

Yamaha Acoustic Guitar Craftsmanship part 5

From Japan to the World

Final procedures such as fret leveling, bridge attachment, and inspection are carried out with uncompromising precision. These steps are essential to ensuring the guitar meets the exacting quality standards of Yamaha. It is during this final stage that the craftsmanship, materials, and meticulous attention to detail culminate in a finished guitar worthy of the Yamaha name.

HAMAMATSU

Assembly

The final setup is where we fine-tune the guitar's playability. Among the many steps involved, we will introduce three key adjustments that play a particularly crucial role.

Fret Leveling

Once the frets are installed on the fingerboard, we move on to a meticulous process known as fret leveling. Each fret is **carefully adjusted to ensure uniform height across the board**. Uneven frets can cause poor playability or fret buzz, making this a delicate but vital procedure.

Attaching the Bridge

Attaching the bridge is a high-skill task that demands absolute accuracy. **Even a slight misalignment can throw off the pitch, requiring the entire guitar-making process to start over.**

To achieve optimal sound transmission from the strings to the soundboard, we use hard wood with high density and strength. **Pressure is applied to the bridge with exacting accuracy using jigs custom-designed to suit the needs of each specific model.**



Nut and Saddle Installation

The installation of the nut and saddle is essential for transferring string vibrations efficiently to the body of the guitar. These components play a key role in unlocking the full potential of the instrument. We use materials such as **natural bone and TUSQ (synthetic bone)** for their hardness and smooth surface properties.

Since each guitar has subtle individual differences, ultra-precise adjustments are made to match each instrument perfectly. These tasks require deep expertise and are performed by seasoned luthiers who have inherited their craft through years of experience and training.



Final Inspection Before Shipping

Though inspections are conducted at every stage of production, each guitar undergoes a **rigorous final quality check** before it leaves the factory. This comprehensive inspection covers dozens of checkpoints—including string height, neck relief, measurements, sound quality, and electronic components—to ensure every guitar meets Yamaha's exacting standards.



Inspecting the neck alignment



Inspecting the string height



Inspecting string alignment over the fingerboard

Once cleared, each guitar is carefully packed into a custom-designed case that perfectly fits Yamaha's unique body shapes, protecting the instrument from shocks during transportation.