



A perfectly set up fretboard should have all frets “square” (level) with each other. Our #845 Fret Levelling Gauge is used to check for frets that are either too high or too low. In addition, the levelling gauge helps to check for necks with a “bow” (high center) or “hollow” (low center), and for squaring necks during truss rod adjustment.

The #845 Fret Levelling Gauge is a hardened steel bar ground to within .002” squareness to ensure accurate evaluation of the fretting surface.

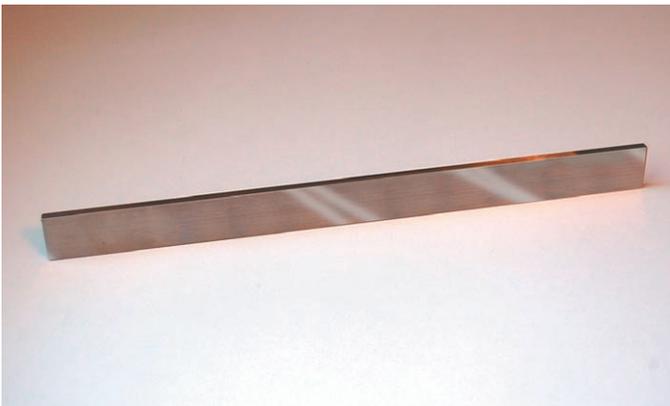


Fig. 1

Instructions:

Squaring the fretboard:

When preparing a new fretboard, or squaring the surface of a fretboard being re-fretted, place the Fret Levelling Gauge on the surface of the fretboard as shown in Fig. 2 and hold the instrument so that the light will show between the Gauge and fretboard. Scrape or sand any high spots until no light is visible between the Gauge and the fretboard. Be sure to check the fretboard all the way across, from treble side to bass side

Checking for high or low frets:

During the fretting or re-fretting process, place the Fret Levelling Gauge on the frets. You will be able to feel the Gauge rocking on high frets, and you will be able to see light between any low frets and the edge of the Gauge. Correct frets as necessary.



Fig. 2

Sometimes it is difficult to determine which fret the Gauge is rocking on. In this case, you can also slide the Gauge along the frets and note where the end of the Gauge hits a high fret. Be sure to check high frets across the entire width of the fretboard, from treble side to bass side. It is possible that the fret is only high on one side and does not need to be lowered along its entire length.

Squaring the neck:

Neck warpage (bending) is common due to the continuous string tension acting to bend the neck such that there is a “hollow” or low spot in the center of the neck. Ideally, the neck should be absolutely straight (“square”).

If the instrument is fitted with a properly-working truss rod, a correction in the hollow should be a rather straight forward process. The neck should be strung up to pitch (Fig. 2) so that it is measured in its normal playing state.

A hollow is typically corrected by tightening the truss rod. If the neck is stubborn and does not want to change alignment, it may be helpful to slacken the strings and pull back slightly on the neck at the peghead while tightening the truss rod nut. Bring the strings back up to pitch and check the fretboard flatness with the Gauge.