NBD (my first Fender)

by **Guga Ramone** » 30 Dec 2014, 16:30

Lots of gear has passed through my hands this year. Most of them are bargains that I buy to re-sell for some profit. One of these bargains was a Squier Jagmaster loaded with a couple of Seymour Duncan (JB + 59). I sold the pickup separately and the guitar was left for free. So I traded it for a Fender Jazz Bass. But I guess that most of you don't know about this rare edition. It is called Southern Cross series and it was made by Giannini, a traditional guitar company here in Brazil. From 1991 to 1995, Fender had an agreement with Giannini to make Strats, JB's and some acoustics. The basses went on production only in 1994 and only 200 pieces were made until the end of the agreement, in 1995. Every month a Fender employee would come to Brazil to inspect the instruments and check the quality control on the production, so these products could carry the name "Fender" on them. The woods used are a little different from a traditional Jazz Bass. Red Cedar (3 pieces) was used on the body, Ivorywood on the neck and Pau-Ferro on the fingerboard, all very common here in Brazil. The neck has a old-school D shape, that I'm still getting used to it. I had to change the tuners (stock were POS) with some Wilkinson tuners. I know it's not a MIA Fender, but it is a rare edition, very cool sounding and I'm happy with it.

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Guga Ramone

Re: NBD (my first Fender)

by **Pepe** » 30 Dec 2014, 16:48

Oh, how cool is that?! Congratulations!

Pepe

Re: NBD (my first Fender)

by **Dirk** » 30 Dec 2014, 17:26

Nice, good score!

Dirk

Re: NBD (my first Fender)

by **Guga Ramone** » 30 Dec 2014, 18:29

Thanks guys.

Next steps are:

- shielding the cavities with conductive paint (homemade hehehe)
- level the frets (some of them are buzzing a little)
- just a little twist on the trussrod, just to fine tune it. BTW, what does Fender had in mind when they put the access to the trussrod on the heel of the neck? This is a real PITA to adjust!

Guga Ramone

Re: NBD (my first Fender)

by **Pepe** » 30 Dec 2014, 19:45

> *Guga Ramone wrote:*
> *- level the frets (some of them are buzzing a little)*

How can that be done properly? I never had the need to do this, but I would like to know how to do it.

> *Guga Ramone wrote:*
> *BTW, what does Fender had in mind when they put the access to the trussrod on the heel of the neck? This is a real PITA to adjust!*

My MIJ Fender Stratocaster has that as well. That's really a dumb thing, especially because you always have to screw off the neck - there's even no access to it if you loosen the pickguard.

Pepe

Re: NBD (my first Fender)

by **Dirk** » 30 Dec 2014, 19:53

Oh, that's strange, on both my MIA P-bass ánd the Duff McKagan sig. I can access the truss rod without any problem, and without removing the neck.
On the P is a little cut-out in the pickguard, but yeah on top would've been way easier.

Dirk

Re: NBD (my first Fender)

by **Guga Ramone** » 30 Dec 2014, 20:44

> *Pepe wrote:*
> *How can that be done properly? I never had the need to do this, but I would like to know how to do it.*

I do it using a flat piece of granite, sandpaper, painter's tape and permanent marker. Cover the whole fretboard and the pickups using the tape, leaving only the frets visible. Mark all the frets's surface using the permanent marker. Glue the sandpaper to the flat side of the granite, and use it to rub it agains the frets, slowly and patiently. The markings you made will be sanded away, and the deeper slot will become more visible. Keep sanding until all paint is removed. Remeber to follow the radius of your fretboard. In the end the frets will be more flat than round and normally need to be crowned. Must confess that I never crowned them (don't have the right tools) and it is working allright until now. =) Anyway, take a look on youtube, there are tutorials about leveling the frets. I really recommend to buy a cheap instrument to practice this kind of stuff. It already saved me some money, since it's rare that I need to take the instrument to a luthier.

Guga Ramone

Re: NBD (my first Fender)

by **Guga Ramone** » 30 Dec 2014, 20:50

> *Dirk wrote:*
> *Oh, that's strange, on both my MIA P-bass ánd the Duff McKagan sig. I can access the truss rod without any problem, and without removing the neck.*
> *On the P is a little cut-out in the pickguard, but yeah on top would've been way easier.*

Since it's my first Fender guitar, I can't comment on this. But I was taking a look on their website and almost all of the basses has access to the trussrod from the heel of the neck. But I guess that they already sorted out the need to remove the neck.

This is something that is realy cool on the MusicMan basses. The trussrod adjustment is on the heel of the neck, but it doesn't involve any special tool, like an allen wrench. Any kind of lever is ok, since the trussrod has a circular end with some holes. Really easy to do the setup.

Guga Ramone

Re: NBD (my first Fender)

by **Pepe** » 30 Dec 2014, 21:28

Thanks for your explanation! 😎

Pepe

Re: NBD (my first Fender)

by **Guga Ramone** » 31 Dec 2014, 02:36

You are welcome.

One thing that I firgot that is really important: you must set the trussrod to get the neck straight. Check it out with a long metal ruler. Then you can start leveling the frets.

Guga Ramone