



Adjusting The Fodera Dual Action Truss Rod

The Fodera Dual Action Truss Rod was designed to ensure that whether your gig finds you in Alaska in January or Nassau in July, your Bass can be adjusted to play the same way it did the day it left our shop.

We make every Fodera out of some of the longest-aged, quality instrument tonewood on the planet. Our wood is as stable as any that you will find. However, it is still wood and changes in temperature and humidity will cause wood to change shape and require some tweaking of your Truss Rod to maintain your instrument's optimal playability.

Whenever your bass experiences significant changes in temperature or humidity, you should check the relief of your bass' neck. A neck can be one of three things – perfectly flat, “bowed” or “back-bowed.” Here at Fodera we generally set up our basses (unless requested to do otherwise) with an almost flat neck (with just a very small hint of bow).

A “bowed” neck refers to a situation where the center of the neck drops away from the strings. An extremely bowed neck will have very high action and require a great deal of effort to fret a note.

A “back bowed neck” refers to the opposite condition – one where the center of the neck arches upwards towards the strings. When this situation occurs, your bass will feel very “sloppy” to play and you will experience fret buzz no matter how lightly the pressure used with your fretting hand.

To properly measure the amount of relief in your neck, we recommend using a capo to hold the strings down at the first position while holding down your lowest string (either the E string or the B string) at the last fret. While doing this, use a feeler gauge to measure the distance between the top of the eighth (8th) fret and the bottom of your lowest string. Use the following as a rough guide...

- Extremely Light Touch / Extremely Low Action: 0.010”
- Medium Touch / Medium Action: 0.020”
- Heavy / Medium-High Action: 0.030”

Key Point: The Fodera Dual Action Truss Rod allows you to properly adjust the neck of your bass in almost any climate condition, however, at certain times of year and/or in extreme weather conditions, you may have to remove the truss rod and turn it upside down in order to adjust your bass' neck optimally.

The first thing you need to do is determine in which position your Fodera Dual Action Truss Rod presently is oriented. Depending on the time of year that your bass was built, your truss rod may be in one of two positions...

1. Begin by locating the Truss Rod Cover.



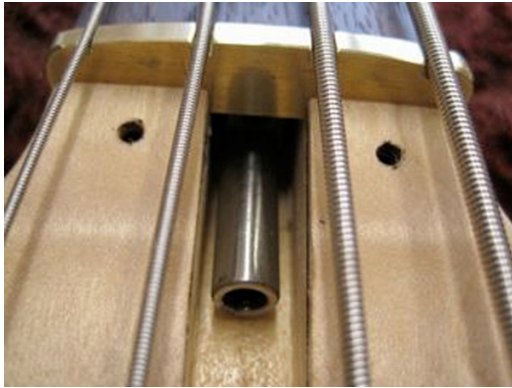
2. Remove the three access screws that secure the Truss Rod Cover. Please note that on our 5 and 6-string bases you may need to detune one or two strings in order to gain access to two of the screws securing the Truss Rod Cover.



3. Remove the Truss Rod Cover. In order to ensure the proper adjustment of your Truss Rod, please remember to retune your bass as soon as you are finished removing the Truss Rod Cover!!

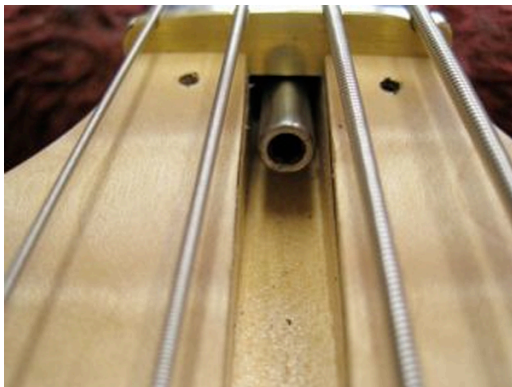


Truss Rod in Normal Position



In this position the Truss Rod works in the same way that most typical truss rods do – turning the nut clockwise will tighten the Truss Rod and decrease relief / bow in the neck thereby moving the strings closer to the fingerboard. Turning the nut counter-clockwise will loosen the Truss Rod and allow the tension of the strings to increase relief / bow in the neck and serve to move the strings further away from the fingerboard.

Truss Rod in Reversed Position



In this position the Truss Rod works in exactly the opposite way as a traditional Truss Rod does. Turning the nut clockwise will again tighten the Truss Rod, but in this position, it will increase relief / bow in the neck and move the strings away from the fingerboard. Turning the Truss Rod Nut counter-clockwise will loosen the Truss Rod and decrease relief / bow in the neck.

Removing and Flipping The Truss Rod

Should you need to remove and flip your Truss Rod in order to obtain optimal adjustment of your instrument's fingerboard, please do the following...

1. Completely loosen the nut using the Truss Rod Adjustment Tool that came with your instrument.



2. Now thread the Truss Rod Remover into the threaded portion at the top of the Truss Rod. You only need to thread the tool 2-3 complete turns.



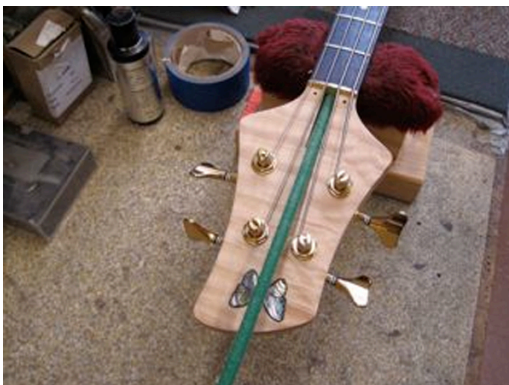
3. Pull the Truss Rod of the channel in the neck.



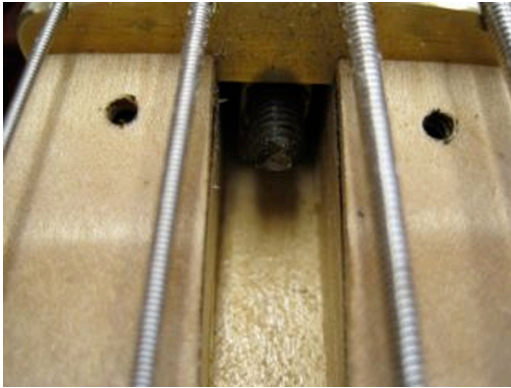
4. Whichever position the Truss Rod was in, flip it over 180 degrees before reinserting it into your bass. In the photos that follow, a Truss Rod that had been in the Normal Position is being flipped to the Reversed Position.



5. Once flipped, reinsert the Truss Rod.



6. Insert the Truss Rod to approximately this depth.



7. Reinstall the nut and adjust the Truss Rod so that it just begins to come under tension. Remember to tune your bass before and between making any adjustments.



8. Allow the bass to settle-in for 24 hours and then make any necessary fine-tuning adjustments. After the fine-tuning adjustments have been made, you can replace the Truss Rod Cover.