

Roosebeck

Instrument Care

Many of our musical instruments use a shellac or lacquer finish. Here are some simple steps to care for these instruments:

- Avoid extremes of temperature and humidity.
- Avoid leaving in direct sunlight for long periods of time.
- Avoid solvents, such as alcohol or acetone.
- Avoid placing objects on top of your musical instrument.
- Avoid using abrasives that may scratch the finish.
- For regular dusting, a dry soft cloth is best.
- Use a quality furniture polish or furniture oil when needed.
- Store your instrument inside a carry case to help protect against dust and accidental damage.

Instruments with unfinished, or raw, wood parts require special care. These items may be more prone to damage from extremes in temperature and humidity. Heat, sunlight, and overly damp or dry conditions may cause warping or cracking. A clear or neutral paste wax may be used to protect raw wooden parts with minimal change to the sound quality.

Accessories

String Sets, Cases, Stands, Humidifiers and other accessories are available at www.ensoulmusic.com

*Roosebeck*TM
FINE INSTRUMENTS

BALALAIKA



– OWNER'S GUIDE –



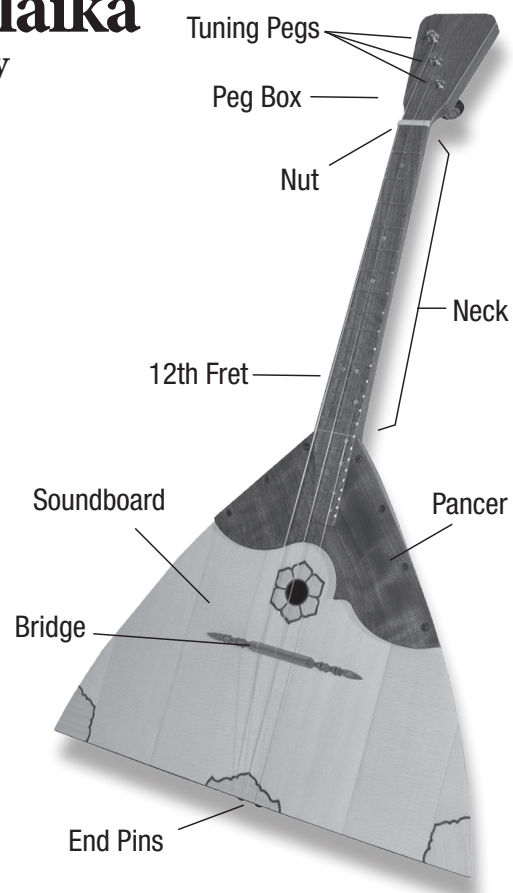
EnSoul
MUSIC DESIGNS

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Balalaika

Roosebeck Balalaika Before You Play

Our Prima Balalaika measures approximately 27" (686 mm) in length with the body having the classical triangular shape. The back is slightly bowed and made with solid-wood stave construction. The contrast between the dark body and light soundboard adds to the striking look of this balalaika. Familiarize yourself with the balalaika's parts from the diagram on the right.



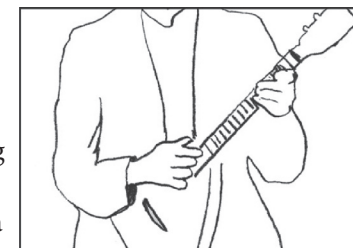
Tuning your *Roosebeck* Balalaika

Before tuning, the proper bridge position must be located. First find the nut. The nut is the bar at the joint between the neck and the peg box. Measure the distance from the nut to the 12th fret. Repeat this distance from the 12th fret to the bridge location. The nut and the bridge should be equal distance from the 12th fret. Position the bridge at a right angle to the strings. The Balalaika strings are tuned above middle C to: A, E, E (1st-3rd). The 1st string is the thinnest, and lays over more frets than the 2nd & 3rd strings. Use a piano or electronic tuner as a reference for tuning.

Holding your *Roosebeck* Balalaika

You may be most comfortable playing the balalaika while seated in a chair. Hold the neck between the thumb and index finger of your left hand. Tuck the body of the balalaika under your right arm and hold it close to your chest. The corner of the instrument should rest between your knees. This is a very similar position to playing the guitar.

Playing your *Roosebeck* Balalaika



The soundboard of the balalaika is a relatively soft unfinished wood. Strumming over the center of the soundboard can disfigure the wood. Therefore, the balalaika is strummed high on the soundboard over the pickguard, called the pantsir' or pancer. The pancer is decorative but also protects the soundboard from damage. To play, the left hand notes the strings while the thumb or index finger of the right hand sounds the strings.

The most common method of playing the Balalaika is Strumming. With the balalaika correctly tuned, play some down strokes with the fleshy part of the right thumb. Be sure to stroke with your entire forearm, not just your wrist. The thumb may be laid along the index finger for stability.

The Tremolo consists of fast up-and down beats with the right index finger. It can be used to play all strings or just a single string. The beats must be of equal power, up and down. The tremolo can be interrupted after every note, or combined with several notes. Rapid up and down strumming on long notes produces the singing tone specific to this instrument.

With the Pizzicato, you use your right thumb to produce downward beats and your right index finger to produce upward beats.

The Left Hand Pizzicato refers to plucking the strings with your left hand.

For more in depth information we recommend the Complete Balalaika Book with Online Audio available at www.mid-east.com.