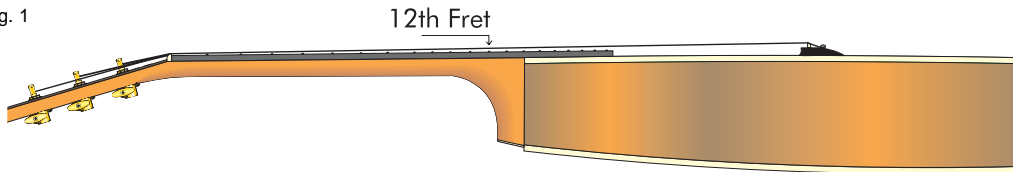


ACTION! INSTALLING A NEW SADDLE

Fig. 1



The "action" on a guitar refers to its playability, or "feel," specifically as it relates to the gap between the strings and the fingerboard (a distance measured at the 12th fret, from the top of the fret to the bottom of the string *). See figures 1 and 2.

Generally speaking, "high action" means the strings are raised relatively far off the fingerboard, and the term frequently is used to describe a guitar that requires a little more effort to play. When a guitar is said to have "low action," the strings are relatively close to the fingerboard; in its most positive application, the term connotes easy playability. However, "acceptable" action is a very subjective thing. And, although one of the most frequently cited characteristics of Taylor guitars is their easy playability (great action), there are almost as many "proper" action settings as there are playing styles.

A hard strummer or a bluegrass picker might like the action relatively high, in order to produce more volume with minimal string-buzzing (hopefully, this person will be aware that higher action places more stress on the guitar). Many jazz guitarists prefer low action, which is friendlier to fingers playing fast scale runs and numerous, rapid, frequently complex chord changes. Lower action is more likely to produce string-buzzing,

although players with a lighter touch do not have this problem. Rock and rollers also prefer lower action because it allows for easier string-bending.

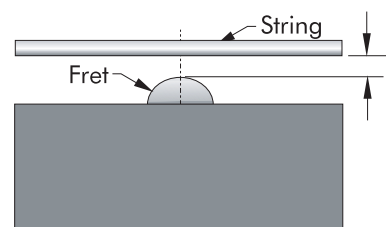
[IMPORTANT: Before we go any farther, the chances are very good that your Taylor is just right the way it was setup at the factory; if your guitar plays well and feels fine to you, leave it alone — there really is no need to change the action. However, if it doesn't feel right to you, the very first thing you should do is determine if the neck is correctly adjusted (see the neck adjustment tech-sheet that came with your guitar, or request one from our customer service department). Other factors that can affect action include humidity, saddle height, depth of the nut slot, truss rod adjustment, neck angle, and fret height.]

Once you have determined that your action needs adjusting — for whatever reason — it often is wise to have an experienced repairperson look at the guitar and provide a second opinion. If you decide to perform the adjustment yourself, simply follow the steps given.

Note: If the amount of saddle material protruding above the bridge is not sufficient to allow you to lower the action to Taylor specs, your guitar

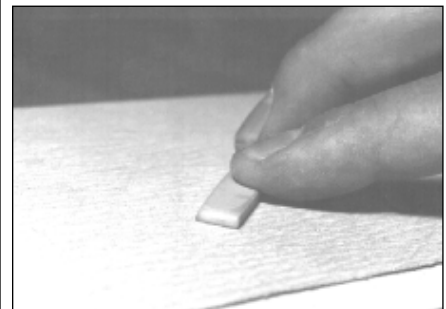
might need a neck reset. Call the Taylor customer service department.

Fig. 2



*Our factory specs for action are 4/64-inches on the high E string and 6/64-inches on the low E. Our 12-string models are set slightly lower — 3/64-inches on the high E and 5/64-inches on the low E. These measurements are valid only when the neck is straight! See our tech-sheet on "Truss Rod Adjustment" for details.

Fig. 3



ACTION! (continued from page 1)

Fig. 4

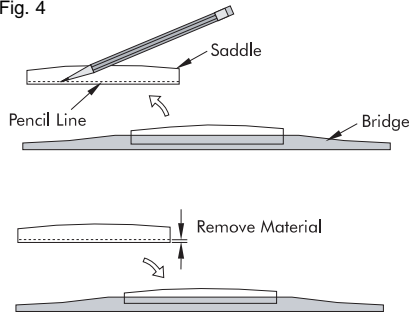
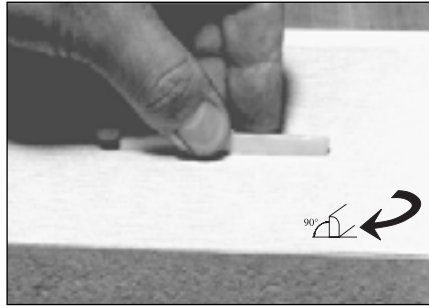


Fig. 5



If you are working with a new saddle purchased from the Taylor factory, it will be a bit oversize in width and height. Follow the procedure outlined here to sand one of the side surfaces enough to make it fit snugly in the slot. See figure 3. Then, remove material, as needed, from the bottom surface to attain the desired height. See figures 4 and 5.

ACTION ADJUSTMENT PROCEDURE:

Lowering the action by removing material from the underside of the saddle.

1. Remove the strings. Note how high the saddle protrudes from the top surface of the bridge.
2. Remove the saddle (they are not glued in, and should remove easily). If you cannot remove the saddle by hand, lightly grip it in the middle with a pair of pliers and gently lift it out.
3. With a pencil, make a line indicating how much you want to remove from the bottom of the saddle. [See fig. 4. Caution: A little at a time is best!] Experienced repair technicians use a belt sander to do this,

but at home use the following method:

- a) Use double-sided tape to stick a piece of 120- or 150-grit sandpaper to a flat surface, such as a Formica counter top;
- b) Scratch the saddle back and forth until you've removed the desired amount of material, being sure to keep the bottom surface flat and at a 90-degree angle to the sides. (See fig. 5).

