The #305-J tailpiece is a CNC machined part with a hinged cover that snaps closed into to “rattle damper” O-rings. The tailpiece is a Bill James design and is available in a patina-finished silver (not nickel) or gold plating. The three screw holes are designed to align with the holes used with a standard Gibson-type stamped tailpiece, and the end-pin hole is machined in an oblong shape to allow alignment and conformance to the location of the original end pin.

The tailpiece kit includes: the tailpiece assembly, four O-rings, and three wood screws.

**New installation:**

1) Place the instrument on a padded surface.

2) Lay the tailpiece on the mandolin’s rim and ensure that the tailpiece is positioned on the centerline of the soundboard.

3) Carefully mark the three screw holes with a pencil. Using a 5/64” drill, carefully drill the pilot holes for the three screws. Drill all the way through the rim and tailblock.

4) Attach the tailpiece. To avoid causing burrs on the head of the screws, ensure that you are using a flat screwdriver whose head fits snugly into the slots of the wood screws. Work carefully so that the screwdriver does not slip and marr the mandolin or the tailpiece.

5) Check the angle of the tailpiece. The lower lid of the tailpiece must be in a straight line to the top of the bridge saddle. If it is positioned too high or too low, it can be carefully bent to the proper shape by placing the string attaching platform of the tailpiece (i.e. lid is open) in a vise with protected jaws, and applying pressure to rear support so that the tailpiece bends at the rounded slot under the lid. (See arrow in Fig 2.) Do not bend these parts while the tailpiece is attached to the mandolin.

6) Mark the position of the end-pin. Remove the tailpiece and use a drill bit that is the same size as the narrow end of your end-pin. Ream or file the hole to the diameter and shape of the end pin. Reassemble the tailpiece and insert the end pin. (The end pin should be a tight slip-fit and does not get hammered in place.)

7) Insert two O-rings (the other two O-rings in the kit are spares). Install one E string and one G string to hold the O-rings in place. Fig. 3.

8) Install the remainder of the strings. Apply a light smear of vaseline to the O-rings to make it easier to snap the lid into the O-rings.

**Replacement installation:**

1) Place instrument on padded surface. Remove the old tailpiece. Ensure that the screw holes of the new tailpiece align properly. If not, plug the original holes with wood dowels and re-drill them following the “New installation” instructions to the left. Attach tailpiece.

2) Re-insert the end pin. Re-string the instrument following steps #7 and #8 above.