

Quick Tips for MSA Pedal Steel Guitars

Setting up your guitar

- Remove the two front legs (the non-adjustable legs) from your MSA leg bag. Screw these into the front leg holes (holes furthest from you with the guitar in the case).
- Remove rear legs from the MSA leg bag. Screw these into rear leg holes.
- Remove pedal bar from the case and clamp onto the front legs – with pedals toward you and pedals facing downward.
- Take the pedal rods from the leg bag and snap onto each pedal adjuster, with the slotted end at the guitar and the closed end at the pedal. There are no numbers on the pedal rods as the pedal height is adjusted on the guitar, not on the pedal rod. These adjustments can be made after you are in playing position behind the guitar. The guitar is now ready to take out of the case and start playing!
- Once you are sitting at the guitar, simply adjust the height of any floor pedal by turning its adjuster to raise or lower it. All knee and vertical levers are also adjustable with thumbscrews.

Plugging in

- Now that you have gotten your new MSA set up, you are ready to plug into your favorite volume pedal, amplifier and/or effects processor. Refer to the equipment's owners manual for proper connections. Typically, it is a cord from the MSA guitar to the input of the volume pedal - then a cord from the output of the volume pedal to the input of the amplifier.

How to tune

- Your new MSA has an all-pull changer system. This means that you tune the open strings with the tuning key on the guitar. Once you have the guitar in tune with the open pitch, you then start tuning the pedals. Example: The "A" pedal raises the 5th & 10th strings. These are whole tone raises. This pedal, when engaged, will be tuned with the nylon hex tuners at the end of the guitar. Raises and lowers are tuned the same way. If you prefer, use a tuning chart for even or just tempered tuning.

Specialty tuning

- Half stops, when installed, will normally be on the second string on the E9th neck. The second string lowers from an E1 to a C9. Approximately half way thru the travel, you should feel the half stop that is tunable by a nylon tuner. A red jewel identifies this nylon tuner, usually located at the 9th string tuning location. After you have tuned the whole tone lower and the half stop, you may then tune the 9th string half tone lower. Tune this by adjusting the setscrew in the end of the neck. A hex wrench has been provided in the tool kit. You have now successfully tuned your 2nd string lower, its half stop and the 9th string lower.
- Split tuning can be a very valuable tool on your new MSA. Every guitar has split tuner screws installed for each string puller, making it possible to split tune any string. Typically when split tuning is used, the 6th string (G9) is split on the E9th neck. The G9 to A floor pedal is split with the G9 to F9 knee lever. This gives a "G" note that would not normally be there.
 1. Tune the open strings first.
 2. Engage the pedal that raises the string a half tone then tune by using the nylon tuner.
 3. With the pedal held down, engage the knee lever that lowers the 6th string a whole tone. Tune the G note with the nylon tuner that tunes the 6th string lower. This is the split.
 4. Release all the pedals. Re-engage the knee lever that lowers the 6th string. Tune the 6th string whole tone lower with the corresponding setscrew in the end of the neck.

- Tuning compensators. Some players like to have the optional tuning compensators on various strings; most commonly on the F9s on the E9th. These are tuned at the right end of the guitar with nylon hex tuners. Simply tune the string open by the way you want to hear it. Engage the corresponding pedal and tune it to your ear's contentment with that pedal.

General maintenance

- Many types of cleaners are safe for use on your new MSA. We recommend using Simi Chrome on the aluminum. Any automotive-grade polish may be used on the painted finish.

Lubrication

- Lubrication is very important. Use a lightweight machine oil e.g. Zoom Spout Oiler (Turbine Oil) by Blue Lake Products. DO NOT USE WD40 (or any spray-on lubrication product).
 1. Lube all moving parts with a couple of drops of oil about every three months.
 2. Approximately every six months, apply a small amount of white or clear grease to ball joints on pedal adjusters and pedals.

Thank you for choosing MSA. If there is any subject not covered or you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 214-388-0461.

We are raising the BAR!

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