



Yoru

GUITARS

CARE & FEEDING GUIDE

Welcome to the family of Hozen owners!

I started Hozen Guitars out of a desire to make exceptional instruments more accessible. I never imagined this would turn into a lifelong dedication to this craft, especially in making the most responsive instruments possible.

You will notice every detail in your instrument has been well thought out – from raw materials, components, and design. Why? We want you to have an instrument that will sound, play, and look far more than what you paid for.

I hope your instrument will inspire you to pursue your passion the same way I am living mine.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "Hozen", with a stylized, cursive font.



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UNFOLDING A LEGACY

My past 18 years in Maestro Guitars shaped me on who I am now as a luthier. Year by year, I discovered new things about building instruments, experienced challenges, and met many players and builders – which all contributed to my approach – pushing boundaries to build better instruments than my previous ones.

The past covid season made me realize that time is limited, and that the future is indeed uncertain. I now see guitarmaking from a new perspective – to spend my days building only the best guitars, as if they were my own to keep, where my limit is bound only by my imagination.

The guitar you are playing now was born from a desire to give my all as though there is no tomorrow – a reflection of my journey as a luthier, a living testament of who I am as a maker.

Thank you for being part of this awesome adventure.

Hozen

HAND-VOICED BY HOZEN

Hozen has studied under the tutelage of Ervin Somogyi one of the most recognised authority on making responsive guitars. The bracing is akin to 'irrigation' used in farming; where bracing transports the vibrations of the soundwaves across the soundboard, much like how water flows in the irrigation channels, creating amazing tone and responsiveness as well as heightened structural integrity.

With Hozen's relentless development and refinement with his time at Maestro Guitars he has modified and perfected the bracing to the point of creating his signature, three-dimensional sound found on the Blue Labels, which he calls the Hozen Lattice Brace. Hozen also experiments with other advanced bracing such as Falcate.

His study of the traditional bracings and deep research lead him to his new Black Label bracings, an ingenious way of creating incredible responsiveness but without the time-consuming process of the Hozen Lattice Brace. Hozen also developed his way of voicing the traditional X brace for his Red labels and makes innovative Carbon Fibre Bridge plates for his Green label Ukuleles.

ERGONOMICS

We believe a Hozen Guitar should be a time-piece. Something that a player will hang onto for life and pass it down to their lineage when the time comes. We believe that in order to help achieve that, we will always make instruments that not only sound incredible, but feel incredible.

The PLEK Set-Up, Soundport, Florentine Cutaway, "Manzer" Wedge and "Laskin" Armrest are the signatures of all Hozen Black and Blue Labels, taking three times longer to build a guitar as compared to one without these options. This provides unrivaled playability and comfort for the player, which are some of the key pillars that makes Hozen Guitars exceptional. The Green label Ukuleles features an "Üchida" style beveled offset cutaway.



TEAM-BUILT

Handvoiced x Ergonomics sounds pretty prohibitive and labor-intensive to handcraft, they are indeed but Hozen believes in his unique “Team Built” process. Hozen wisely delegates various steps of the building process to other members of his incredible team to increase efficiency and reduces the cost of building a guitar significantly, at times more than 400%.

The finish of a Hozen Guitar is done by a Luthier who has 20 years of experience, specializing in the finishing; the neck is done by an expert who only does the necks; the bindings are only done by the binding specialist who knows more about bindings than 99% of Luthiers currently building; Freeing up Hozen’s valuable time to focus on what he does the best: Making the tops with his signature voicing.

This delegation of specialists breeds guitars that not only have incredible, rich and almost other-worldly tone - credited to Hozen’s meticulous and extraordinary experience; but the quality of each individual section and segment is stunning and high-miraculous given that these boutique guitars are completely built and ready at an average of 6 months. This astounding pace and quality assurance is only possible because of the unique operation that Hozen is leading, and Hozen Guitars will continue to produce some of the best guitars in the world for a quarter of the price.

Hozen Guitars combines the dimensions of remarkable tone responsiveness and connects them to the realm of playability and comfort. With this, we believe in the unlimited possibilities of what a player can truly achieve with a Hozen Guitar, with everything an instrument can achieve and nothing to hold them back.



INSTRUMENT CARE

Humidity

Your Hozen Guitar and Ukulele are built in a humidity-controlled workshop with a Relative Humidity of 45% to 55% to ensure it is able to adapt to humidity and climatic changes when proper measures are taken. Ideally, your instrument should be stored within the same RH range to prevent any unwanted effects of extreme humidity conditions. Wood is hygroscopic in nature. The wood in your instrument absorbs or releases moisture depending on the humidity conditions in the environment - this occurs regardless of age, material or build quality and is the cause of wood shrinking or expanding. The effects of exposure to extreme humidity accounts for the majority of instrument repairs. Aside from being costly, the effects of such damages might not be reversible.

Relative Humidity

Relative Humidity is the prevailing degree of moisture held in the atmosphere relative to the temperature. The higher the temperature, the more moisture there is in the atmosphere, and vice versa. Wood absorbs moisture when the RH is high (i.e. the presence of a lot of moisture in the atmosphere). On the other hand, the wood will release moisture when the RH is low due to the lack of moisture in the atmosphere. These humidity changes may cause the wood in your instrument to expand and contract as it releases and absorbs moisture. The initial step in protecting your instrument from humidity-related damages is the use of hygrometers, a tool detecting the humidity level.

The supplied Hozen hardcase is made of wood, one will also need to ensure the humidity of the case is right to prevent humidity spillover to the instrument.



HIGH HUMIDITY CONDITIONS

To protect your instrument from high humidity, you can:

- Store your instrument in an environment where the RH is between 45% to 55%.
- Store your instrument in an ideal, controlled environment (e.g. an air-conditioned room). The air-conditioning unit does not need to be running for the entire day - a few hours a day is sufficient.
- Store your instrument away from wet areas such as bathrooms, piping, and windows.
- Use dehumidifiers to maintain the humidity level in your room at ideal levels. It is worth investing in electric dehumidifiers if your place is very humid.
- Place dehumidifying packs/silica gel/Boveda HA packs with your instrument if you plan to store it in a case for an extended period. Make periodic checks on your instrument to ensure that it is not taking in unwanted moisture/to replace the dehumidifying packs when required.
- Signs of high humidity can be bloating at the bridge area, Sharp(#) open strings, higher action, tarnished frets, rusty strings, lack of tone, glue joints failure on brace and bridge, split middle seam on top etc.
- If your instrument is showing signs that it has absorbed too much moisture, immediately loosen the strings and dehumidify it. If possible, send it to the nearest Dealer or any other guitar technician for dehumidification.



LOW HUMIDITY CONDITIONS

To protect your instrument from low humidity, you can:

- Store your instrument in an environment where the RH is between 45% to 55%.
- Let your instrument acclimatise by keeping it in the case for a few hours if you are transporting it to a place with a very low humidity.
- Store your instrument in an ideal, controlled environment (e.g. an air-conditioned room). The air-conditioning unit does not need to be running for the entire day - a few hours a day is sufficient.
- Place a humidifier (e.g. a Humistat/Boveda Pack) inside your instrument to introduce moisture to it, especially when you are keeping your instrument in a case for an extended period.
- Signs of low humidity includes Low Action, Hump on fretboard at body joint, Sunken tops, Flat Back, Sharp Frets end, plane of neck angle hits above the bridge, wood cracks etc.
- If your instrument is showing signs of extreme dryness, immediately loosen the strings and humidify it. If possible, send it to your nearest Dealer or technician to prevent further structural damage. You can attempt to humidify the guitar with a humidifier and putting the guitar inside your hardcase for 4 days.



CLEANING

Your instrument is protected by an ultra-thin but durable PU finish. The instrument neck is treated with Nitrocellulose matt finish. French Polish to seal off the inside of the body.

Sweat and oil from your hands introduced to your instrument during play affect it in a number of ways - marks and stains are left on the finish in the long run, and the protective coating on strings can be corroded.

Maintain the finish by wiping your instrument down with a Hozen Microfiber Cloth after play. Use a silicone-free wax/naphtha to remove stubborn dirt and marks (avoid using traditional wooden furniture polishes - certain brands contain chemicals thin down the finish).

The Nitrocellulose finish (Matt Finish) on the neck may develop gloss spots over time which can be rubbed away with "OOOOO" steel wool and it doesn't impact playing.

Wiping your fretboard using a Hozen Microfiber Cloth after play to alleviate tarnish of the frets and strings. Your fretboard should be cleaned regularly as well - we recommend using baby/mineral oil for the fretboard itself, and "OOOOO" steel wool for the frets.



STORAGE

Proper storage of instruments is essential to maintain them in pristine condition. Improper storage causes humidity-related problems and/or damage arising from accidents. Take note to store your instrument in the best environment possible. Every Hozen Guitar/Ukulele comes with a custom-made hardcase/polycarbonate case which Hozen has painstaking designed with the case makers. Storing them in cases protects the instrument from accidents but not humidity.

As our founder Hozen says, “The best environment for an instrument is an environment you would be most comfortable in”. No one would choose to be placed in a car boot on a hot afternoon; neither would anyone choose to stay in a room both freezing and bone dry. It stands to reason your instrument would not fare well in such conditions.

In the next page, we have included a few of our guidelines on proper storage of your instrument.





Storage tips:

- Do not store your instrument in a place with extreme temperatures and humidity changes.
- Do not store your instrument near wet areas such as the bathroom, lavatories, and pipings.
- Do not store your instrument near openings that may introduce moisture (such as windows).
- Do not store your instrument under direct sunlight.
- You can opt to display your instrument using a wall hanger that has been properly installed.
- If you need to place your instrument on a stand, use a stand that has neck support and make sure that it will not obstruct walkways. Use stands that are stable and do not easily topple.
- It is recommended that you keep your instrument inside a case, downtune 1/2 to 1 step if you will not use it for an extended period of time. (More than 6 months)
- Even inside a case, your instrument may not be able to withstand strong impact in the event of an accidental drop or fall. Lie the case horizontally to lessen impact in the event such a situation ever occurs.



SETUP & ACTION

PLEK Setup:

For consistent and ultimate playability, your guitar/ukulele's action has been adjusted using our state of art PLEK machine from Germany and they should play right out of the box. In the event your playing style may require some adjustments for the neck relief (The curvature on the neck), it can be easily done with the truss-rod adjustable wrench available from Hozen Guitars. (Complimentary wrenches are available upon warranty registration) Please refer to the video on restringing to adjust your relief. In the event you need help, we would be happy to guide you along via a video chat however your local dealer is the best person to look for.

While action and playability goes beyond the terms of warranty, we would be happy to give you a free PLEK scan when you choose to visit us with your Hozen instrument at our Singapore Hozen Experience Centre (HEC). With the scan we would be able to advise you the changes to your fretboard since your instrument left our workshop and if any adjustments is required.

HOW TO CHANGE STRINGS



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观看换弦视频与了解更多信息



String Change and Truss Rod
Adjustment Video



When to change strings:

Ensure that your instrument sounds its best by changing your strings every 1-3 months, depending on how often you play your instrument. Changing your strings regularly will help alleviate intonation problems and buzzing. Blue/Red/Black Label instruments are strung with Elixir Nanoweb Phosphor Bronze Light 0.012/0.013-0.053. Our crossover guitars and ukuleles are strung with Aquila ALCHEMIA and SUGAR strings respectively.

WARRANTY & SERVICING

Warranty Coverage

One Year - Parts (tuning hardware, pickguard, plating, bridge, electric components) and labour

Limited lifetime - Structural failure on Top, back, sides and neck not subjected to Humidity/Impact damage

At Hozen Guitars, we take pride in our workmanship and guarantee our instruments against defects in materials and workmanship from the date of purchase for the lifetime of the original owner and as long as Hozen remains as an active luthier.

Register your instrument online at:
www.hozenguitars.com/warranty





Warranty Exceptions

Wear from normal use, improper string gauge usage; damage that results from abuse, neglect, accident, or from exposure of the guitar to extreme temperature or humidity conditions; settling of the finish (considered as “normal use”); setup, action and tone or anything that is considered a matter of personal preference. Unauthorized repairs or alterations will void this warranty. Hardware not manufactured by Hozen Guitars is warranted to the original manufacturer.

We had taken every possible step to ensure our wood is stable and build our instruments in a proper humidity controlled environment. Over 95% of the repairs we undertake are resulted from humidity damage, we cannot stress the importance of ensuring the right humidity for your beloved instrument.

Shipping and insurance charges to and from the authorized repair facility are the responsibility of the customer. Shipping damages are not our responsibility and insurance should be undertaken. This warranty will take the place of any other warranty, expressed or implied. You may have other rights under local law. In cases where repair or servicing is contracted out to a third-party, Hozen Guitars will not reimburse any of the cost of the work done.

WARRANTY CLAIMS & REPAIRS

Contact an Authorized Hozen Guitars Dealer you purchased your instrument from or send us an email regarding your warranty issue and attach your proof of purchase. Our technician will inform you or your dealer on further instructions and recommendations on how to service your instrument.

If possible always keep the original box for shipping purpose.

If you are in Singapore, you can send your instrument to:

HOZEN GUITARS
9 Kaki Bukit Road 2 #04-34
Singapore 417842



PLAYERS WANTED

Passion drove us to where we are today. Throughout the years we are privilege to meet artists that are not only talented but are also passionately living their dream. We are very honored that through our instruments, we get to be a part of their amazing journey.

We would love to get in touch with you.

Ping us at ask@hozenguitars.com and let us weave our stories together.



www.hozenguitars.com

ask@hozenguitars.com

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