



USERS MANUAL

STEINBERGER

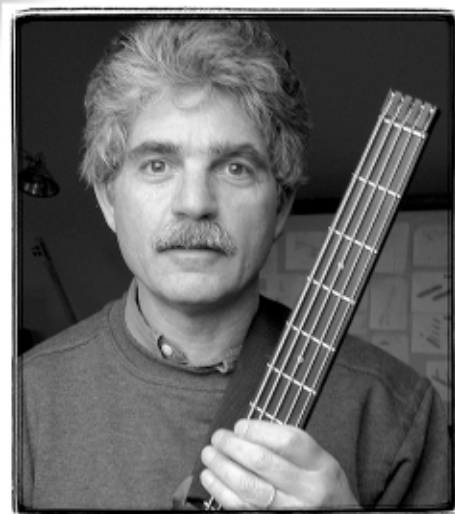
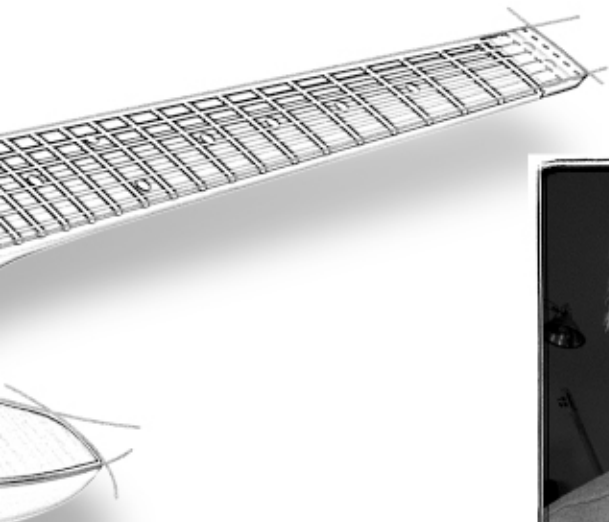
STEINBERGER

STATE OF THE INSTRUMENT.

Steinberger, a part of the Gibson Musical family

645 Massman Drive
Nashville, Tennessee 37210 USA
1-800-444-2766

ZT3 **TRANS-TREM**
TRANSPOSING TREMOLO



Thank you and congratulations for losing your head! In doing so, you've just purchased the most technologically advanced guitar on the planet.

Since the introduction of the first Steinberger instruments in 1980, the Steinberger name has become synonymous with evolution, innovation, ergonomics and performance. The new ZT3 guitar with the revolutionary new version of the TransTrem (version 3) continues that tradition. As it was with the introduction of the first Steinberger's equipped with the original TransTrem, the new ZT3 is the world's ONLY guitar capable of transposing keys and bending chords in pitch. No other guitar performs like a Steinberger.

Thanks for choosing Steinberger.

Sincerely,
Ned Steinberger

lose your head... again

CybroSonic™ Technology: Combines our patented Steinberger Graphite U-channel with a truss rod to create an ultra-stable yet adjustable “hybrid” neck with the same definition, clarity and focus you’ve come to expect from Steinberger but with the added “warmth” of a 1-piece hard maple neck.

Combo™ Headpiece: The functional advantage of Steinberger’s headless concept dramatically improves balance, ease of tuning and tuning stability. All Steinberger guitars feature the patented Double-Ball™ tuning system that allows string changes in seconds. The Combo Headpiece accommodates both Double-Ball and single-ball strings.

Phenolic Fingerboard: Much harder and more durable than wood, this ultra-stable composite material works in conjunction with our CybroSonic technology to give



ZT3 Guitar Overview

the ZT3 guitar consistent feel and sustain as well as brilliant harmonics with no dead spots. Each note seems to jump off the fingerboard for that dynamic “live” quality that identifies the Steinberger sound.

TransTrem-III Transposing Tremolo System: Another first from Steinberger. The newest and latest version of the TransTrem allows you to transpose to 5 different keys in half-step increments. By moving the tremolo arm to the rear of the guitar, you can “lock” the tremolo into place. By moving the arm towards the neck, you unlock the tremolo and can perform extreme pitch bending as you would with a typical tremolo system. However, unlike other floating tremolos, the TransTrem can bend chords with all notes in pitch. And as with all Steinbergers, the bridge features 40:1 direct-pull tuners providing micrometer precision and stability. With the use of DoubleBall™ strings you can perform string changes in seconds with no winding or cutting. Just insert the ball ends and tune it up.

Custom Electronics: Developed in cooperation with Gibson, the ZT3 combines custom voiced, made in the USA humbucking pickups with two push pull potentiometers to provide both series and parallel wiring for both humbuckers independently. The results are a guitar with tremendous versatility and noise free operation through all eight available tonal options. When wired in series the humbucking pickups provide the classic growl and bite of a Gibson USA made humbucker. Switch to parallel wiring and the pickups give a shimmering natural brilliance and clarity reminiscent of the best single coil guitars but without the noise. Controls include:

- **Master Volume with push pull series/parallel selector switch for the neck pickup**
- **Master Tone with push pull series/parallel selector switch for the bridge pickup**
- **3-Way Pickup Selector**
 - * Up – Gibson Custom Voiced 9OR Humbucker (neck)
 - * Down – Gibson Custom Voiced 91T Humbucker (bridge)
 - * Middle – Both

Recessed Tool Holder: Conveniently located on the rim of the guitar, this innovation keeps the necessary tools with your ZT3 and always within reach. Use the tools to adjust intonation and string height as well as to secure single-ball strings.

Recessed Output Jack: The rear output jack conveniently tucks your guitar cable out of the way of your performance and out of sight of your audience.

Fold-Down Leg Rest: Another patented Steinberger innovation! Only 1/4” thick when folded, the permanently attached leg rest snaps out instantly to provide exceptional comfort and balance when playing your ZT3 in the seated position.

Zero-Fret: By using a “zero-fret” instead of a traditional nut, intonation is improved. It also allows for use of varied string gauges because there is no nut slot to widen. And, action at the 1st fret and beyond is more consistent and improved as well.

Tuning and Re-Stringing Your Steinberger ZT3 Guitar

1. Turn the tuning knobs on the back of the bridge clockwise to tighten, counterclockwise to loosen. Because they are precision, direct-drive 40:1 ratio, only a small turn is necessary to affect pitch. Plus, there is no nut or stationary saddle for the string to get "hung-up" on. As a result, tuning is effortless, dead-on accurate and ultra-stable.

2. As with all Steinberger guitars, your new ZT3 guitar is designed to be used with Steinberger Double-Ball™ strings. Unlike regular guitar strings with a single ball on one end, Double-Ball strings have a ball on each end and are made to a precise length so no cutting is necessary. Because of the nature of the TransTrem, we strongly recommend that you use official Steinberger Double-Ball strings when replacing your strings on your ZT3 guitar. Steinberger strings meet our exact specifications and will



Figure 1

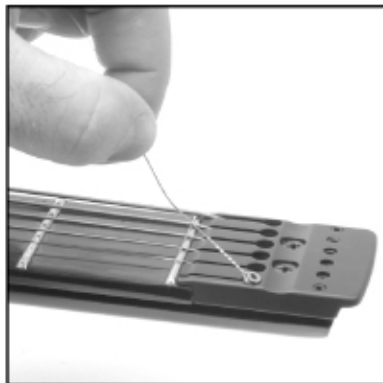


Figure 2

allow you to take full advantage of the superior performance and benefits of the patented Steinberger tuning and TransTrem system. Steinberger string part numbers and information can be found in the back of this user's manual.

3. To re-string using Double-Ball strings...

- To remove strings, turn tuning knob counterclockwise until the string ball is fully visible and can be removed. Do not loosen beyond this point. Remove the ball from the saddle jaw (Figure 1). Remove the ball end of the string at the headpiece end by lifting out of slot (Figure 2).

- To install strings, start by putting the ball end into the headpiece **first**, then drop the other ball into the tuner jaws. Tighten tuning knob until proper pitch is achieved. Stretch string and retune (Figure 3).

4. To re-string using single-ball strings...

(IMPORTANT - If you re-string your ZT3 with single-ball strings, your TransTrem might not work properly. Therefore this section is if you intend to use the TransTrem in the fixed position only.

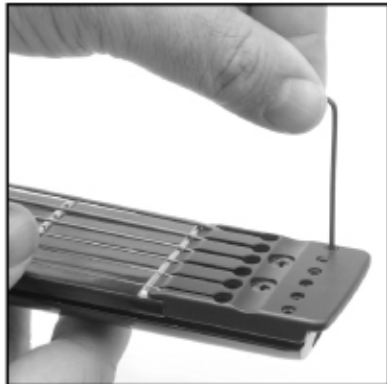


Figure 3

tuner jaw. Keeping the ball in the jaw, insert the non-ball end through the corresponding head-piece slot and out the back of the headpiece. (Figure 4) Making sure that the ball-end is still in the jaw and that the string is aligned in the corresponding saddle, pull the string end tight as you tighten down the Hex screw. (Tighten Hex screw firmly but do not over tighten as it may

- To remove strings, turn tuning knob counter-clockwise until the string ball is fully visible and can be removed. Do not loosen beyond this point. Remove the ball from the saddle jaw (Figure 1). Using the Hex wrench provided, loosen the corresponding Hex screw at the head-piece until you can pull string out of its slot. (Figure 3).

- To install strings, start by putting the ball end into the bridge

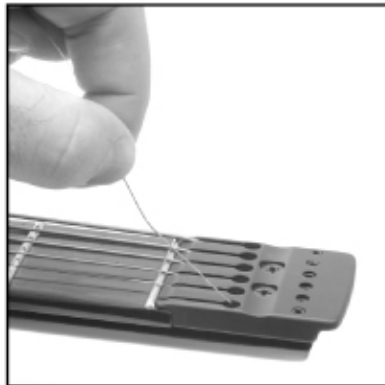


Figure 4

damage Hex screw.) Tighten tuning knob and check for any string slippage. If slippage occurs, tighten headpiece Hex screw a little more. Cut used portion of string behind headpiece using wire cutters.

Setting Up Your ZT3 Guitar

1. If you are NOT familiar with setting-up instruments, you should NOT attempt to do this yourself. You should contact a **qualified guitar technician** for assistance.
2. Your ZT3 guitar is set-up prior to leaving Steinberger. Typically, you will only need to set-up your guitar again under the following conditions:

- You prefer your string height (action) higher or lower than originally set by the factory.
- You decide to install string gauges that are different from those originally installed at the factory. The strings installed at the factory are:
 - **TransTrem Calibrated 6-String Guitar – Standard Gauge ST-107 (.046w, .036w, .026w, .017, .013, .010)**
- Your guitar has been subjected to significant environmental changes.
- Your guitar is 6-months old or more. (Note: As with any guitar, due to small changes and movement that can occur in new instruments, a 6-month tune-up is recommended. Therefore, we recommend that after about 6-months of continuous use, you have your guitar set-up by a professional technician.) 9

3. To set the action (string height) of your ZT3 guitar...

- Loosen the set screw on side of bridge (Figure 5) with the Hex wrench provided. This will un-lock the saddles.
- Using the Hex wrench, adjust the saddle set screws up and down to desired action height. (Figure 6)
- Tighten the set screw on side of bridge to lock. (Figure 5)



Figure 5

4. To set the intonation of your ZT3 guitar...

- Loosen the set screw on side of the bridge (Figure 5). Adjust the saddle backward if intonation is high at 12th fret. Push the saddle forward (toward the neck) if intonation at 12th fret is low. (Figure 7)
- Tighten the set screw on side of bridge to lock.

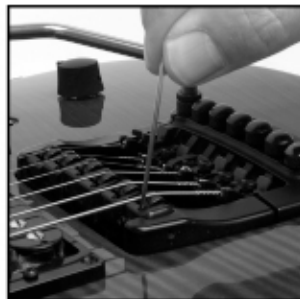


Figure 6

5. To adjust the G.U.T. (Graphite U-channel Technology) equipped truss-rod...

IMPORTANT – If you are NOT a qualified guitar technician, we do NOT recommend you attempt truss rod adjustment yourself. Improper adjustment can lead to permanent damage and void your warranty. The truss rod adjustment can be both

simple and complex at the same time. On the simple side, a minor adjustment to straighten a neck with too much concave bow or to relieve a convex bow is possibly all that is needed to make a dramatic improvement to your guitars playability. On the complex side, adjusting the rod alters other aspects of the set-up such as overall action, string height and intonation and **YOU CAN DAMAGE YOUR GUITAR PERMANENTLY IF THE ADJUSTMENT IS NOT MADE CORRECTLY.** If you feel confident that you can make this adjustment... read on.



Figure 7

- The patented Steinberger G.U.T. system provides for an ultra-stable neck with a built-in optimum relief. Therefore, truss rod adjustment is rarely necessary. When needed however, it works like a standard guitar truss rod. However, due to the rigidity of the graphite U-channel, neck movement is much less pronounced. Adjusting the truss rod nut also requires more effort.

- Place a capo at the first fret while press the low E string down at the 17th fret. (Figure 8)



Figure 8

- Look for a small gap of (approximately .010" or 0.25mm) between the top of the 7-9th fret and the underside of the string.
- If there is too much gap, the truss rod needs to be turned clockwise. Figure 9)
- If there is not enough gap, the truss rod needs to be turned counter-clockwise.

- TIPS:**
- Never force the adjustment if it feels tight.
 - Make any adjustment in very small degrees at a time.
 - Let the neck "settle" between adjustments.
 - If you are not clear on these instructions, take your guitar to a qualified technician.

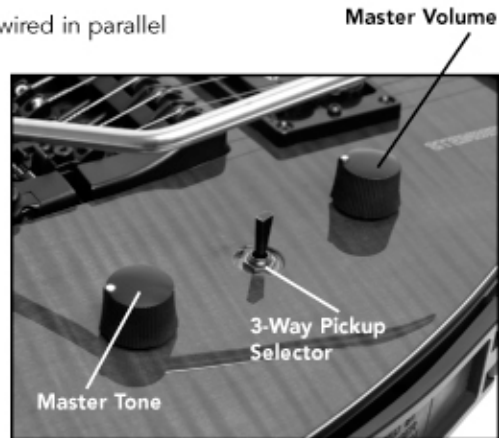


Figure 9

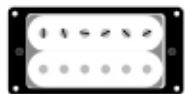
ZT3 Controls & Electronics

ZT3 guitar controls are:

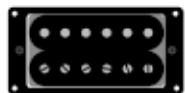
- **Master Volume with push/pull series/parallel selector for neck humbucker** - (front control - closest to the neck)
 Push/Pull down = neck humbucker wired in series (most typical humbucker wiring)
 Push/Pull up = neck humbucker wired in parallel (slightly less output but with increased high end response and output similar to a single coil without the noise)
- **Master Tone with push/pull series/parallel selector for the bridge humbucker**
 Push/pull down = bridge humbucker wired in series
 Push/Pull up = bridge humbucker wired in parallel



POS 1: TOGGLE UP VOLUME DOWN
TONE DOWN

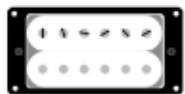


Neck Pickup

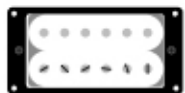


Bridge Pickup

POS 2: TOGGLE MIDDLE, VOLUME DOWN
TONE DOWN



Neck Pickup

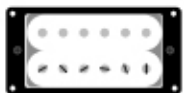


Bridge Pickup

POS 3: TOGGLE DOWN, VOLUME DOWN
TONE DOWN

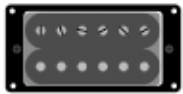


Neck Pickup

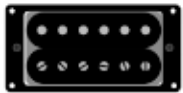


Bridge Pickup

POS 7: TOGGLE UP, VOLUME UP
TONE DOWN

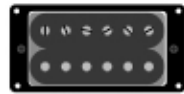


Neck Pickup



Bridge Pickup

POS 7: TOGGLE MIDDLE, VOLUME UP
TONE DOWN



Neck Pickup

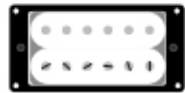


Bridge Pickup

POS 7: TOGGLE DOWN, VOLUME UP
TONE DOWN

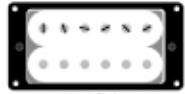


Neck Pickup



Bridge Pickup

POS 4: TOGGLE UP VOLUME DOWN
TONE UP

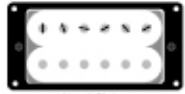


Neck Pickup



Bridge Pickup

POS 5: TOGGLE MIDDLE, VOLUME DOWN
TONE UP

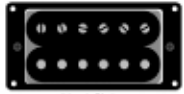


Neck Pickup



Bridge Pickup

POS 6: TOGGLE DOWN, VOLUME DOWN
TONE UP

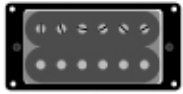


Neck Pickup



Bridge Pickup

POS 7: TOGGLE UP, VOLUME UP
TONE UP

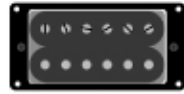


Neck Pickup

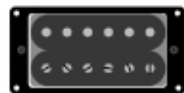


Bridge Pickup

POS 7: TOGGLE MIDDLE, VOLUME UP
TONE UP

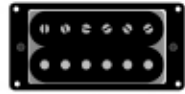


Neck Pickup



Bridge Pickup

POS 7: TOGGLE DOWN, VOLUME UP
TONE UP



Neck Pickup



Bridge Pickup

• 3-Way Pickup Selector

Up = Gibson Custom Voiced 90R
Neck Humbucker

(towards top of body)

Down = Gibson Custom Voiced 91T

Bridge Humbucker

(towards bottom of body)

Middle = Both pickups

ACTIVE Coils are shown in
GREY for PARRALLEL Wiring &
WHITE for SERIES Wiring

Duplicate Positions Notated by Heavy Box
(Total of 8 Unique Combinations)

TransTrem Set-up and Adjustment

Your TransTrem is set-up and adjusted at the factory prior to being delivered to your authorized Steinberger retailer. Under normal circumstances, your TransTrem will not require initial set-up and adjustment unless. We strongly recommend you continue to use Steinberger brand calibrated **TransTrem DoubleBall** strings. We equip each ZT3 guitar with these strings in our "standard" 10-gauge. (The part number is **SST-107**.) These strings are available from your Steinberger retailer.

Over the course of time and/or you change your string gauge, it may be that your TransTrem will need adjustment. To do so, please review and follow these instructions. If you need assistance, or more detailed set up information, please visit www.steinberger.com for video demonstrations of the set up.

1. To install the main tremolo arm, rotate the tremolo arm nut so the arm locks at about 90 degrees to the strings. Rotating the arm should engage the lock when it is approximately over the high E string for easy shifting. (Picture right)

2. Lock the tremolo in the E position and tune up strings. **ALWAYS LOCK BEFORE TUNING**



3. Adjust the counter spring by using the thumb wheel at the back of the body so that the string tension in the E position is balanced. This can easily be accomplished by tuning to E with the tremolo locked in the E position. Once the guitar is in tune, free the tremolo to float and adjust the thumb wheel adjuster until the guitar is in standard tuning. The counter spring stop plate will be close to the position shown at right.



4. Loosen the side clamp and set action and intonation using the set screws in the normal manner. Retighten side clamp.

5. Check the locking arm function. It should lock firmly without play in all 5 positions. Readjust locking arm jaw position if necessary

6. Lock the tailpiece in the highest locked position (F#) and tune the strings using the tuning knobs. Then drop to the lowest locked position (D) and

check the tuning. (DO NOT touch the tuning knobs in this position)



If the pitch in the low position is flat the jaw should be lowered. If the pitch is sharp the jaw should be raised. After adjusting the jaw heights, return to the high locked position (F#) and retune using the tuning knobs. Repeat the process until the string is in tune in both positions. This usually will require a number of back and forth adjustments. As the pitch approaches the correct note only small adjustments are necessary. (1/8 of a turn or less)



7. Readjust counter spring to provide correct E tuning when tremolo is in floating position if necessary

8. If set correctly the tremolo should transpose through all 5 chromatic positions within 5 cents of correct pitch.

9. When restringing the instrument it is helpful to lock the tremolo in the lowest (D) position to allow the easiest access to the string jaws.

ZT3 Accessory and Part Information

Below is a list of available Steinberger ZT3 accessories and parts. To find out how to purchase these, visit www.Steinberger.com or call **1-800-444-2766**.

STRINGS

TransTrem Calibrated 6-String – LIGHT (.046w, .036w, .026w, .016, .011, .009)	SST-106
TransTrem Calibrated 6-String – STD (.046w, .036w, .026w, .017, .013, .010)	SST-107

NOTE: "TransTrem Calibrated 6-String Guitar" strings are recommended for use on all TransTrem equipped models. All strings stretch at different rates. These special lengths are calibrated so that strings stay in better tune together on the TransTrem™. If all strings are the same length, they will not transpose well.

CASE COLLECTION

Z-Series ZT3 Hard Case

SHC-104

Steinberger ZT3 Limited Lifetime Warranty

This new Steinberger instrument is warranted to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for the life of this instrument, subject to the limitations contained in this warranty.

If at any time this Steinberger instrument malfunctions as a result of faulty materials or workmanship, Steinberger will repair the defect(s) or replace the instrument, as it deems appropriate at its sole discretion. Steinberger reserves the right to use materials regularly utilized at the time of repair in the event that original materials are no longer available. If replacement of your instrument is deemed appropriate by our staff, Steinberger will replace the instrument with one of the same or most similar style of a value not in excess of the original purchase price of your instrument.

In the unlikely event that your instrument is destroyed, lost or damaged beyond repair, while in the possession of Steinberger for repair, Steinberger will replace that instrument with one of the same or most similar style of a value not in excess of the original purchase price of your instrument. Any insurance covering the instrument, including but not limited to collector's value insurance, must be carried by owner at owner's expense.

THIS WARRANTY IS EXTENDED TO THE ORIGINAL RETAIL PURCHASER ONLY AND MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED OR ASSIGNED TO SUBSEQUENT OWNERS. IN ORDER TO VALIDATE YOUR WARRANTY, AND AS A CONDITION PRECEDENT TO WARRANTY COVERAGE HEREUNDER, YOU MUST RETURN YOUR WARRANTY REGIS-

TRATION CARD OR REGISTER ON-LINE AT WWW.STEINBERGER.COM WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS FOLLOWING THE ORIGINAL DATE OF PURCHASE. YOUR PROOF OF PURCHASE OR SALES RECEIPT MUST ACCOMPANY ALL REQUESTS FOR WARRANTY COVERAGE.

This Warranty Is Subject To The Following Limitations THIS WARRANTY DOES NOT COVER:

- Any instrument that has been altered or modified in any way or upon which the serial number has been tampered with or altered.
- Any instrument whose warranty card has been altered or upon which false information has been given.
- Any instrument that has been damaged due to misuse, negligence, accident, or improper operation.
- The subjective issue of tonal characteristics.
- Shipping damages of any kind.
- Any instrument that has been subjected to extremes of humidity or temperature.
- Normal wear and tear (i.e; worn frets, worn machine heads, worn plating, worn saddles or related tremolo parts, string replacement, scratched pickguards, or damages to or discoloration of the instrument finish for any reason).
- Any instrument that has been purchased from an unauthorized dealer, or upon which unauthorized repair or service has been performed.
- Any factory-installed electronics after a period of one (1) year following the original date of purchase.

STEINBERGER MAKES NO OTHER EXPRESS WARRANTY OF ANY KIND WHATSOEVER. ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, EXCEEDING THE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THIS WARRANTY ARE HEREBY DISCLAIMED AND EXCLUDED FROM THIS WARRANTY. SOME STATES AND/OR COUNTRIES DO NOT ALLOW THE EXCLUSION OR LIMITATION OF IMPLIED WARRANTIES SO THAT THE ABOVE MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU.

STEINBERGER SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY SPECIAL, INDIRECT CONSEQUENTIAL, INCIDENTAL OR OTHER SIMILAR DAMAGES SUFFERED BY THE PURCHASER OR ANY THIRD PARTY, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, DAMAGES FOR LOSS OF PROFITS OR BUSINESS OR DAMAGES RESULTING FROM USE OR PERFORMANCE OF THE INSTRUMENT, WHETHER IN CONTRACT OR IN TORT, EVEN IF STEINBERGER OR ITS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES, AND STEINBERGER SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY EXPENSES, CLAIMS, OR SUITS ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO ANY OF THE FOREGOING.

How To Obtain Warranty Service

In the event of malfunction of your Steinberger instrument, you should notify your nearest Authorized Steinberger Dealer.

The Dealer or Owner must ship the instrument, freight and insurance pre-paid, to the nearest Authorized Steinberger Service Center. If there is no Authorized

Steinberger Service Center near you, contact or have your dealer contact Steinberger for information and authorization to return the instrument to Steinberger. No instrument may be returned to Steinberger without such prior Return Authorization. Only Authorized Steinberger Service Centers may perform warranty service and any service performed by unauthorized persons will void this warranty. Steinberger disclaims liability for defects or damage caused by services performed by unauthorized persons or non-warranty service not performed by Steinberger or an Authorized Steinberger Service Center.

When contacting Steinberger, you must include a complete written description of the malfunction of the instrument. If non-warranty work is required or recommended by Steinberger, a quotation will be issued and must be approved by you before any non-warranty work is commenced. You should consider quotations obtained for non-warranty work immediately and advise the Authorized Steinberger Service Center or Steinberger of your wishes. You are not required to purchase non-warranty work in order to obtain service on materials covered by this warranty. Following its inspection of an instrument upon its arrival, Steinberger or the Authorized Steinberger Service Center will advise you or your dealer of the approximate date of completion. The repaired instrument or part will be returned to you or your dealer, freight collect insured.

No representative or other person is authorized to assume for Steinberger any liability except as stated in this warranty. This warranty gives you specific rights, which vary from state to state.

For Your Records

Model _____

Serial No. _____

Date Purchased _____

Dealer Address _____

Dealer Phone _____

Remember to keep your purchase receipt.

It is necessary for warranty coverage.

