

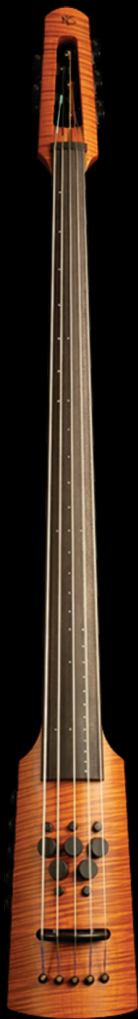
NS

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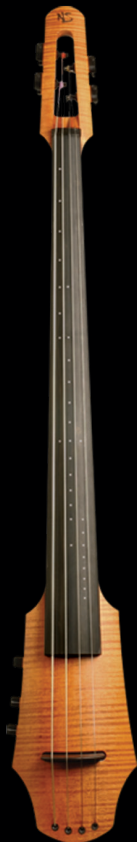
REDEFINING CLASSIC™



DOUBLE
BASS



OMNI
BASS



CELLO



VIOLA



VIOLIN

CR Series



NED STEINBERGER

The Artistry of NS

Some of our extraordinary NS Endorsers



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Laurie Anderson
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Adam Baldych
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Charles Yang
Jason Yang
Andrea Young



CR Series

Overview



NS Design was founded in 1990 by the award winning instrument designer Ned Steinberger to design and produce bowed electric instruments that advance the state of the art. NS string instruments are unabashed, purebred solid body electrics that combine technology and tradition to meet the needs of an evolving musical community.

Polar™ Bridge Pickup System

The unique Polar pickup has two modes of operation, “bow” and “pizz” (pizzicato). In the bow mode, response to the bow is enhanced, for a remarkably full, rich, and dynamic sound. The pizz mode enhances the plucked response by controlling the attack for a smooth, sustained, guitar-like tone. Conversely, in the bow mode, the plucked response is extraordinarily percussive, with a big attack and fast decay. With the Polar pickup, the musician can adjust attack and decay parameters electronically for the first time.

EMG™ Magnetic Pickups

The low impedance magnetic pickups are made to our specifications by EMG™, and feature individually adjustable coils and neodymium magnets. Each coil is buffered separately for a full tonal quality with very low noise. (Magnetic pickups are available on certain models only.)



Active Electronics

The dual mode preamp allows the player to choose between two distinct tonal characteristics. A full-blown “electric” sound is achieved with the extended frequency range possible with modern electronics. For a more “acoustic” sound, analog modeling is used to replicate the frequency response and tonality of a traditional instrument. Controls for volume, bass, treble, pickup mode, and preamp mode provide unprecedented tone shaping within easy reach of the player. A headphone jack is included for practicing convenience.

Maple, Ebony, and Graphite

CR Series instruments are made from select tone woods, with the neck and body of maple and the fingerboard of ebony. The EU Series breaks new ground with a one-piece molded neck and body made from layers of graphite and maple, and a molded graphite fingerboard.



Graduated Fingerboard / Cascading Dot Pattern

The fingerboards are hand-graduated and tested to ensure that each note responds evenly. The bass and cello have an unobtrusive dot pattern that cascades across the fingerboard to aid intonation.

Interchangeable Support Systems

The self-supporting Tripod stand, conventional End Pin, and full mobility Shoulder Strap systems are interchangeable for all basses and cellos. An optional Balanced Shoulder Rest for violin and viola provides complete support, freeing the players chin and head for enhanced comfort and expression. An adjustable chin rest that conforms to the violinist's body and playing position is also available.



Portability

NS instruments are compact by design and built to withstand the rigors of the road. The padded gig bag accommodates both the instrument and stand, with a storage area inside the gig bag for accessories. An optional hard-shell flight case is also available (standard on violin and viola).

Hand Crafted Quality

Each instrument is hand-made in the Czech Republic to the highest standard by craftsmen steeped in a long tradition of instrument making. All models feature a beautiful flame maple face for the body (and headstock for bass and cello).

For more information on our instruments, dealers, and endorsing artists, please visit our website **or call toll-free.**



Violin & Viola

CR Series

CR Violin

US Pat. # 6,528,710



The heart of the rich, powerful sound of the NS solid-body electric violin is the innovative Polar™ pickup system, available only on NS instruments. The versatile Polar™ pickup responds to bow and pizzicato technique with stunning brilliance and sensitivity. The dual mode preamp, with its separate “electric” and “acoustic” frequency response curves, provides finger tip access to both worlds. The violinist who prefers the elegant tone of a fine acoustic will not be disappointed, and for those who wish to explore new sonic territory, the sky is the limit.

The fretted NS violin responds well to traditional techniques, including a satisfying glissando effect when desired. It also offers a beautifully warm pizzicato with luxurious sustain.

The remarkable new Custom Shoulder Rest features a padded, malleable aluminum base, which can be molded to fit the player comfortably and securely. The ergonomic design includes fully adjustable height and angle, with knobs that are within easy reach. The familiar elements of an acoustic instrument are maintained, including a removable body segment to provide the traditional left-hand position reference. Standard strings, spacing, and scale length facilitate the transition from the acoustic violin. Convenient headphone jack for practice and travel.



Precise and stable tuning is accomplished entirely behind the bridge by the patented NS self-clamping tuning system. The full range tuner, which operates like a conventional fine tuner, eliminates the need for outdated friction tuners, and concentrates the weight of the tuning mechanism back over the shoulder for improved balance. Standard violin strings are automatically clamped securely as they are tuned to pitch. Both 4 and 5 string models are available.

CR Viola

Freedom of expression is the guiding principal behind the NS Viola. Now the violist can shed the constraints of the acoustic instrument, and enjoy full, rich, powerful sound from a smaller sized viola that is very comfortable to play.

The 4-string NS Viola has all the electronic and structural features of the NS Violin, but it is voiced lower, providing a full bass response not possible with an acoustic viola. The violist can set the Polar pickup and dual-mode preamp for a convincing acoustic sound, or create exciting new sounds for bow and pizzicato.

Conventional scale length and string spacing make the NS Viola accessible, yet the small body and lightweight make it easier to play than an acoustic viola. The body reference bout is removable to give the left hand freedom to reach the high register without interference.



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Cello

CR Series

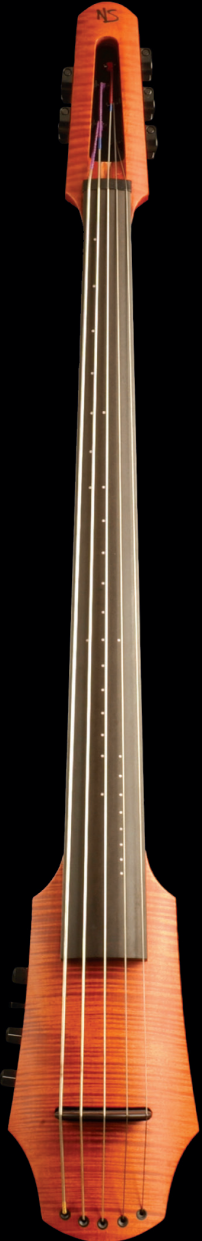
CR Cello

The NS Cello, available with 4, 5, or 6 strings, is able to produce the delicate and precise tones of its acoustic parent as well as create exciting new sounds through the tone shaping geometry of its innovative Polar™ pickup system and dual-mode preamp. The onboard EQ and mixer provide full control of the electronics, so that the brilliant highs and deep lows possible with this remarkable instrument can be tamed to deliver a traditional tone, or set loose to explore new territory.

The use of standard cello strings and scale length establishes a familiar starting point for the cellists' journey to the electric world. A small brass bump on the back of the neck marks the spot where the heel interrupts the neck on a conventional cello, yet allows unfettered access to the entire fingerboard. Discreet dot markers provide a visual reference for accurate intonation. A headphone jack is provided for convenience.

The NS Cello is made from solid rock maple for a rigid, durable, compact structure that is easy to transport. More importantly, the solid body construction eliminates the wolf tones that have caused problems for cellists for centuries, and at the same time controls the feedback problems faced by many players today. An adjustable truss rod in the neck controls fingerboard relief, and string height is adjustable, so it is easy to set up the NS Cello to satisfy individual player preferences. Fully encased 18:1 worm gear tuning hardware insures precise, stable tuning.

A fully adjustable Tripod Stand can be used seated or standing. The optional End Pin Stand provides the traditional cello points of contact and position. The Frame Strap System allows the cellist to stand up with full mobility for a new experience of freedom and expression.



Omni Bass

CR Series

Overview

The NS Omni Bass breaks through conventional barriers by integrating phenomenal acoustic and electric bass tones with the familiar 34 inch bass guitar scale. Four and five string fretless and fretted models use identical fingering to that of the conventional bass guitar, yet deliver dynamic new plucked and bowed sounds for the bassist seeking to extend expressive range. Plucked or bowed, beautifully resonant low end response is the essence of this remarkable new bass instrument.

Features

34 Inch Scale: The 34 inch scale length of the Omni Bass is the same as standard electric bass guitar. Tuned in fourths, the fingering positions and spacing are identical to the bass guitar, and therefore immediately familiar to any bass player. The Omni Bass can also be tuned in fifths.

Arched Fingerboard: The Omni Bass has a highly arched fingerboard and bridge to optimize bow articulation. The high arch on the fingerboard fits the human hand, and combines with the round neck profile for a comfortable and natural feel.

Position Markers: Dots for each semi-tone cascade across the fingerboard, a unique configuration that provides a clear visual fingering reference. Fretted models have conventional bass guitar dot pattern.

Polar™ Pickup System: Natural sounding with deep bass response and brilliant highs, the Polar pickup has two modes of operation: “arco” and “pizzicato”. This allows the player to optimize bowed response, and to control attack and decay characteristics for plucking.

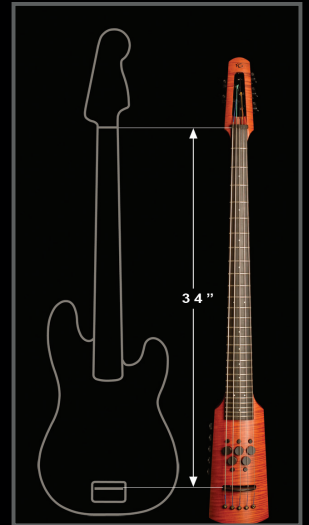
EMG™ Magnetic Pickups: Custom designed EMG low impedance magnetic pickups have a smooth response with lots of sweet midrange for the quintessential “electric” tone.

Active Controls: Two balance controls allow unlimited mixing options for the magnetic and the dual mode Polar Pickup systems. On-board pre-amplification provides master volume, bass and treble controls.

Interchangeable Support Systems: The comfortable Boomerang Strap fits over the shoulder just like a guitar, with adjustable arms that allow the instrument to be placed in virtually any position. The optional self-standing Tripod Stand provides stable support for the instrument. An End Pin Stand is also available.

Strings: Steel, aluminum, tungsten, and bronze are combined to make strings that are unusually responsive, with singing highs and a deep low register. The polished flatwound strings are effortless to play and minimize unwanted finger noise.

Hand Crafted Maple and Ebony: Each instrument is hand-made in the Czech Republic to the highest standard by craftsmen steeped in a long tradition of instrument making.



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Double Bass

CR Series

CR Double Bass

The CR Series electric upright bass, with its exceptional versatility and tone quality, is fast becoming an indispensable tool for the serious bassist. The lean, solid-body CR Series Bass takes its place in a long history of fine instruments crafted in the Czech Republic. Available in 4 and 5 string models, the solid-body CR Series is made from select maple and ebony, for sustain, brilliance of tone, and stability. Standard 106cm acoustic scale length is employed to ensure that fingering will be like a conventional upright. The neck shape is traditional, except that the small body allows unrestricted access to the upper register. The fingerboard is graduated for consistent response from note to note, with cascading dot markers for reference. A truss rod to control neck relief and the adjustable bridge height make it easy to maintain a perfect setup.

The exclusive Polar™ pickup has 2 modes of operation, “arco” and “pizzicato” that may be blended together. The arco mode enhances sensitivity to the bow, and the plucked response is extraordinarily percussive. In the pizz. mode the percussive attack is reduced for a smooth sustained response. When blended together the response is similar to an acoustic upright. Optional EMG magnetic pickups expand the range for a smooth, electric sound.

Three interchangeable support systems are available for the bass: the self-supporting Tripod Stand, End Pin Stand, and Shoulder Strap System for full mobility.

According to Bass Player Magazine, the CR Series “boasts impeccable craftsmanship from a country with a reputation for quality upright bass building, it’s clean aesthetics, excellent playability, and great sound put it ahead of the pack.”



CRT Double Bass

The “traditional” version of the CR Series is set up to satisfy the preferences of the acoustic upright player. Acoustic Helicore Hybrid™ strings by D’Addario, specially designed for NS basses, are standard on both 4 and 5 string CRT models. These deliver a classic upright tone, warm and percussive, with a great response to the bow. A small brass button on the back of the neck provides a tactile reference for the traditional “D Neck” position. Higher string tension and action make it possible to “dig in” like on an acoustic, with reserves of rich sound that can be eased back for a traditional tone, or brought forward for exciting new sounds.

An End Pin Stand is standard equipment with the CRT series. The fully adjustable mono-pod design allows the player to set the instrument in a position like that of an acoustic double bass. The point where the end pin touches the floor can be easily adjusted so that the weight of the instrument is centered over the tip. This balances the instrument leaving both hands free for expressive play. As with all NS Bass models, a Tripod Stand and Strap System are available.



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Double Bass

EU Series

EU Double Bass

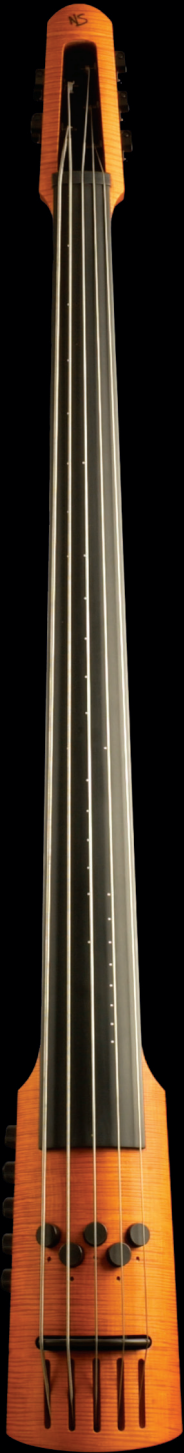
Pat #5,537,906

Our most advanced model, the EU Series Double Bass is made in the Czech Republic to the exact specifications of the original US Series instrument. The revolutionary design is molded with concentric laminations of graphite and rock maple that run the entire length of the instrument for maximum sonic integrity. The maple and graphite hybrid deliver a remarkably warm, sustained, and brilliant tone, with consistent clarity and definition from note to note.

The patented neck is curved inward to follow the arch of the fingerboard, resulting in a slim, easy to play neck with full access to the upper register. The underside of the molded graphite fingerboard is also curved inward to match the arch of the neck, resulting in an extremely stable structure that is not affected by humidity and seasonal change. A dual action truss rod adjusts neck relief to suit different strings and player preference.

All EU Series instruments come equipped with both Polar™ and EMG magnetic pickup systems. With its ability to respond to lateral and vertical vibration separately or both at once, the Polar pickup is uniquely suited to an instrument that is both bowed and plucked. A fabulous bowed response and drum like pizzicato attack are characteristic of the lateral mode, while the sustained pizz. response of the vertical mode creates a new dimension for the upright bass. Magnetic pickups by EMG add a smooth “electric” option to the sound palette. With active bass and treble EQ, and full control of pickup selection, the sound options are virtually unlimited.

Available in 5 and 6 string models, the EU Series Double Bass is in a class of its own, offering the bassist unparalleled performance and tonal quality.



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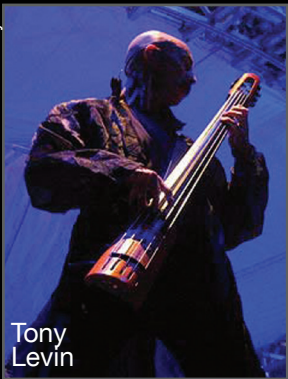
Interchangeable Support Systems

Balanced Shoulder Rest for Violin and Viola (patent pending)

A small counterweight located behind the player's back supports the violin in a stable playing position without the need for additional support from the hand or chin. This design is especially valuable for violinists who use voice in performance, and those who have stress related physical problems. The Balanced Shoulder Rest is fully adjustable to accommodate most body types and playing styles, and can be used with or without a chin rest for relaxed, pain-free expression. The BSR is also available for conventional acoustic violins.



Photo: York Tillyer



Tony
Levin

Boomerang Strap System for Cello, Omni Bass, and Double Bass (patent pending)

Worn over the shoulder like a guitar, the Boomerang Strap incorporates two support arms and a pivoting friction hub that hold the instrument firmly in place, yet allow it to be moved securely into virtually any position to minimize stress and fatigue.



Frame Strap for Cello, Omni Bass, and Double Bass

The NSFrame Strap fits over the shoulder like a guitar strap, yet holds the instrument out from the body in a relatively normal position for bow and pizzicato technique.



Tripod Stand for Cello, Omni Bass, and Double Bass

The heavy duty tripod stand provides complete support. Full height and tilt adjustments allow the player to select the ideal position, seated or standing.



End Pin Stand for Omni Bass and Double Bass

The fully adjustable design allows the player to balance the instrument above the end pin, leaving both hands free for expressive play.



End Pin Stand for Cello

The cello end pin has traditional knee and chest contact points for seated play. The height, knee rest, and instrument angle are adjustable. The stand folds so it fits in the gig bag.

Product Specifications and Options

	CR Violin	CR Viola	CR Cello	CR Omni Bass	CR Double Bass	EU Double Bass
Length	540 mm (21.25")	518 mm (20.4")	94 cm (37")	113 cm (44.5")	132 cm (52")	132 cm (52")
Thickness	65 mm (2 9/16")	72 mm (2.8")	9.5 cm (3.75")	8 cm (3.2")	10 cm (4")	10 cm (4")
Width	110 mm (4 5/16")	118 mm (4.6")	14 cm (5.5")	146 cm (5.75")	15 cm (6")	15 cm (6")
Weight	720 gm (25.5 oz)	775 gm (27.7 oz)	2.5 kg (5.5 lb)	4.8 kg (7.2 lb)	4.8 kg (10.5 lb)	4.8 kg (10.5 lb)
Scale Length	330 mm (13")	366 mm (14.4")	69.5 cm (27.36")	86.4 cm (34")	106 cm (41.73")	106 cm (41.73")
Body / Neck	Solid, straight grain maple with flame maple face on body.					Maple graphite laminate
Fingerboard Truss	Hand-graduated Ebony.		Hand-graduated Ebony. Intonation referenced with cascading dot markers.			Graphite with dot markers.
Rod	None		Single Action			Dual Action
Tuning Hardware	40:1 tuners mounted on the body for precise, stable tuning. Automatic string clamping allows for quick, easy string changes.		Schaller 18:1 ratio, fully-encased worm gear tuners.	Schaller 20:1 ratio, fully-encased worm gear tuners, black finish.		
Polar Pickup	The Polar™ directional piezo pickup system responds selectively to lateral string vibration, for bowing and for the percussive plucked response of a traditional acoustic instrument, or to vertical string vibration, for remarkably even and sustained plucked sound more like a guitar. A switch or blend knob allows the player to choose the desired response.					
Magnetic Pickup	None			Low impedance EMG magnetic pickups, with individually adjustable coils, and neomydium magnets. (Omni Bass, CRM and EU models only)		
Active Electronics and Controls	Dual mode preamp allows the player to choose between the extended frequency response of modern electronics, and active electronics shaping to replicate the frequency response of the traditional violin. Volume, bass and treble EQ, and 3-way switch for Polar pickup / filter selection. Headphone jack.			18-volt rail-to-rail pre-amp for high overhead and low signal to noise ratio. Controls include volume, magnetic pickup blend (for Omni Bass, CR M, and EU), polar pickup blend, and individual bass and treble EQ controls. Low impedance output for full signal transfer with all standard amplifiers.		
Support Systems	A fully adjustable padded Shoulder Rest is standard for violin and viola. An optional counter-weighted Balanced Shoulder Rest provides complete support, eliminating the need for a chin rest. An optional fully Adjustable Chin Rest allows the player to set the tilt and location of the chin and the instrument independently for optimal support and comfort.		<p>Tripod Stand: Black plated steel, fully adjustable, self-standing tripod design. Folds for easy storage and its into gig bag. (standard on CR and EU models, optional on CRT)</p> <p>End Pin Stand: The end pin stand provides a more conventional position and feel for acoustic players (standard on CRT model, optional on CR and EU models)</p> <p>Shoulder Strap Systems: The Boomerang strap allows the instrument to be placed in virtually any position for plucking and bowing. The Frame strap holds the instrument out from the body, providing a more traditional bowing position. Both styles use a single guitar-style shoulder strap for full mobility.</p>			
Cases	Hard Case: Fabric covered hard foam core, 81cm (32") long, 21cm (8.5") wide, 14 cm (5.5") high, 2.7 kg (6 lb) loaded weight. Padded, form fitting interior. Holds 2 bows, shoulder rest, output cable, and extra gear, with lock and key. Flight Case optional.		Gig Bag (standard): Padded nylon 99 cm (40") x 18 cm (7") diameter; 4.6 kg (10 lb) loaded, shoulder strap. Flight Case optional.	Gig Bag (standard): Padded nylon 137cm (48") long; 8.2kg (13 lb) loaded weight, shoulder strap. Flight Case optional.	Gig Bag (standard): Padded nylon 137 cm (54") long; 8.2 kg (18 lb) loaded weight. With handle and shoulder strap. Flight Case optional.	



REDEFINING CLASSIC™

NS Design

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