

# 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 Bigsby B7, B12, and B70 True Vibrato Tailpiece

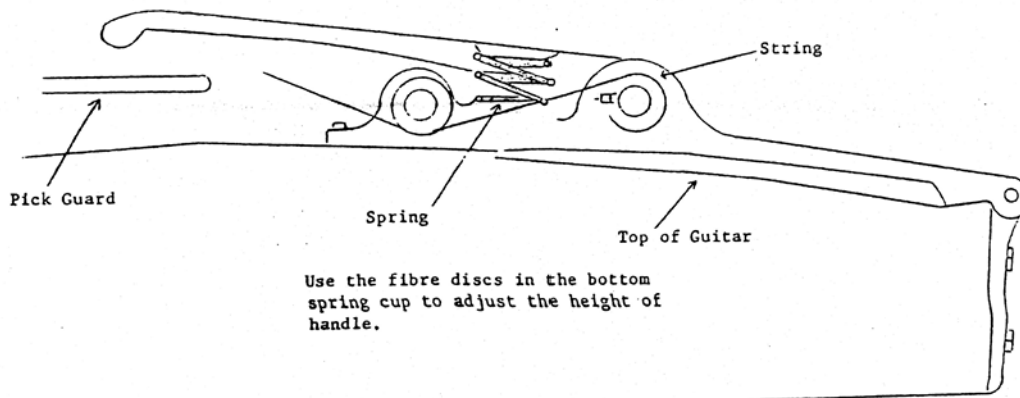
On earlier models remove the tailpiece that fastens on the back end of the guitar. On later models simply remove the bridge.

Install the Bigsby True Vibrato unit in the usual tailpiece position. Set the unit down on top of the guitar with the hinge against the back end of the guitar. Line it up true with the fingerboard and install the screws in the front.

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. The exact measurement should be twice the distance from the nut to the 12<sup>th</sup> fret to the edge of the little E string at the bridge.

When you attach the strings, push the button end of the string over the pin and wind from underneath over the top of the shaft and under the roller. When you have all the strings fairly tight but not 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 all of them evenly until they are up to pitch.

Be sure the bridge is installed with the "set back" on the "B" string.



Manufactured Exclusively By: Bigsby Accessories, Division of the Gretsch Guitar Company  
P.O. Box 2468, Savannah, GA 31402, (912) 748-7070, Fax (912) 748-6005 / [www.gretsch.com](http://www.gretsch.com)