

Roosebeck

Instrument Care

Many of our musical instruments use a shellac or lacquer finish. Here are some simple steps to care for these instruments:

- Avoid extremes of temperature and humidity.
- Avoid leaving in direct sunlight for long periods of time.
- Avoid solvents, such as alcohol or acetone.
- Avoid placing objects on top of your musical instrument.
- Avoid using abrasives that may scratch the finish.
- For regular dusting, a dry soft cloth is best.
- Use a quality furniture polish or furniture oil when needed.
- Store your instrument inside a carry case to help protect against dust and accidental damage.

Instruments with unfinished, or raw, wood parts require special care. These items may be more prone to damage from extremes in temperature and humidity. Heat, sunlight, and overly damp or dry conditions may cause warping or cracking. A clear or neutral paste wax may be used to protect raw wooden parts with minimal change to the sound quality.

Accessories

String Sets, Cases, Stands, Humidifiers and other accessories are available at www.mid-east.com



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Balalaika

*Roosebeck*TM
FINE INSTRUMENTS

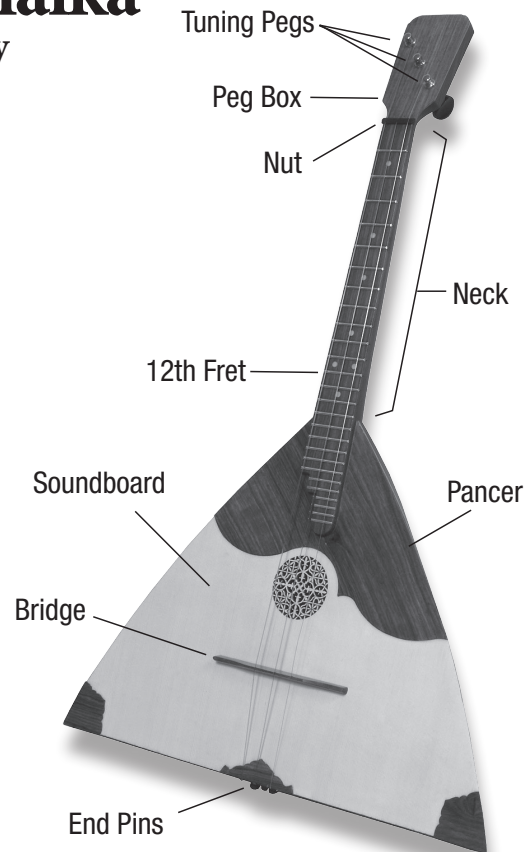
BALALAIKA



– OWNER'S GUIDE –

Roosebeck Balalaika Before You Play

Our Prima Balalaika measures approximately 27" in length with the body having the classical triangular shape. The back is slightly bowed and made with stave construction in two tones of rosewood. The darker back contrasts with the light colored wood of the soundboard. Familiarize yourself with the balalaika's parts from the diagram on the right.



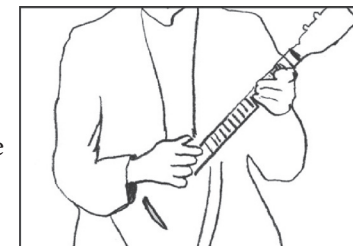
Tuning your Roosebeck Balalaika

Before tuning, the proper bridge position must be located. First find the nut. The nut is the bar at the joint between the neck and the peg box. Measure the distance from the nut to the 12th fret. Repeat this distance from the 12th fret to the bridge location. The nut and the bridge should be equal distance from the 12th fret. Position the bridge at a right angle to the strings. The Balalaika strings are tuned above middle C to: A, E, E (1st-3rd). The 1st string is the thinnest, and lays over more frets than the 2nd & 3rd strings. Use a piano or electronic tuner as a reference for tuning.

Holding your Roosebeck Balalaika

You may be most comfortable playing the balalaika while seated in a chair. Hold the neck between the thumb and index finger of your left hand. Tuck the body of the balalaika under your right arm and hold it close to your chest. The corner of the instrument should rest between your knees. This is a very similar position to playing the guitar.

Playing your Roosebeck Balalaika



There are several methods of playing the balalaika, with the most common being the strum. **Strumming** is the playing method used with most music. To play, the left hand notes the strings while the thumb or index finger of the right hand strums the strings. The soundboard of the balalaika is a relatively soft unfinished wood. Strumming over the center of the soundboard can disfigure the soundboard. Therefore the balalaika is strummed high on the soundboard over the Pancer. The dark rosewood Pancer on the soundboard is decorative but also protects the soundboard from damage. With the balalaika correctly tuned, try playing some down strokes with the fleshy part of the right thumb. Be sure to stroke with your entire forearm, not just your wrist. The thumb may be laid along the index finger for stability. Rapid up and down strumming on long notes produces the singing tone specific to this instrument.

The **Tremolo** consists of fast up-and down beats with the right hand index finger. It can be used both to play on all strings or just one single string. The beats must be of equal power, up and down. The tremolo can be interrupted after every note. The tremolo can also combine several notes.

With the **Pizzicato**, you use your right hand thumb to produce downward beats and your right hand index finger to produce upward beats.

Left hand Pizzicato - you pluck the strings with your left hand.

These methods are just brief descriptions of several balalaika playing methods. For more in depth information and instruction on the balalaika, we recommend you purchase one of the many instructional books and videos available.