment, and even give you great tips on how to hot-rod, customize or fix your guitar. The book is organized and logically arranged with Basic, DIY and Deep sections in each chapter. Electric, Acoustic and Bass guitars are all covered with detailed narrative and clear pictures. Even if you are not up to jobs like fret work or truss rod adjustments, this book will prepare you to talk with your friendly neighborhood guitar repair guy about getting your guitar back to its former glory. Very highly recommended. Make this your first purchase for your guitar dedicated bookshelf (doesn't everyone have those?).

The author of this book works for Stew-Mac; he knows his stuff and he's an innovator. The best part

of this book is that the author has made all the mistakes and so he gives you additional steps for 'just in case' so if you follow his exact instructions (exactly!) you will avoid the pitfalls that you could have never have seen coming. Can you damage the finish by replacing a nut? Yes, it's very, very common and he tells you all the pitfalls and how to avoid them. This book will also tell you if you need to buy a specialized tool for the job at hand or if you can get by with a generic tool. Another big plus is that this is perhaps the only repair/setup book that gets updated periodically as new techniques, tools and innovations are introduced into the craft. Aside from things like truss rod and bridge adjustments on electrics, or saddles and replacing tuning keys, almost everything else requires that you purchase dedicated tools to do each of the jobs right. For example, yes you can shape a nut with a generic file and sandpaper, but to file the slots for the strings you must purchase a set of six graduated files that correspond to the gauge of each of the strings to be used (.10, .13, .17, etc). So if you're planning on doing nuts for your acoustics and electrics, you need close to 24 graduated files; (6 for a light acoustic set and 6 for a medium acoustic set) and the same for electrics (another 6 and 6). There's a little crossover on a few of the gauges and you can 'file wide' on a few but otherwise there's no way around springing for a bunch of slot files. It adds up fast. If you already own a fine woodworking shop and are a very experienced woodworker, you can maybe find alternate ways of doing things but for most of us, a specialized tool will be required. Really. Yes, the author works for the #1 luthier tool supply house and their tools are pricey but it's a niche market and even where there's competition, the prices are mostly the same. And it doesn't stop there with the \$\$\$ for the specialized tools. That's why luthiers and guitar techs get the big bucks; they bought all the very costly tools and have the experience. I bought all the tools and measurement instruments to do the more mundane work on both acoustics and electrics -- up to and including fret leveling and fret polishing, and I estimate I dropped more than \$350 on tools alone, not including the materials and parts like nuts, saddles, glues, electrical wire, etc, etc. And then it turned out that my \$12 Radio Shack soldering iron wasn't good enough so it was another \$100 for a pro soldering iron.

Sometimes I wish I had paid a luthier instead. Again, it really adds up fast. The very best and cheapest tools to start with are the nut slot files and assorted measurement instruments like this [6 Inch LCD Digital Caliper](#), an incredible bargain at only \$12. What size replacement nut do I need to buy? What are the gauges of the strings that are on this guitar now? What are the string spacings of the nut and saddle? This tool will tell you all that and much more. I end up using this tool fairly often on household projects too, on more things than I ever could have imagined. Mistakes happen so if you're making a new nut or saddle for example, buy two or three to cover your early mistakes; they're cheap and will get used eventually. Before I started working on my best guitars I went

around to the pawn shops and bought one \$50 acoustic and one \$50 electric (\$\$\$ again) to make mistakes on and after quite a few mistakes they eventually ended up being slightly better guitars. Some other reviewers complain that the book is not a good read or not well organized but hey, it's a reference book. Just look in the index for the job at hand and follow along carefully. Others complain that there's not much guidance for the more esoteric guitars but the techniques crossover perfectly. The most popular guitars are used as examples because ... they're the most popular guitars. And this again is why the pros demand the high fees. They have been forced to think long and hard about how to apply their existing skills to every new and esoteric challenge that comes into the shop. And they instill enough trust for you to permit them to do it. Experience is priceless. This distinction is what separates the pros from the amateurs. Overall a great book. You may never use half of it because the tools are so expensive but more knowledge is better than too little.

I renovate cheap flea market/garage sale "rescue guitars" and I hotrod guitars for friends+family! Until now, the 2nd edition GPRG has been my bible. The new 3rd edition is amazing + it comes with a DVD. From basic cleaning and set up for do it your selfers, to advanced repair, this book is a **MUST HAVE!!!!!!** If you want to make a cheap guitar play like a million bucks or simply keep the old (expensive/vintage) work horse working **BUY THIS BOOK!!!!!!** It will save you more \$\$\$ than the books cover price + your guitar will thank you ...

First off... The kindle version has no embedded videos that would have been on the included DVD. It would have been nice if the write-up would have explained that. Unfortunately the kindle version was the same write up as for the paperback version, and referenced an "included DVD." for that reason I'm taking away a star. Poor, inaccurate write up. The lacking video issue notwithstanding, this is an outstanding reference and includes information on all of the repairs / maintenance that a serious player needs to know. What surprised me was the wealth of information on advanced repairs that are really more suited to someone with advanced knowledge/experience and very comfortable with the techniques and tools described. This is exactly what I needed: a guide to regular set-ups and maintenance, and a basic understanding of the more advanced techniques of how guitars are repaired, including tools and techniques used by techs and luthiers. This information and knowledge is critical when deciding who to allow to fix your guitar or bass! Being able to discuss and understand the concepts will lead you to better decision making. My last complaint is in the OCR used to scan the text into an electronic format for the kindle. Poor follow-up editing on the electronic

version resulted in numerous misspellings (such as exclamation marks being used for lower-case "L"s on occasion, and sentences or phrases with no spaces (which looks like this)). It's easy to read over and through these glitches, but honestly, you shouldn't have to. I bought the kindle version because I like the idea of saving paper and printing costs and I use my e-reader for nearly all of my books now, but knowing what I know now about the lack of a DVD and the sloppy editing, I would have chosen the print version.

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