

MID-EAST[®]

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– OWNER'S GUIDE –

MID-EAST[®] Saz

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History

The saz likely descended from a Persian long-necked lute which originally had strings of hair, leather bodies and was fretless. In the 15th century the use of metal strings added greater stress which required that the leather body be replaced by one of wood.

Construction and Types

The saz body is deeper than it is wide. The long thin neck, has 10-19 movable frets which include several quartertone positions. Tapered wooden pegs are set at 90 degrees to one another. There are 6 to 8 metal strings; usually in 3 courses. The middle course having the heavier strings and the lowest note in the tuning. There are several classes based on size. The cura is the smallest at approximately 26- 34 inches in length and less than 2 pounds. The baglama, or tambura is approximately 38-40 inches in overall length and only 2 pounds. The largest are known as divan or meydan saz. These can be 55 inches or more, while still weighing only a few pounds.

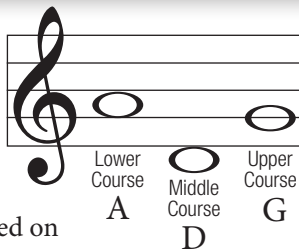
Tuning

The most frequently used tuning is: A D G.

NOTE The lowest note is tuned on the middle course. With the A D G tuning, A is the lower course, D is the middle, and G is the upper course.

A player may tune the saz to match their voice, or for the specific folk song, or maqam, being played. A few other tunings include:

AGD ADE ADF# GDG ADA AEA
GAD GCG



Playing

The traditional method of playing the saz is to pluck the strings with the fingers of the right hand and note the strings with the fingers, and occasionally the thumb, of the left hand. Today, most players use a short plastic plectrum to strum the strings. Professional players often add rhythm, by hitting the soundboard with the right hand.

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Care

Here are some simple tips to care for your saz:

- Use a dry soft cloth for dusting
- Avoid extreme temperatures
- Avoid using abrasives
- Replace broken strings immediately
- Use only Manufacturer recommended strings

Accessories

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



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