

# The Bigsby Vibrato

## Operating Instructions for the Bigsby Vibrato

The Bigsby Vibrato is a unit for manually creating a true vibrato.

When properly installed, the tip of the handle or lever should come to rest between  $\frac{3}{4}$ " and 1" above the top of the pickguard.

By pressing the handle the tone of all six strings will be flatted by approximately one-half tone if the handle is depressed approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". By the same token, if the handle is raised approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the normal or "at rest" position, all six strings will be sharpened by approximately one-half tone.

It is not necessary nor advisable to change the pitch more than one-half tone.

As much variation as desired is possible in the speed of the vibrato and many unusual effects can be created by the player, such as striking a single note or a full six-string chord at one-half tone below pitch, and then bringing it up to pitch with whatever speed is desired. For normal playing, most players hook the end of their little finger in the bend at the end of the handle and leave it in this position as long as it is being used. Other players merely use it by pressing on the handle and using only flatted-tone changes.

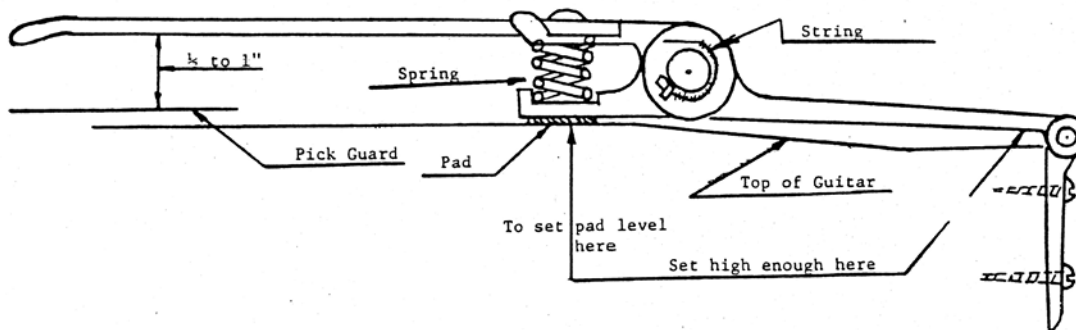
The creation of special effects is limited only by the ingenuity of the player, and as in anything else, "practice makes perfect". The more time a player spends in the operation of the unit, the more familiar they will be as to the unlimited capabilities of the Bigsby True Vibrato.

## Directions for Installing Models B3, B6, B11, and B30 For Conventional Type Guitars:

All the small parts are packaged in a box that is enclosed in the carton.

Remove the present tailpiece and install the Bigsby True Vibrato unit in the same place. Set the back end down against the top of the guitar body (see sketch). Then be sure that the felt pad under the spring cup sets flat on the top of the guitar. If it does not, raise the back just a little, keeping the unit level with the body. An easy way is to use one or more strips of cardboard under the tailpiece at the extreme back end of the body to keep it level. You will probably find it necessary to use an ice pick or awl to make a small hole to start the screws, as no two guitars have the same screw hole centers.

An optional rocker bridge is available from Bigsby. If you are using this optional rocker bridge, set it in the same place as the old bridge after the tailpiece is installed. When you attach the strings, push the little button on the end of the string over the pin and wind from underneath over the top of the shaft. When you have all the strings fairly tight but no up to pitch, insert the spring in the cup on the base and the cup on the handle. Now bring the strings up to pitch by tightening each one evenly until all are up to pitch. When this is done the handle or lever should set from  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" above the pickguard. The lever will settle just a little as the spring seats itself in the cups. Use the fibre discs in the bottom spring cup to adjust the height of the handle.



Manufactured Exclusively By: Bigsby Accessories, Division of the Gretsch Guitar Company  
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