

BORROWING A CLUB GUITAR?

THE LOANER CHECKLIST

- ✓ It lives in its case (latched) or on a stand — never leaned, never on furniture.
- ✓ Never left in a car. Not for an hour. Not in the shade.
- ✓ Hands washed before playing; strings wiped after.
- ✓ No stickers, tape or adhesives on any surface.
- ✓ No DIY repairs or adjustments — bring it to a meeting instead.
- ✓ Comes back with everything it left with: case, strap, picks, cable.

Dinged it? Say so straight away — no trouble. Damage reported early is a small repair. Damage found late is a big one. Nobody has ever been in trouble for honesty here.

These guitars exist because **Dr. Sean Madison** and the campus administration invested in students who hadn't played a note yet. Every loaner that comes back healthy is another beginner's first instrument.

CHECKOUT RECORD

Guitar # _____

Checked out to _____

Date out _____

Due back _____

THE WHOLE BROCHURE IN TEN LINES

ALWAYS & NEVER

ALWAYS

- ✓ Case latched, or on a stand
- ✓ Car cabin — and out when you get out
- ✓ Hands washed, strings wiped
- ✓ In tune, at pitch
- ✓ Problems reported early

NEVER

- ✗ In a parked car, any season
- ✗ Leaned face-out on a wall
- ✗ On couches, beds, floors
- ✗ Household cleaners on it
- ✗ Truss rod, by you

Questions? Ask at any meeting.

Tuesdays 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM · Fridays 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Trinity River Campus · room announced day-of

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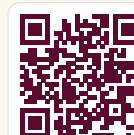


GUITAR CARE

How to keep a guitar alive — the heat, the humidity, the leaning, and the five habits that prevent nearly everything. Written for Texas.

TRINITY RIVER

GUITAR CLUB



trinityriverguitarclub.com

START HERE

THREE THINGS KILL GUITARS

1 HEAT

Guitar glue lets go at temperatures a parked Texas car reaches before lunch. Heat lifts bridges, warps necks, ruins finishes.

2 GRAVITY

Guitars break from falling, not playing. The headstock is the most fragile part — and it hits the ground first.

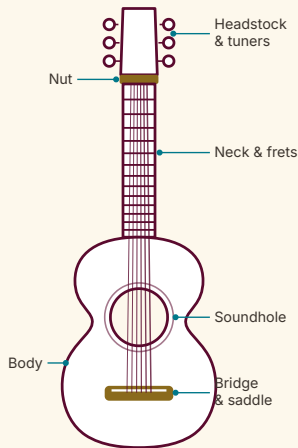
3 DRY AIR

Dry wood shrinks: fret ends poke out, the top sinks, then it cracks. A/C and winter heating both count. It happens slowly, so nobody notices until it's done.

THE CAR RULE OUTRANKS EVERYTHING

A parked car here passes **130 °F inside within an hour** in summer. Cabin, never trunk — and it comes inside when you do. After extreme heat or cold, leave it cased at least 30 minutes to adjust — longer after real cold. The case is the airlock.

KNOW ITS NAMES



WHERE IT LIVES

GIVE IT ONE SAFE SPOT

Best: a stand or wall hanger. A ten-dollar stand ends the leaning problem forever — and a guitar you can see is a guitar you practice.

Also good: the case, latched. An unlatched case picked up by the handle opens like a book and drops the guitar at your feet. Latch it every time.

Must lean it? Into a corner, on its side edge, strings toward the wall, away from traffic. Face-out by the headstock is already falling.

Never on couches, beds or floors. Furniture is where guitars get sat on.

THE 40–60 RULE

Guitars are happiest at **40–60% relative humidity**, room temperature. Texas A/C and winter heat both dry rooms below that for months.

- ✓ A \$10 digital hygrometer tells you where you stand.
- ✓ Below 40% for weeks: use a soundhole or in-case humidifier (distilled water).
- ✓ Dry-guitar warning signs: sharp fret ends, sunken top, new buzzing. Bring it to a meeting.
- ✓ Too humid works too: a swollen top and suddenly-high strings mean damp. A case dehumidifier packet fixes it.

Big weather swing? Let the guitar acclimate inside its closed case for about half an hour before opening it. Sudden warm air on cold lacquer is how finishes craze into a spiderweb of fine cracks.

Solid wood vs. laminate: solid-top guitars sound better and feel weather more; laminates shrug it off. If you don't know which yours is, treat it as solid.

ROUTINE UPKEEP

TWO MINUTES A DAY

Wash your hands before playing. Skin oil and sweat are what corrode strings — clean hands dramatically extend string life.

Wipe the strings after playing. Ten seconds with a dry cloth, nut to bridge. The highest-value habit in guitar maintenance.

Change strings when they tell you — dull, rusty, rough, or won't hold tune. One string at a time, every one to three months of regular play.

Keep it tuned to pitch, even in storage. The neck is built to carry the tension.

CLEANING

A dry or barely damp microfiber cloth is 95% of the job. **Never household cleaners** — if it doesn't say "guitar" on the bottle, it doesn't touch the guitar. Fretboards need almost nothing.

Leave the truss rod alone — setup questions come to a meeting.

MOVING & PLUGGING IN

Carry it upright, go through doors body-first — doorways eat headstocks. Amp volume to zero before plugging or unplugging; pull cables by the plug, never the cord. Drinks stay off amps.

THE WHOLE ROUTINE, TIMED

Before playing (20 sec): wash hands, quick tune.

After playing (30 sec): wipe strings, wipe body.

Putting it away (10 sec): case latched or on the stand.

Once a week (60 sec): glance at the hygrometer, check for new buzz or sharp frets.