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 **How to do a Relic Guitar: Photo Tutorial 56k dont even try it..**

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Luthier's Corner Discussion on instrument building, repair, and materials.



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#11

 03-07-2007, 08:06 PM

[ibanezcollector](#) 

Registered User

Join Date: Feb 2007

Location: Cleveland OH Armpit of the USA



Ok here we go Update time..

Two of these updates will be text only since its a easy step.

Ok our neck is been dry long enough. Next step is easy just get your 0000ga steel wool and lightly sand it smooth. Simple enough.. Now if you want you can very gently take the key method explained about and nick up the headstock edges. She is done. If you want you can buy some clear coat and respray the back of the neck and then rub it with the 0000ga to take the gloss off, some people just dont like the raw wood feel. I LOVE IT.. also if you want you can buy tinted clear for that amberish look if your neck is real bright.

The next step is the pickguard. It should be dry enough you want to very gently brush off the steel wool dust. The reason we left it on there is when its finally of it will leave some places lighter than the rest of the guard, all be it very small its a detail. If you want to lock in the look you could spray it with a clear and then take the 0000ga and buff the gloss down like we did on the body.



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[The TalkBass Store](http://www.talkbass.com)

And finally we need pictures of the body done front and back.. Were getting close to the end here.. Next were going to discuss more detail work to finish it off.









Everyday things change but basically remain the same.

Last edited by ibanezcollector : 03-08-2007 at 12:19 PM.

 quote

#12

 03-07-2007, 09:34 PM



[funkasaurus](#)

Resident Disc Golfer

Join Date: Apr 2001

Location: Los Angeles

Supporting Member

Eagerly awaiting the final product!

Funk is its own reward

G&L L-2000 | Lakland Skyline JO4 | Fender MIM Jazz | TBC JT-400JJ | MTD Kingston Active | MTD Kingston Fretless

quote

#13

03-08-2007, 06:37 AM

[ibanezcollector](#)

Registered User

Join Date: Feb 2007

Location: Cleveland OH Armpit of the USA



ok folks spent the good part of last night putting her back together. I will be taking her to work to use the good camera for some pics, then shes going off to ebay for exactly what I have in to it.. I need to generate the cash I used to do this tutorial ASAP lol.. Sucks being poor..

Stay tuned for some final pictures..

Everyday things change but basically remain the same.

quote

#14

03-08-2007, 09:04 AM

[Bryan316](#)

Registered User

Join Date: Dec 2006

Location: Detroit

Can I make a suggestion here? String wear on the pickup covers?

If you're a hard player, you'll rub your strings against your pickups in certain ways, like when bending notes hard or heavy rhythm playing. Especially noticable on guitars/basses with light gauge strings. What I've seen on damn near every old axe, is worn marks in the pickups directly underneath each pickup. But they're typically not even, or flat. They always look triangular, like the strings wore away heavier on the front edge instead of the back edge, or the E and A strings and only the high E string, cuz those strings see the most playing.

I'd suggest taking some medium sandpaper and folding it around a thin-shafted screwdriver, and then scraping against the pickup covers where the strings would lie. For accuracy, I'd mark the pickup cover with a Sharpie marker to form the pattern, then scrape away until the marks are gone. Then fine sand away to remove scratches and soften the damage.

I've even seen pickups with the strings' windings leaving ribbed marks in the pickups. I'm not sure how to safely replicate that, but I'd imagine heating the plastic up a bit, and then pressing the string into them strongly to leave indents in the sanded wear marks.

Collector, do you have one spare pup cover you could test this idea on?

Also, I gotta say that if youz guyz are planning to relic a guitar for yourself to keep and play all the time, you would want to customize

your neck aging to how you play. An idea I have is to somehow sortakinda paint on a coat to the back of your neck, and then go play that guitar for a couple hours. Like, perhaps some tinted car wax, perhaps? Or just car wax alone? Then after playing, you can see where your hands naturally wore away the wax the most, showing how your neck should age the most in certain spots. Like under your thumb when holding an E power chord, or just behind the 12th fret as you're soloing, or the top of the back side where your thumb would always hold the neck.

I'm trying to think of chemicals or materials you could safely smear on the back of the neck, like butter or crayons or candlewax or something, that would rub away as you played. I'm really drawing a blank here. Like... wax is my best idea. Or food dye or just a wood stain over your still clearcoated finish. Brown shoe polish? But it has to be something that isn't sticky and doesn't hinder your playing while trying to create the wear pattern.

Or perhaps, sand the whole back of the neck to bare wood. Then get your hands dirty with, used motor oil? Dirt and grease? And then play, and where your dirty hand leaves the most dark spots, shows your pattern, and then masking tape around that?

METAL CLUB member #24 \m/

"Losing is Nature's way of saying YOU SUCK!" - Autorama



#15

03-08-2007, 09:23 AM

[Bryan316](#) 

Registered User

Join Date: Dec 2006
Location: Detroit

Oh, and similar to the car keys idea of creating marks and scratches and dents... take a steel chain, maybe a foot long, and spin it in one hand over your guitar body. Then slowly and carefully, swing that chain closer and closer to the body, until you just barely nick the finish. Take a look and see if it suits your needs.

And here's a really REALLY gross trick. This comes from an old old woodworker who showed me many tricks when I was young. He was a very wise old man, and used to carve small wood sculptures like ducks, boots, cats, fishing boats, just little nicknack stuff.

When he wanted a natural finish, REALLY natural, he'd color his work with.... forehead sweat. Yeah, your greasy forehead gives great color. Try rubbing your thumb on your forehead, and then rub that grease right onto your guitar neck.

I told you it was gross...

METAL CLUB member #24 \m/

"Losing is Nature's way of saying YOU SUCK!" - Autorama



#16

03-08-2007, 12:08 PM

[ibanezcollector](#) 

Registered User

Join Date: Feb 2007
Location: Cleveland OH Armpit of the USA



Ok folks shes done and on ebay if anyones interested.

Some of the detail work I was going to go into.. Pickguard cracks is always a good one, taking dust from the vacuum cleaner and sprinkle it on the bridge.. Take a brush and wipe it down with it, dirt will stay where its supposed to and not where it isnt. Stickers, etc.. just small details..

Anywhere here we go. Hope this has been a helpful tutorial..









ORIGINAL
Craftsman
Body
1964-1965

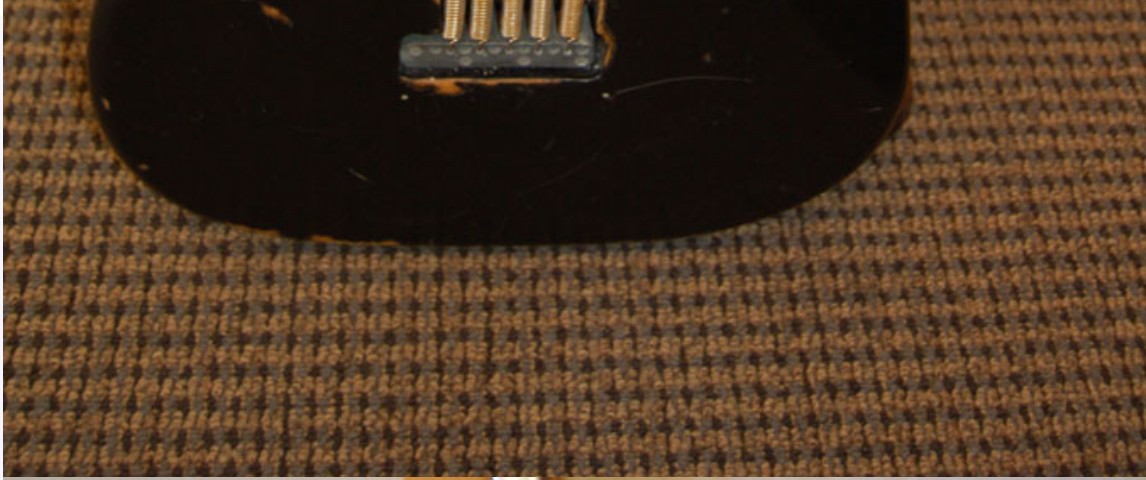
STRATOCASTER

WITH SYNCHRONIZED TREMOLO

Fender













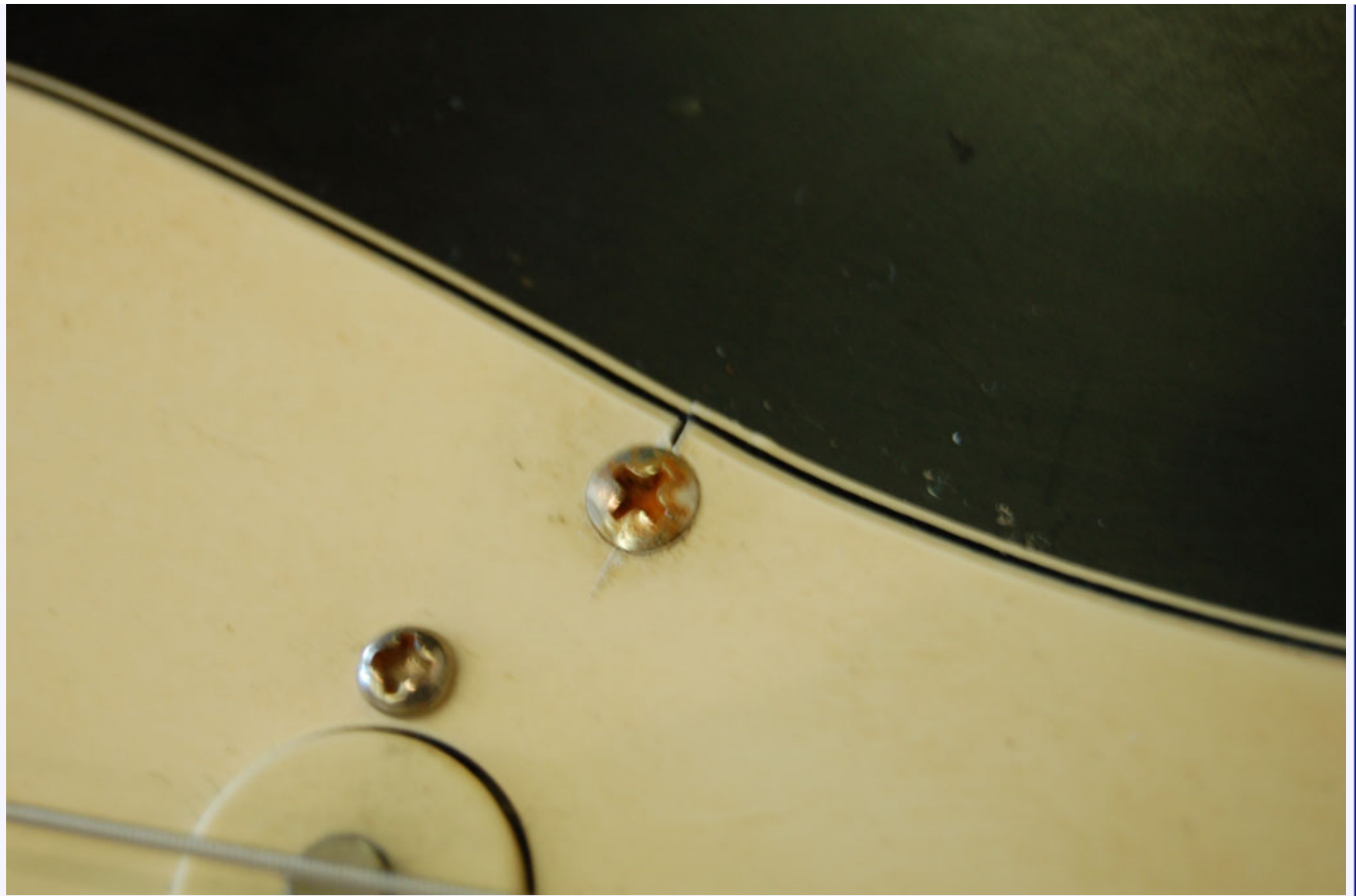
























Everyday things change but basically remain the same.

quote

#17

03-08-2007, 12:20 PM

[alembicguy](#) 

Registered User

Join Date: Jan 2007
Location: Hibbing, Minnesota

Did I miss the part on doing the neck???

www.myspace.com/jimbonelli

 quote

#18

 03-08-2007, 12:20 PM



[Mark Wilson](#) 

The Talkbass Panhandler

Join Date: Jan 2005
Location: Toronto/Niagara Falls, Ontario



★ Supporting Member

Quote:

Originally Posted by **alembicguy** 
Did I miss the part on doing the neck???

Yep.

Fender MIM Member #20
Cantaloupe Club Member #001

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Skel** 
Hey Jeff, just so you know.. girls underwear is SOOO uncomfortable too. It fits so bad. I struggled with that decision, that morning.

 quote

#19

 03-08-2007, 05:33 PM



[seanm](#) 

You can call me Sean.

Join Date: Feb 2004
Location: Ottawa, Canada



★ Supporting Member

Very nice!

My only comment would be that the headstock looks way too clean. I always end up putting a quite few dings in the headstock 😞

Fender MIM Club member #8, no #9!

[The Truthful Few](#)



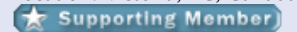
#10

📅 03-08-2007, 05:55 PM

[mactac](#)

Registered User

Join Date: Nov 2005
Location: Victoria, BC, Canada



earlier on you sai dthat you were going to talk about how you did the decal as well....?

For sale: Aguilar DB750

<http://www.talkbass.com/forum/showthread.php?t=312222>

A video of mine:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4kEmtBTNWU>



#11

📅 03-08-2007, 06:04 PM

[ibanezcollector](#)

Registered User

Join Date: Feb 2007
Location: Cleveland OH Armpit of the USA



Quote:

Originally Posted by **mactac**

earlier on you sai dthat you were going to talk about how you did the decal as well....?

the decal is easy on some not so easy on others..

If its a silk screened on top of the clear just rub it off with the 0000ga steel wool. Apply your new decal and bury it with clear coats.

If its under the clear coat you have to sand the headstock down, apply your new decal and bury it under the clear coats.

or

Put your decal on and call it a day like early Fenders but this will lead to the possibility of it coming off, flaking, shrinkage, etc.

for authentic Fender waterslide decals there is a user named "thecoinman" on a site www.ioffer.com he sells just about any fender decal you could imagine..

For what its worth the relic sold on ebay in under 45mins. LOL

Everyday things change but basically remain the same.

quote

#12

03-08-2007, 07:27 PM

[alembicguy](#)

Registered User

Join Date: Jan 2007
Location: Hibbing, Minnesota

This is the best info on the net hands down!!!

www.myspace.com/jimbonelli

quote

#13

03-08-2007, 08:05 PM

[spudmaster34](#)

Registered User

Join Date: Nov 2005
Location: north of chicago

nice

yamaha club member #1

Quote:

Originally Posted by **MammaryVest**
what's this about a twelve step program!!! I always though for bass it would be a twelve Half-Step program.

just in case ctbass&birdsong is reading this, HAPPY EASTER

quote

#14

03-09-2007, 12:21 AM



[Ray Holt](#)

Luthier in training

Join Date: Mar 2006
Location: Tempe, Arizona



Supporting Member

Doh! I didn't see the whole post about "aging" the hardware... there's just so much information in here!

Thanks so much for the tutorial. I really want to have a go at it now

There's a reason you have two ears and one mouth... you should listen at least twice as much as you talk!

Last edited by Ray Holt : 03-09-2007 at 07:53 AM.

quote

#35

03-09-2007, 09:45 AM

[Bryan316](#) 

Registered User

Join Date: Dec 2006
Location: Detroit

So who posts pictures of the first aged MIM P-bass?

I gotz a dolla on Ray.

METAL CLUB member #24 \m/

"Losing is Nature's way of saying YOU SUCK!" - Autorama

 quote

#36

03-09-2007, 12:06 PM

[GrooveWarrior](#) 

Registered User

Join Date: Oct 2003
Location: Oxford/Cincinnati, Ohio

How would one go about "yellowing" a white finish? Would you knock the clear coat down and use the stain like on the pickguard? Let me know.

P.S. I'll compile this in a PDF if the other guy isn't going to.

[WARRIOR CLUB MEMBER #1!](#)

Esse Quam Videri - Be, don't seem to be

 quote

#37

03-09-2007, 12:20 PM

[ibanezcollector](#) 

Registered User

Join Date: Feb 2007
Location: Cleveland OH Armpit of the USA



Quote:

Originally Posted by **GrooveWarrior** 

How would one go about "yellowing" a white finish? Would you knock the clear coat down and use the stain like on the pickguard? Let me know.

P.S. I'll compile this in a PDF if the other guy isn't going to.

Groove I yellowed a couple guitars doing the stain method it works but you will have to shoot a light clear to lock it in.. when its done.. This one was done using the stain method it was Olympic white when I started.

And yes please compile this to a PDF.. My server is getting hammered.



Everyday things change but basically remain the same.

Last edited by ibanezcollector : 03-09-2007 at 12:23 PM.

 quote

#38

 03-09-2007, 12:35 PM

Quote:

Originally Posted by **ibanezcollector** 
And yes please compile this to a PDF.. My server is getting hammered.

I'm on it.

[WARRIOR CLUB MEMBER #1!](#)

Esse Quam Videri - Be, don't seem to be



99

 03-09-2007, 01:01 PM[alembicguy](#) 

Registered User

Join Date: Jan 2007
Location: Hibbing, Minnesota

My wife refers to this thread as bass porn for me by the way I sit and stare!!LOL

www.myspace.com/jimbonelli

100

 03-09-2007, 02:36 PM[Bass_Mule](#) 

Registered User

Join Date: Oct 2005
Location: Sydney, Australia

That looks great except i think the neck in general is too clean, I havent ever seen stain like that on the back and there is no chips or dents any where on the neck or headstock which is where is chip all my basses, also yo uneed to grime up that Fingerboard some. But the whole thing is really great

DO YOU KNOW THE MUFFIN MAN?http://www.myspace.com/plethora_of_muel

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