



THE TWELFTH FRET

GUITARIST'S PRO SHOP

HUMIDITY & GUITARS

Even the finest guitars are susceptible to wood shrinkage. Unless you carefully humidify your guitar during the dry winter season you risk fret board and soundboard cracks! Most guitars are built at a minimum or 40% relative humidity and exposing a guitar to less than 40% relative humidity will cause wood cracks.

An early warning danger sign is sharp fret ends protruding from the edge of a shrinking fret board. Use a guitar humidifier and moisten it regularly. Keep the guitar in the case to reduce air exchange. Stop humidifying when the humid spring weather arrives. Continuing to humidify after the dry season is over is very risky and can potentially cause very serious damage. Contact our staff anytime you have questions about humidity control for your instruments.

Hygrometer

Hygrometers are wall-mounted gauges that measure relative humidity in the environment around your guitar. They are available through music stores, "The Source", cigar specialty shops and scientific supply companies. It is important that you humidify carefully whenever the humidity falls below 40% and equally important that you stop humidifying when the relative humidity exceeds the 50% range.

Many hygrometers are not accurate. We have encountered many that were as far as 25% off! We suggest that you compare your new hygrometer to another more accurate hygrometer. We can calibrate hygrometers at no charge for our customers against a scientific quality "wet-bulb dry-bulb" hygrometer.

Useful Hints For Safe Operation Of Guitar Humidifiers

Oasis Humidifier

We suggest that you gently squeeze the Oasis after each filling to ensure that no leaks develop around the cap or body of the Oasis. Use distilled water or lake-water (soft water). Hard water with high limestone content will shorten the life of the unit. We suggest that you write the date of purchase on the unit and assume it should be replaced every 4 or 5 years. At the end of the dry season, rinse out your Oasis with warm water and dry with the cap off. Next season, add more Humigel crystals before adding water. Humigel replacement kits are inexpensive and last several years.

The Oasis Plus:

Used for extremely dry environments below 25%, the Plus releases moisture faster to maintain 45% inside your case.

TIPS:

- Do NOT over humidify. Some of our customers humidify their house or music room PLUS use a case humidifier. Due to excess humidity the inside of the guitar case will be like a tropical environment; extremely damp eventually causing mildew to grow on the case lining and inside of the guitar. Similarly, stop using your case humidifier when the humid spring weather arrives.
- If the furnace or household heating system is on, then you probably need to humidify your guitar.
- Humid air is dense. Your basement and main floor will always be roughly 8 to 10% higher humidity than your upper floors as humid air tends to flow downwards.

Disclaimer: Please note that the suggestions provided here are intended as general advice, and it is essential to follow your guitar manufacturer's recommendations for optimal results and to avoid any potential damage.

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