



Packing a guitar for shipment

To support StewMac Trade Secrets video #334

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Don't leave space for your guitar to move around inside its case during shipment.

Loosen the strings

Relieve the string tension on the peghead during shipment by loosening the strings. An impact during shipment is less likely to damage a peghead that isn't under string tension. This is especially true for angled pegheads like Gibson, Martin, and Guild; Fender necks are stronger.

Wrap the peghead

With newspaper and/or bubble wrap, protect the peghead and tuners. Inside form-fitted cases, add enough padding material to keep the peghead from moving but, not so much that it lifts the heel.



Support the neck joint

Feel the heel. If there's a gap under there, fill it with paper. Imagine an impact or pressure on the top of the guitar during shipment, and protect it from flexing.

Protect the frets and pickups

Slide a piece of paper under the strings to protect the frets. On electric guitars, use this paper to protect the pickups also.

Remove protruding hardware

Some switch knobs, tremolo arms, bridges, and other hardware could be damaged (or cause damage) during an impact. Wrap these items separately.

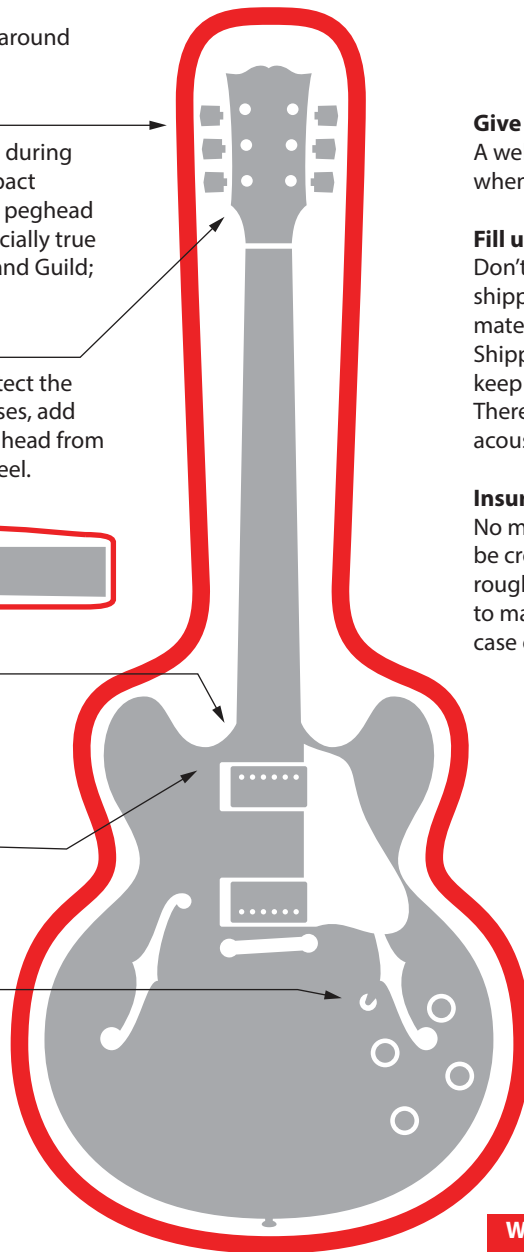
Fill empty space with paper

Don't leave room for the guitar to move around inside its case. Don't rely on the case's neck rest to keep the guitar from moving during shipment.



A tip from Dan Erlewine

"I always print 'Fragile, Please' on at least four sides of the box (I think that adding the word "please" is important), and draw a picture of a broken long-stemmed wine glass—the international "fragile" symbol."



Give it a shake!

A well-packed guitar won't move inside its case when you shake it.

Fill up the shipping box

Don't leave room for the case to move inside the shipping box. You can use standard packing materials but, we recommend using our Guitar Shipping System: the form-fitted inflatable shapes keep your guitar from shifting during shipment. There are versions for shipping both electric and acoustic guitars, either bare or in a case.

Insure your package

No matter how well you pack your guitar, you'll still be crossing your fingers and hoping it doesn't get rough treatment by handlers. Talk with your shipper to make sure that the guitar's full value is covered in case of a lost or damaged guitar (it happens).

Be aware that you may need proof of value. It's a good idea to take lots of photos of your guitar before you pack it. If you have an exceptional instrument, it would be wise to get an appraisal.

Insure the guitar for more than it's worth, say your prayers, and you're done. You'll be in good shape!

Watch the video at stewmac.com

ts334



Watch this packing method in our free Trade Secrets video #334.

Search **ts334** at stewmac.com.

At stewmac.com you'll also find the Guitar Shipping System:

- #10715 Electric Guitars with case
- #10710 Electric Guitars without case
- #10705 Acoustic Guitars with case
- #10700 Acoustic Guitars without case