



Fly Guitar Player's Guide

SUPREME • ARTIST • CLASSIC • CLASSIC STANDARD
 DELUXE • DELUXE STANDARD • DELUXE SINGLE-2

Dear Fellow Guitar Enthusiast:

Back in 1973 my brother Alan had outgrown his short scale beginner bass. I had been studying furniture-making as an elective course at college, so building an electric bass seemed like a pretty simple project. Researching and planning a new instrument, I became fascinated with the union of strings and wood - the proportions, balance, look, feel, and tone. Alan and I were both happy with the bass and I never really looked back. For twenty years I've been exploring the simple project I'd started at school and it's just as challenging and fun as it ever was. I've built arch-tops, solid bodies, 4-, 5- and 6-string basses, electric violins, cellos and harps. Trying to solve physical problems and expand the abilities of the instruments, I've explored non-traditional materials, studied traditional techniques, sculpted surfaces, and designed and made new hardware.

Increasingly, I saw the guitars available to modern musicians as clumsy, limiting and gimmicky. I began to envision advances in form and function. A superlative instrument must be beautiful, balanced, powerful, accurate, versatile, durable and comfortable - a great tool which, at its best, inspires musicians to greatness, but at least doesn't get in their way! Clearly, the evolution of musical instruments is an evolving art form as complex and rewarding as music itself.

After teaming up with Larry Fishman in 1982 I knew that my new guitars would also have a unique amplified voice. Since then we've worked together to develop and refine The Fly Guitar into the tool you're now experiencing. Larry and I worked with a dedicated group of artisans - among the world's best instrument makers.

Your input will continue to guide and inspire us as we develop new instruments with new capabilities in the years to come. Meanwhile, we expect you'll enjoy many years of faithful service from your Fly.

Thanks for your support. Play from the heart!

-Ken Parker

FLY SPECIFICATIONS

BODY

Fly Deluxe, Deluxe Standard & Deluxe Single-2:	Poplar
Fly Classic, Classic Standard:	Mahogany
Fly Artist:	Sitka Spruce
Fly Supreme:	Figured Maple

Neck	Basswood
Fingerboard	Glass and Carbon Fiber
Neck Radius	10" to 13" conical form
Scale length	25.5"
Frets	24, hardened stainless-steel
Tuning Machines	Locking Sperzel®
Bridge	Custom Parker cast aluminum bridge featuring stainless-steel saddles

- Piezo equipped models feature Fishman® active system
- High Performance Parker Vibrato

Magnetic Pickups	Custom DiMarzio® magnetic pickups
Magnetic Controls	Volume, Tone, and 3-way pickup selector

- 5-way pickup selector on Deluxe Single-2
- Tone push/pull coil-tap switch on Standard models

FLY MODELS EQUIPPED WITH PIEZOS

Piezo System	6-element Fishman® Piezo pickups and a custom active filtering preamp
Piezo Controls	Volume, Tone, 3-way Magnetic/Piezo Selector Switch, Stereo / Mono Switch

SUPPLIED ACCESSORIES

- T-HANDLED 3/32 ALLEN WRENCH (Bridge saddle screws, Vibrato bar "swing" adjustment, Bridge height on non-vibrato models, pickup height adjustment)
- L-SHAPED 5/32 ALLEN WRENCH (Bridge height adjustment on vibrato equipped models)
- Torx wrench (T27) (Truss rod adjustment)
- Stereo Y-Cable (20 feet)
- Vibrato Bar (3/16" hexagon stainless steel)
- Vibrato Spring (.010 gauge flat spring)

CONTROLS

Fly Models - with Piezo Systems

Along with the familiar Volume, Tone, and Magnetic Pickup selector found on the Fly Standard, (and most electric guitars), there are also controls for Piezo Volume and Piezo Tone, a Magnetic / Piezo Pickup Selector and a Stereo / Mono Switch. Overall volume is controlled by a Master Volume.

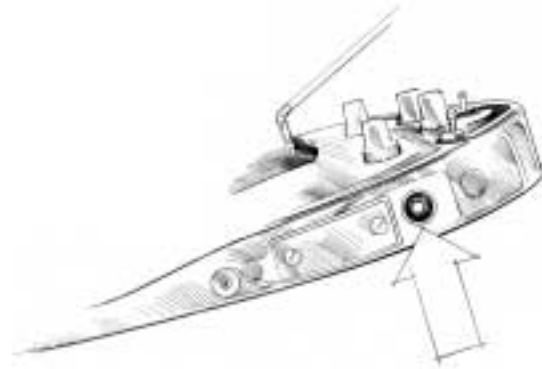
Fly Standard Models - without Piezo Systems

The Fly Standard models feature two humbucking pickups along with a push/pull tone pot coil-split switch enabling six pickup settings including both humbuckers, single-coil neck, and single-coil bridge.

ADDITIONAL FEATURES AND CONTROLS

Stereo / Mono Switch

The Fly features a special Fishman® active circuit allowing you to blend the magnetic and piezo pickup signals right on the guitar. The Stereo / Mono Switch makes it possible to mix (sum) the piezo and magnetic pickup signals and play both sounds through a single amp, or split them to two separate amps or mixers.



MONO: With the Stereo / Mono switch in the IN / mono position, the guitar's two signals are mixed. In this mode, simply use a standard guitar cable and a standard guitar amplifier. Thanks to the Fly's active circuit, in the mono mode, the "Both" position offers many unique sounds!

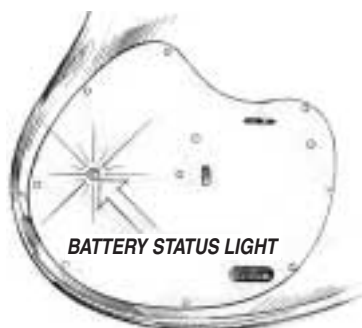
STEREO: With the Stereo / Mono switch in the OUT / stereo position, the guitar's output is stereo. The special cable (stereo "Y"), provided with the guitar, allows you to send the two signals to two separate amplifiers. The full sonic potential of the piezo pickup can be achieved by connecting to a high fidelity, full-range amplification system such as a PA, an acoustic guitar amp, or keyboard amp.

- If a mono cable is used and the Stereo / Mono switch is in the OUT / Stereo position, only the magnetic pickup sound will be heard.
- If the stereo "Y" cable is used with the Stereo / Mono switch set in the IN / Mono position, both the magnetic and piezo outputs will be heard through one amp and only the piezos through the other.

Battery

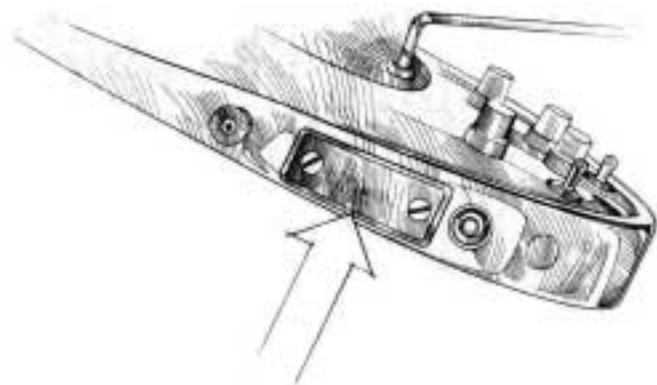
Fly models with Piezo and magnetic pickups use a 9-volt battery. It's there to provide power to the on-board Piezo preamp and the internal mixer. This unique mixer circuit uses sophisticated voltage-doubling synthesis circuitry that gives you twice the clean headroom, compared to common on-board electronics. This circuit enables the Fly to blend the magnetic pickups with the active Piezos, expanding the range of tonal options.

The battery has a useful life of approximately 100 hours. It's turned on when a cable is plugged into the guitar. To extend battery life, please remember to remove the plug when you're not playing your guitar.



The battery status light is on the control cover. When the battery is good, this red LED flashes for an instant when the guitar is plugged in. When the battery is low, the light will glow continuously while plugged in. You then have approximately two hours of battery power left. Finally, a distorted output signal or a high-pitched whistle will serve as an audio reminder that the battery is dead.

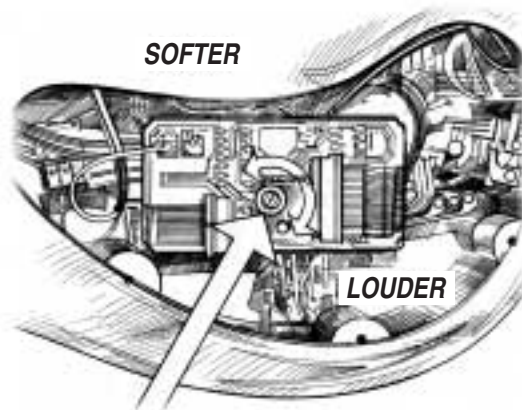
- **BATTERY COMPARTMENT:** The 9-volt battery slides into the side of the guitar next to the strap button. To replace the battery, loosen the two screws. They are designed to stay captive in the cover plate. The best screwdriver to use is a dime, as it can't scratch the finish on the cover. To replace the cover, hold it firmly in its nest before tightening the screws.



Piezo Balance Trim Pot

Your guitar is equipped with a Piezo Balance Control. We set this control at the factory so that the full volume outputs of the Piezo and magnetic systems are equal. Since string gauges and pickup height affect the output of the magnetic pickups, you may want to change the relative levels of the two systems by adjusting the Piezo gain.

To do this, remove the control cover, and adjust the small, white knob mounted on the circuit board. This trim pot controls the gain (output) of the Piezo pickup.



Piezo Frequency Response

The Piezo system has a far greater treble response than the normal magnetic pickups. Some amps will have no trouble with the additional high frequency output, but others will distort. If you are getting distortion, you may want to decrease the gain of the Piezo pickup. The way to do this is to lower the Piezo volume and/or roll off some of the treble on either the amp or the guitar.

Control Cover

When replacing the control cover (on piezo equipped Fly guitars), make sure that the red LED battery status light fits inside the clear plastic lens on the control cover. Before replacing the screws that secure the cover, insert a cord into the guitar's jack to activate the light so that you can check its visibility. On vibrato guitars, also insure that the step-stop switch protrudes through its slot.

Ground Loops

Sometimes when using two amps, there may be a loud hum when the guitar is plugged into the second amp. This hum is caused by a ground loop. This ground loop isn't the fault of the guitar (or the amps for that matter), but rather the result of essential electrical safety code requirements. Ground loops can occur whenever two pieces of electronic equipment are connected.

NOTE: Do Not Disconnect Or Otherwise Attempt To Defeat Ground Connections On Your Electrical Equipment !!

There is ONLY ONE safe way to rid yourself of ground loops: Use a Direct Box with a ground lift to isolate the two amps. Plug the magnetic end of the stereo "Y" cable into one amp and the piezo end into the Direct Box. Plug the Direct Box's output into a balanced input on the second amp.

ADJUSTING YOUR PARKER FLY GUITAR

As with all fine musical instruments, a little care and maintenance go a long way toward preserving your investment.

If you're unfamiliar with adjusting instruments, we suggest that you take your Fly to a qualified guitar technician. He or she can help demonstrate these adjustments and you can decide which ones you might prefer to have made professionally.

Additional support information can be found on the Parker web site at: www.parkerguitars.com.

Action

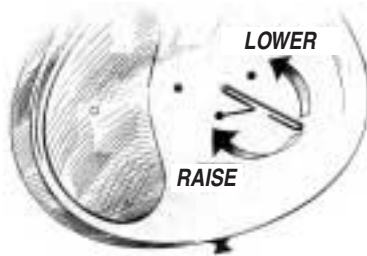
Most Fly models are strung with D'Addario® .009-.042 strings at the factory. They are all adjusted to a very low action of .070 on the bass side and .050 on the treble side, measured at the twelfth fret (while fretting the first fret).

If you lower your action even further, be aware that some buzzing may occur.

The Fly's bridge is designed and made exclusively by Parker. The radius of the bridge exactly matches that of the neck. Therefore the Fly doesn't require the individual height adjustment devices that detract from tone and sustain.

• ADJUSTING ACTION ON FLY GUITARS WITHOUT VIBRATO:

Action is set with three screws from the back of the guitar. Using the T-handled 3/32 Allen wrench supplied with your guitar, turn the screws clockwise to raise the bridge and counterclockwise to lower it. Since these screws also adjust the angle of the bridge to the guitar, to make more than a small adjustment you must adjust all three screws a little at a time, being careful not to tilt the bridge in its cavity. Do not adjust a screw more than a 1/4 turn at a time.



• ADJUSTING ACTION ON FLY GUITARS WITH VIBRATO:

Action is set with two screws from the back of the guitar. Using the L-shaped 5/32 Allen wrench supplied with your guitar, turn the screws clockwise to lower the bridge, and counterclockwise to raise it. If you're changing the action a lot, it's good practice to alternate between the two screws, making no more than a 1/4 turn at a time.



If you're unfamiliar with adjusting action, we strongly suggest that you take your instrument to your favorite guitar technician.

Intonation

To set the string length or intonation, loosen the screw that clamps the bridge saddle in place with the supplied T-handled 3/32 Allen wrench. If the string plays sharp, slide the saddle back to make the string longer. If the string plays flat, slide it forward. Re-tighten the saddle screw. The piezo-electric elements in the bridge are delicate, so be careful. The eraser end of a pencil is a safe tool for sliding the saddles.

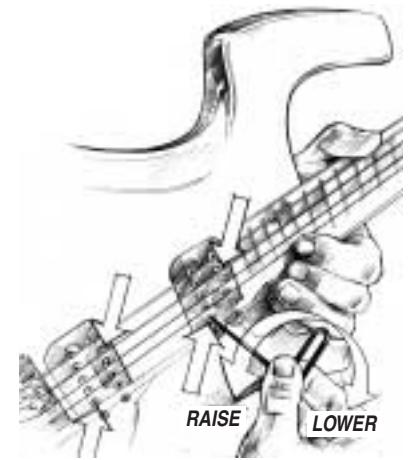


Pickup Height

Each DiMarzio® pickup is secured to the body by two pole-piece screws. These screws also adjust pickup height.

• HUMBUCKERS:

On the coil closer to the bridge, adjust the screw under the B-string. On the other coil, adjust the screw under the A-string. Turn the screws clockwise to lower and counterclockwise to raise the pickup.

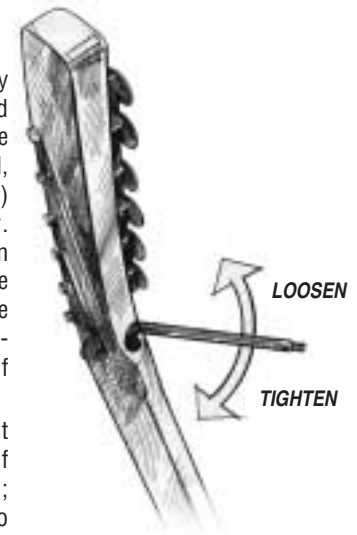


• **SINGLE COILS:** Adjust the pole-piece screws under the B-string and A-string to raise and lower, or remove the pickup.

Truss Rod Adjustment

The truss rod is easily accessible via the hole located on the bottom side of the headstock. To adjust the rod, use the Torx wrench (T27) supplied with your guitar. Turn it clockwise to tighten the rod and counterclockwise to loosen it. Be aware that the rod is very sensitive - one-sixth turn yields a lot of movement.

The Parker Fly guitar is built with the correct amount of neck relief "dialed" in; therefore it is impossible to adjust the neck to completely flat.



NOTE: If you're unfamiliar with adjusting a truss rod, we strongly suggest that you take your instrument to your favorite guitar technician for this adjustment.

VIBRATO SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Many of the Parker models are equipped with a vibrato system designed exclusively for the Fly guitar by Ken Parker. This simple, straightforward vibrato system offers all the options and flexibility a guitarist could want. Two controls are used to select from **three modes of operation**. No tools are needed to select or fine-tune the bridge modes.

*Note: All of these modes share a common bridge position—we'll call this **HOME**.*

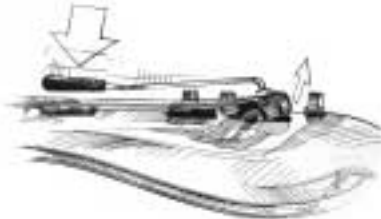
THESE THREE MODES ARE:

1. FIXED: This mode is selected for tuning, setting intonation, re-stringing and action adjustment. In this mode the bridge is stabilized and can be thought of as a non-vibrato bridge. FIXED is always HOME.

IMPORTANT NOTE! Always tune your guitar in the FIXED mode. Don't EVER tune it anywhere else. Any problems that you may encounter with this vibrato system are most likely caused by tuning the guitar when the bridge is not HOME.



2. BEND DOWN: In this mode the vibrato bends down from and returns to HOME.

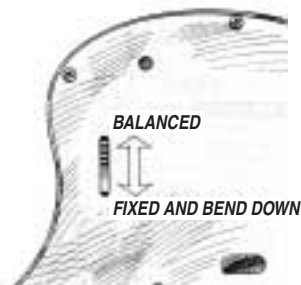


3. BALANCED: This mode sets the bridge to free-floating allowing you to bend up from and down from HOME.



Step-Stop Switch

This two-position slide switch is located between the height adjustment screws on the back cover plate.



These two positions are:

- **UP:** This position is selected for the BALANCED or free-floating mode only.
- **DOWN:** This position is used for the FIXED and BEND DOWN modes.

Balance Wheel

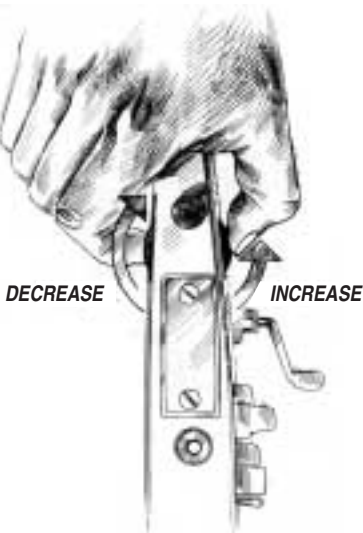
This wheel protrudes through the front and back of the body.

Turning the wheel counterclockwise increases the spring's force on the bridge.

Turning the wheel clockwise decreases the spring's force on the bridge.

REMEMBER:

Up in front = up in force.



ADJUSTING THE PARKER FLY VIBRATO SYSTEM

1. FIXED:

- Place the Step-Stop switch in the DOWN position.
- Rotate the Balance Wheel counterclockwise until the bridge cannot bend up. The guitar is now stabilized for tuning, setting intonation, re-stringing and action adjustment.

For string bending: In this mode the guitar can be thought of as a fixed-bridge instrument. This mode allows you to bend a string while other strings are sounded and not change their pitch. If the other strings do go flat while bending, increase the spring force.

2. BEND DOWN ONLY:

- Place the Step-Stop switch in the DOWN position.
- Rotate the Balance Wheel clockwise to decrease the spring force while listening for a change in pitch. When the strings start to go flat, rotate the Balance Wheel counterclockwise just enough to lightly seat the bridge against the Step-stop. Now the bridge will return HOME but cannot be bent up. In this mode, the user can also adjust the Vibrato Bar resistance from light to heavy with the Balance Wheel.

NOTE: If the bridge is set just flat of HOME (tilting forward) while tuned up to pitch and the Step-Stop switch is DOWN, there may be a buzz as the bridge vibrates against the Step-stop when played. If this occurs, simply rotate the wheel up slightly to bring the bridge into contact with the Step-stop.

3. BALANCED (FREE-FLOATING):

- Place the Step-Stop switch in the UP position. If this allows the bridge to move back, away from HOME (sharp), re-tune the guitar with the Balance Wheel. Simply rotate the Balance Wheel clockwise to restore the balance at the correct pitch.

NOTE: If you should break a string when playing the guitar with the bridge in the BALANCED mode, just set the Step-Stop switch down to restore the remaining strings to pitch (You may need to bend down on the bar to move the Step-Stop switch down).

Vibrato Bar

The Parker Fly Vibrato Bar is made from 3/16" hexagon stainless steel. This special alloy can be bent to your liking and will retain its shape in use. We recommend that you let a guitar technician adjust the shape of the Vibrato Bar.

The end of the bar that fits into the bridge is curved very slightly. The deeper you insert the Vibrato Bar into the bridge, the tighter it fits. The tightness of this fit can be adjusted by changing the bend very slightly.

The "swing" or rotation of the bar can also be adjusted. This is set with the screw located on the back edge of the bridge. Place a vibrato bar in the bridge and bend down to gain better access to this screw. Using the T-handled 3/32 Allen wrench supplied with your guitar, turn the screw clockwise to tighten and counter-clockwise to loosen.

Spring

Instead of the customary coiled springs in the back, the Fly's vibrato uses a unique flat spring that remains silent while compressing and expanding, and is compact enough to fit into the Fly's thin body.

Each Fly vibrato guitar is supplied with two springs. The installed spring is correct for the .009 > .042 D'Addarios that the Fly is shipped with. The extra spring found in the case or gig bag is correct for .010s.

Please be aware that if you change to a hybrid gauge of strings, .009 > .046 for example, you must install a heavier (.010) spring. If you use .008 gauge strings, the .009 spring will work perfectly fine. Using the wrong spring or adjusting the spring incorrectly could cause the spring to break and possibly damage the guitar.

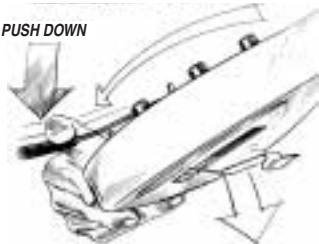
If you wish to use .011s or .012s, contact Parker Support via email at: support@parkerguitars.com or call us at (978) 988-0102 for instructions on how to order the correct spring for these heavier strings.

• CHANGING SPRINGS:

1. Remove the back panel control cover.
2. Loosen the Balance Wheel (down in front, clockwise) all the way.
3. Select the UP (Balanced/Free-Floating) position for the Step-stop switch.
4. Swing the bar over the end of the body and push down as shown until the spring falls out.

SWING THE BAR OVER THE END OF THE BODY

PUSH DOWN



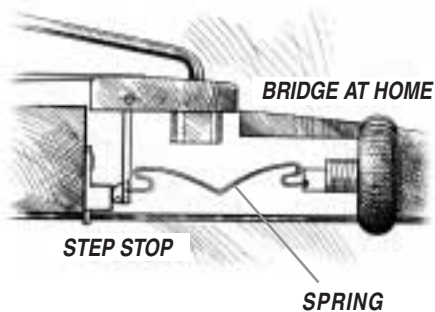
5. Insert the new spring by placing either end of the spring into the groove near the Balance Wheel.
6. Insert the other side of the spring into one of the three grooves near the bridge.
7. Select the DOWN (Bend Down Only) position for the Step-Stop switch.
8. Tighten the Balance Wheel (up in front, counterclockwise) so that the bridge rests against the Step-Stop.
9. Retune the guitar while making sure that the bridge remains in the HOME position against the Step-Stop (tighten the Balance Wheel further if needed).
10. Once the guitar is in pitch readjust the Balance Wheel (as described earlier) and set the Step-Stop to your preferred setting.

WHICH GROOVE?

The guitars leave the factory set up for normal operation with the spring in the groove closest to the back of the guitar. This groove is best for extreme Vibrato Bar technique.

The second and third grooves will give a lighter Vibrato Bar feel but reduce clearance for the spring inside the body. These grooves may work best for more subtle Vibrato Bar use.

Choose the groove that's right for YOU.



OTHER FEATURES

Tuning Machines

We proudly use Sperzel® tuners - designed and manufactured in the USA - because they combine excellent quality and design, the best string locking system, and minimum weight. (Gold non-locking Sperzels are used on the Fly Jazz model.) Sperzel's patented string clamp eliminates the need for tying and multiple string wraps, greatly improving tuning stability.



To remove a string, loosen the knurled clamp knob at the back of the tuner. Before restringing, turn each tuner until the hole in the capstan is parallel with the string path. Feed the string through, pull out the slack, tighten the knurled clamp knob, and tune up.

Frets

Our patented fret and fingerboard consists of hardened stainless steel frets bonded to a glass and carbon fiber fret board. Not only will these unique frets outlast ordinary soft nickel frets, but due to our super-accurate manufacturing processes, they all have the correct "half-round" shape.

The frets may only be serviced at the Parker Guitar factory. Fret service performed otherwise will void warranty.

Cleaning and Polishing

If you're just trying to remove fingerprints or dust, use a soft guitar-polishing cloth. To remove fine scratches or clean heavy dirt, use a non-abrasive guitar polish and follow the manufacturer's directions. Please use products designed only for guitars, as some polishes contain abrasives that can scratch the finish.

NOTE: Do not use fingerboard "lubricating" products such as "FingerEase®" or "FastFret®" on your Fly as they may damage the fingerboard or frets and void the warranty.

LIMITED WARRANTY

There is a 1-year limited warranty beginning on the date of first customer purchase on all unmodified and properly cared for Parker Guitars.

Any Parker Guitar found to be defective within the 1-year warranty period set forth above will be repaired or replaced at the option of Parker Guitars provided the guitar is promptly delivered (freight and insurance prepaid) directly to Parker Guitars for service.

Please contact Parker's Product Support office at (978) 988-0102 for information, return authorization, and a Parker Work Order Number. Please visit the Parker Guitars website at www.parkerguitars.com for more detailed warranty information.

Warranty Repairs Outside the U.S.

For warranty repairs outside the U.S. please contact either the dealer from whom you purchased the guitar, or the Authorized Parker Distributor in your country for information and assistance.

