

TIP SHEET

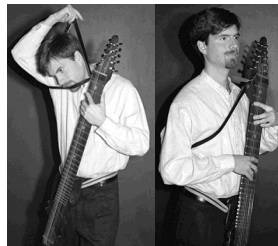
for the new owner of THE CHAPMAN STICK® fretboard tapping instrument.

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ACCESSORIES: Contact Stick Enterprises by phone or email to buy string sets, stereo cables, truss adjustment wrenches, lesson books, CDs, instructional DVDs, molded flight cases, soft cases, Stick stands, T-shirts and other accessories.

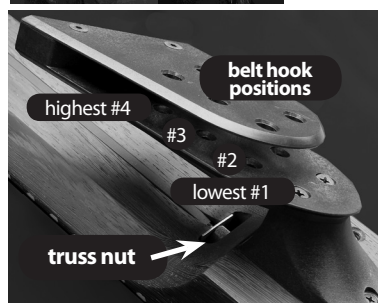
Phone: 818-884-2001 Email: stick@earthlink.net.

For our complete price list, please go to www.stick.com/prices. California residents please add sales tax to their order. Shipping charges are extra.



PLAYING POSITION: To put on The Stick, hold it in your left hand with the triangular headstock pointing upward, and put your right arm and your head through the loop of the shoulder strap, so that the strap falls under your right arm and over your left shoulder. The strap buckle is then positioned behind your back.

Next, place the belt-hook onto your belt or waistband just right of center (moving your belt buckle a bit to the left if necessary). Many players like to use a second belt around the waist at either a higher or lower position. The Stick should then be in playing position without any support from your hands, and angled about 30 degrees to your left from the vertical. You can adjust the height of the instrument relative to the belt by selecting one of the four pairs of adjustment holes on the belt-hook. Your instrument is shipped at the lowest position (“#1” as shown in photo to the left).



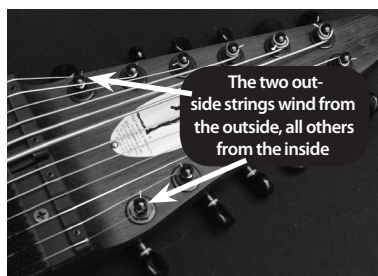
TRUSS ADJUSTMENT: Your instrument is equipped with an easy to adjust truss rod, which is flush with the rear neck surface to maintain a straight fretboard profile for lowest tapping action. Changes in temperature and humidity may cause the fretboard to “arch” a bit upward at the middle frets or to slightly “bow” in the other direction. When arched, the strings, already set for very low tapping action, will actually lay on the frets near the nut, making notes in that region impossible to play. When bowed, the gap between strings and frets will be too high for comfortable play at the lower pitched and mid regions of the fretboard. Tension on the rod is adjusted by turning the nut just a “twist” (or 1/6th turn) at the end of the rod under the belt-hook (see photo to the left).

On Sticks with the **Divided™ truss rod** (pinned in fixed position at its center), there is a second nut near the rear of the headstock for independently adjusting the profile of the lower pitched half of the fretboard (see above photo). You should acquaint yourself with the adjustment procedure shown and described on our website at: www.stick.com/tech.

The Stick’s truss rod is different from that of a guitar or bass and may be adjusted as often as necessary with no damage to the instrument or to the rod. Response is instantaneous with no “settling” of the neck/fingerboard structure.

TUNING AND STRING TENSION: The strings should not be tuned much higher than the pitches shown on our website for each individual tuning. In Classic tuning, the highest pitched 1st string should be tuned to D at the first tapped fret (D below guitar’s open high E string and just above piano middle C). For the Matched Reciprocal tuning, the highest string should be C at the first tapped fret (middle C on piano). For other tunings, please refer to the “Tunings” page on our website at: www.stick.com/instruments/tunings.

FINGER PRESSURE: A very light touch will do wonders for your Free Hands technique, leaving plenty of volume dynamics in reserve, also making the playing faster and easier, and saving your strings (not to mention your fingers). As the basis of your technique, the strings should be gently tapped and lightly held down against the Rails® (not pressed down toward the fingerboard surface). The most favorable finger position is closer to the “leading” Rail (toward the bridge). Such light-touch dynamics are best achieved when the string action is set very low.



CHANGING STRINGS: Tuck the brass ball end into the bridge’s tailpiece slot. Extend the string’s tail past the tuners, holding it about 3 inches past its tuner spindle. Untuck the string and bend the held spot on the string’s tail to a right angle (an “L”). Now snip the “L” portion short (about 1/2”) and thread it through the spindle hole, wrapping the string around the spindle about three times. Tuck the ball end back into the tailpiece slot and while lifting the string to keep tension, wind the tuner to bring the string to approximate pitch. The two outer strings should be wound coming off the outer sides of the spindles, all other strings coming off the inner sides.

Also, you’ll get more focused and resonant bass tones if you “break-in” the two lowest bass strings by pressing them down with your thumb just inside its bridge saddle (see photo to the right). This creates a straight line of string vibration starting at the saddle point.

CLEANING THE PICKUPS: Minute iron particles may cling to the tops of the magnetic pickups. Under the 1st and 2nd strings, where the pickups are set high for volume, such iron bits might touch the strings and distort the sound. These ferrous bits can be removed by touching them with any pointed iron or steel object and drawing them away (the accessory 1/16” hex wrench is recommended for this use).

STRING CLEANING: Use the nails of your thumb and finger to clean each string after every playing session. This prevents rust and corrosion under the strings as well, extending string life to four months or longer.

BRIDGE AND NUT ADJUSTMENT: Your instrument is set up for your specified tuning when it leaves our shop. Unless you change your tuning or string gauges you should not need to adjust the bridge or the Flaps dual nut unit. If you do decide to change your tuning, setup instructions for string height and intonation can be found at: www.stick.com/tech.

POLISHING THE WOOD: Use a dry cloth to vigorously rub off accumulated dirt between frets when changing strings, then apply a coat of Danish oil (Watco blend suggested) and wipe it off as dry as possible with a cloth or tissue paper. To remove small nicks and scratches, use a fine pencil eraser or start with a coarser one. For larger blemishes, use fine sandpaper stepping up from 150 to 400 grits. Then apply Danish oil and hand polish to blend with the old finish.

TRADEMARKS: Our U.S. Federally registered trademarks include the following names: Stick, The Stick, The Chapman Stick, Grand Stick, Stick Bass, Stick Guitar, Block, Rails, Railboard, Flaps, Touchboard, and The Grid. These are brand names to describe our line of uniquely designed fretboard tapping instruments in the guitar and bass family. When you use any of these trademarks in your promotion, publicity or in the liner notes of your recorded products, please capitalize the first letter of each word of the trademark in every usage, and also insert an ® just once after the first or the most prominent usage.

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