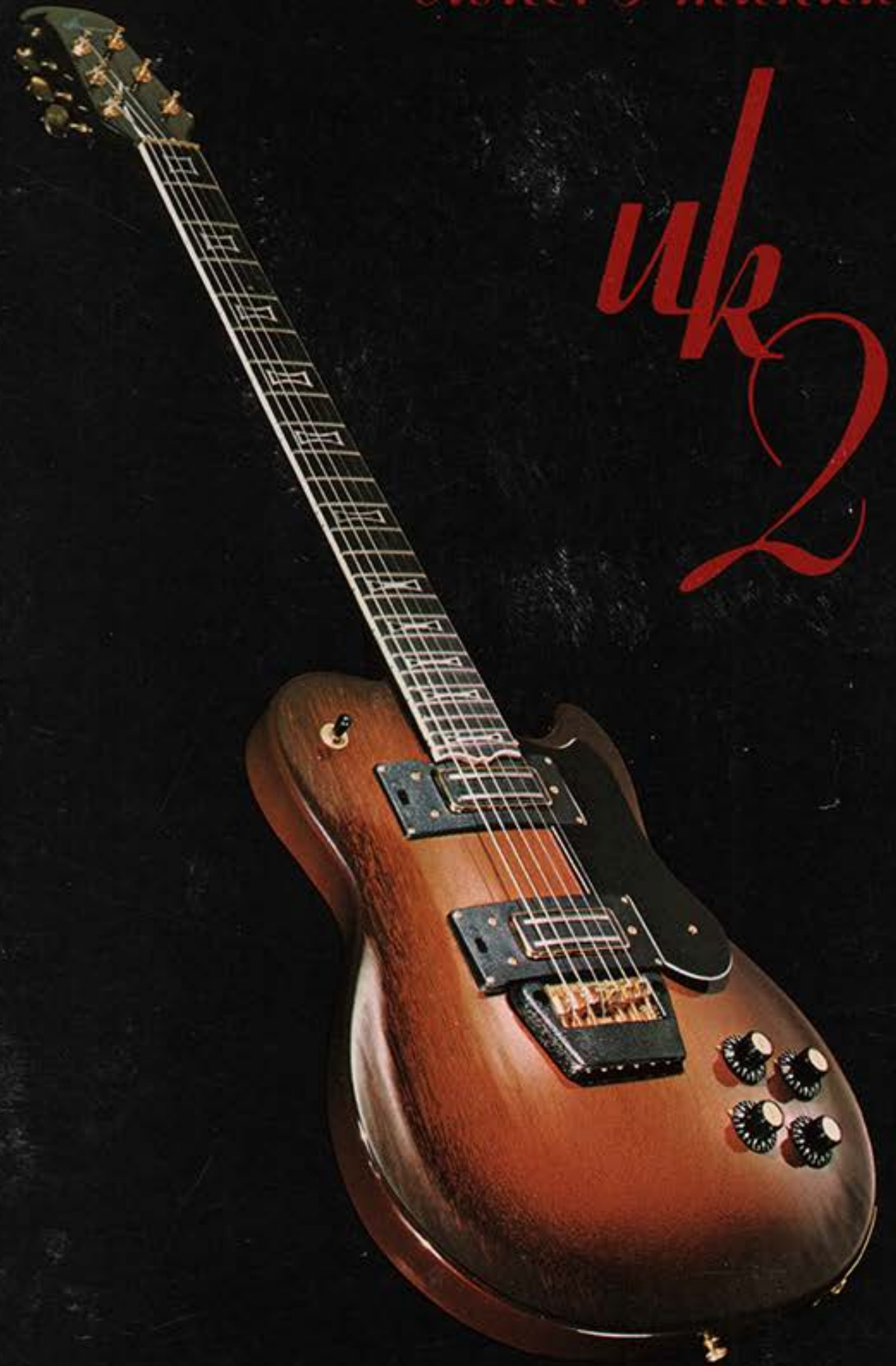


owner's manual

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The Guitar you've been listening for



Ovation

INSTRUMENTS INC.

BLOOMFIELD, CONNECTICUT

A KAMAN COMPANY



We introduce the UK II to you with pride and anticipation.

... Pride in an instrument that is the result of years of dedicated work and research in electronics and musical form.

... Anticipation of your immediate surprise and appreciation of the quality and versatility of its sound, and your growing respect for its ability to enable you to meet, and transcend your musical commitment.

Refining a proven design.

Twenty years ago the humbucking pickup was introduced to electric guitars, instituting a major improvement in sound. Its fuller, thicker tone and ample cutting power at high volume surpassed the previous single coil designs with less hum. Since then, this richer humbucking tone has become the recognized sound of today and the trademark of a whole new generation of electric guitarists.

Now, twenty years later, Ovation has refined the humbucking theory, achieving a new pickup that preserves all the tonal qualities of the original design, but has a noise level a full 20 db quieter than previously achieved.

Three significant features of Ovation's humbucking bar magnet make it ideal for today's music. First, the pole piece bar design, allowing constant interaction between string

and pickup, gives an even output, so that no volume is lost in string-bending. Second, because the alnico magnet is at the base of the pickup, the steel poles can be closer to the strings, resulting in a hotter signal, without faulty overtones. Third, Ovation has determined the number of turns in copper wire needed to produce high output, and the coils are wound to these specifications. By wrapping the coils in opposite directions, Ovation has produced a more responsive, quieter pickup. The entire pickup assembly is then housed in a chrome-plated, German silver pickup casing. Equipped with these features, the UK II pickup is well-suited for on-stage, high-volume performance.

Engineered for sound versatility.

Each of the UK II's electronic components is designed to produce an instrument capable of delivering the widest possible tonal range.

The two double-coil, humbucking bar pickups have separate volume and tone controls. Both are shock-mounted on rubber bushings to dampen unwanted vibration. The trimount system allows for height and tilt adjustment of each pickup. The height should be adjusted according to volume and tone requirements: if stronger treble response is desired, set the pickups closer to the treble strings. If more volume overall is required adjust both sides of the pickup.

To determine pickup height, measure the distance between the top of the pickup magnet and the bottom of the bass or treble E string when the string is fretted at the 24th fret. The standard factory setting for both bridges and fingerboard pickups is 2/32" bass and treble.

Each pickup is equipped with specially-tapered volume and tone pots for balanced functioning. Most important to your music, the UK II's volume and tone output levels correspond precisely to the numbers on the knobs.

The volume controls are located on the lower bout of the guitar. The knobs are graduated from 0 to 10, with volume increasing as the knobs are turned clockwise to 10. At the 10 setting, you get maximum, distortion-free volume. With two volume controls, you can preset pickup volume and use the pickup selector switch to change quickly from lead to rhythm volume. Volume requirements vary widely, but we recommend that you set the volume (and tone) controls for each of the pickups in the following manner:

1. Set the fingerboard pickup volume at 3 or 4. The tone control should be set for suitable rhythm tone.
2. Set the amplifier's volume and tone to the appropriate levels for the acoustics of the room.

3. These settings will allow considerable variation in volume and tone during performance by simply adjusting the guitar's controls.

The UK II tone controls, located directly below the volume controls, are also graduated from 0 to 10. When set at 10, either pickup has the greatest amount of treble response. When the control is turned counterclockwise toward 0, treble response diminishes or "rolls off," and the tone approaches maximum bass.

The three-position selector switch is located in the upper-left hand bout of the guitar. It allows you to change from front to back pickup, or both. The following instructions assume the guitar is being held in normal playing position:

1. In the up position, the neck pickup is active, the bridge inactive. This is usually the "rhythm" position.
2. In the middle position, both pickups are active. This position will produce the fullest sound.
3. In the down position, the bridge pickup is active, the neck pickup inactive. This is usually the "lead" position.

When the stereo output is in use, the selector switch should be used to change the output from channel one to channel two of a

single amplifier, and from one amplifier to the other when two mono amps are used.

The UK II features two Series Parallel Selector switches (SPS), which enable you to produce the double coil, humbucking sound (series), or the bright, single coil sound (parallel).

There is an SPS switch above each pickup. When the switches are in the rear position towards the bridge, the pickup coils are wired in parallel, producing a high-end, treble response identified with single coil pickups. When the switches are in the forward position towards the neck, the coils are wired in series, producing a warmer, humbucking sound.

By varying positions of the SPS switches, the selector switch, and the volume and tone controls, you will be able to maintain the quality of sound you desire, while achieving the specific type of sound your style demands.

The UK II offers both mono and stereo output jacks, located at the edge of the guitar at the lower bout. The "mono" jack accepts any standard cord with a 1/4" phone plug. Both the fingerboard and the bridge pickup will operate when a mono chord is plugged into this jack.

The "stereo" jack accepts any 1/4" stereo phone plug; the one supplied with this guitar is a Y-connector style. Plug the two mono cord ends into the amplifier(s), and insert the

single plug ends into the stereo output jack on the guitar.

The stereo feature was included primarily so that the guitar could be plugged into two separate channels of a single amplifier. By using both channels of one amp, it is possible to attain striking tonal contrasts between the pickups. For example, the bridge pickup can be set at high volume with a biting, treble tone, while the fingerboard pickup can be set with a contrasting bass tone. By using the stereo feature in this manner, you can broaden the effective tonal range of the guitar without having to make adjustments to your amplifier during a performance.

The UK II may also be plugged into two separate mono amplifiers. When used in this manner, the stereo output splits fingerboard pickup response and bridge pickup response for a full, expansive sound. When the pickup selector switch is in the forward position, the fingerboard pickup will play through one of the amplifiers. Similarly, the bridge pickup will play through the other amplifier when the selector switch is in the rear position. The guitar will play through both amps at once only when both pickups are being used (selector switch in the center position).

Recognizing your need for comfort.

While playing previous guitars for any

length of time, you may have been hampered and distracted by the sheer weight of the instrument hanging from your neck.

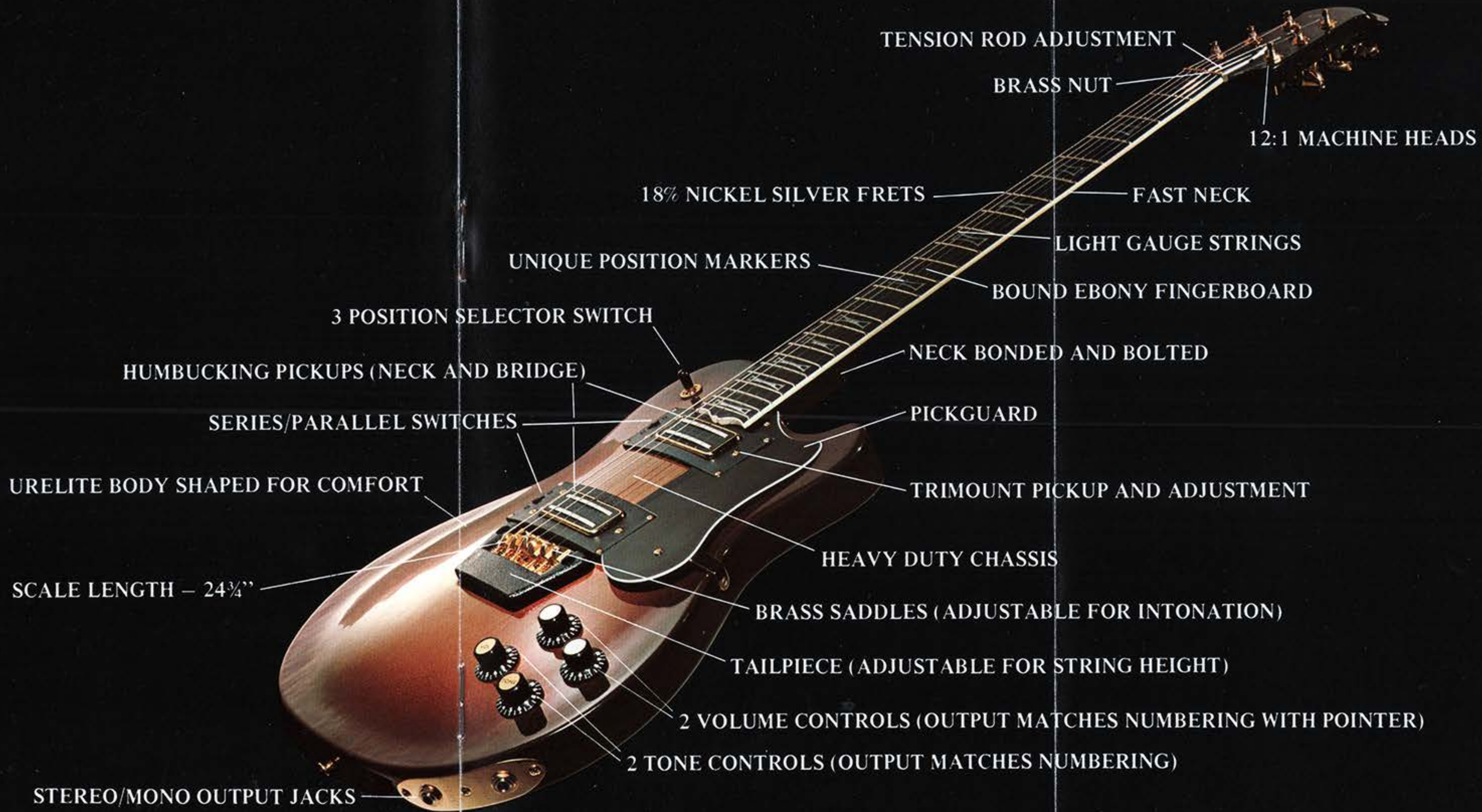
Ovation has recognized this problem with conventional solid bodies, and applying aerospace technology, arrived at a way to eliminate excess weight.

The body of the UK II is molded from Urelite, a high-density urethane that is both tough and light, offering you an instrument appreciably more comfortable to play. The lighter weight of the instrument is balanced, so it will not drag down at the neck or the lower bout. Arched on both top and back, the body is a pleasure to hold.

With the heel rounded and a full cutaway on the treble side and the bass side slightly cut away, you will find easy access to the high frets. The neck is wide enough for clean fingering, but thin enough for fast runs. Binding on the edge of the fretboard will keep the fret edges solidly in place.

The UK II's sound accessory features mentioned earlier—the pickup selector switch, the SPS switches and the volume and tone controls—are all located within range of your normal play stroke, so they can be adjusted without interrupting your music.

The serial number on the rear bearing plate is recessed to provide a smooth back surface. Strap knobs are positioned for comfortable



TENSION ROD ADJUSTMENT

BRASS NUT

12:1 MACHINE HEADS

18% NICKEL SILVER FRETS

FAST NECK

LIGHT GAUGE STRINGS

UNIQUE POSITION MARKERS

BOUND EBONY FINGERBOARD

3 POSITION SELECTOR SWITCH

NECK BONDED AND BOLTED

HUMBUCKING PICKUPS (NECK AND BRIDGE)

PICKGUARD

SERIES/PARALLEL SWITCHES

TRIMOUNT PICKUP AND ADJUSTMENT

URELITE BODY SHAPED FOR COMFORT

HEAVY DUTY CHASSIS

SCALE LENGTH - 24 3/4"

BRASS SADDLES (ADJUSTABLE FOR INTONATION)

TAILPIECE (ADJUSTABLE FOR STRING HEIGHT)

2 VOLUME CONTROLS (OUTPUT MATCHES NUMBERING WITH POINTER)

2 TONE CONTROLS (OUTPUT MATCHES NUMBERING)

STEREO/MONO OUTPUT JACKS

balance of the guitar when you are standing.

You'll discover a whole new sense of physical ease when playing your UK II.

... and durability

Ovation also recognized your need for a durable guitar that can absorb day-to-day wear and abuse when traveling. The UK II's Urelite body is molded over a rugged aluminum frame, which acts as a substructure, joining the bridge and neck together. It also provides an excellent shielded cavity for the pickups. The body is finished with a high-luster polyester that will not crack due to temperature and humidity changes.

Tailpiece

To give the UK II maximum sustain, the tailpiece features six individually adjustable solid brass saddles. Perfect intonation is possible with any type of string set through individual screw adjustments. As it leaves the factory, the UK II has been adjusted for Ovation 2E electric guitar strings. If you continue to use this, or similar string sets, no intonation adjustment should be necessary.

To adjust for intonation, play the harmonic directly above the 12th fret: touch the string lightly with the left hand while picking the string. Let the harmonic ring for a few seconds, then play the note at the 12th fret. Although there will always be a slight difference in the character of the two tones, they

should be at the same pitch. If their pitch sounds the same, no adjustment is required.

If the fretted note is flat, adjust the intonation by turning the appropriate screw at the end of the tailpiece counterclockwise. This will move the saddle toward the bridge pickup. If the fretted note sounds sharp, turn the screw clockwise to move the saddle farther from the bridge pickup.

NOTE: Bend the string after fretting at the 12th fret to determine if the note is sharp or flat. A note that is flat will come up to pitch of the harmonic; a sharp note will sound sharper than the harmonic.

Action Adjustment

Action is measured as the distance between the top of the 12th fret and the bottom of the string being measured. By adjusting the two recessed screws at either side of the tailpiece, the UK II can be set for any desired action. If the adjustment screws are turned clockwise one turn, the action will be lowered 1/64". Counterclockwise rotation raises the tailpiece.

Your action setting will be determined in part by the string set you use. Standard action for Ovation 2E strings is 5/64" bass E string, 4/64" treble E string.

A tension rod adjustment will change the action. Therefore, do not set the action until the tension rod adjustment is correct.

There is a screw recessed in the back surface of the UK II body, which adjusts the angle of the tailpiece. Most action settings can be made without any adjustment. But if an adjustment is desired, counterclockwise movement of the screw will raise the rear edge of the tailpiece; clockwise movement of the screw lowers the rear edge of the tailpiece. Adjustment of this screw can alter intonation settings.

String Replacement

The frequency of string replacement will depend on your playing habits. Generally, strings should be replaced about every month to insure good tone and intonation. We recommend that you replace the strings on your UK II with Ovation strings.

At the tailpiece

Before removing the old strings, look closely to see how they have been threaded through the tailpiece. Make a slight bend at the end of the string to facilitate threading. Then, carefully thread the string through the tailpiece and over the saddle.

At the peghead

After the string has been threaded through the tailpiece, make a 90° angle bend 1-1/2" past the appropriate tuning peg post at the peghead. Insert the string into the hole in the post so that the bend fits snugly into the post, and the free end of the string points away

from the center of the peghead.

With one hand, hold the string tightly in its slot in the nut. With the other hand, turn the tuning key until there is tension on the string. By convention, strings should always wrap onto the tuning peg posts from the center of the peghead.

For ease of restringing, it is recommended that you replace the outside strings first and work toward the middle strings. After all the strings have been replaced, trim the string ends 1/8" from the turning peg posts. The guitar may then be tuned to pitch.

Standard Pitch

The UK II has been designed to perform best when tuned to standard pitch. The guitar may be tuned to itself at any pitch level, but for standard reference with most keyboard, wind and other instruments, the following frequencies should be used:

6th string, bass E	82.4 cycles per second
5th string, A	110.0 cycles per second
4th string, D	146.8 cycles per second
3rd string, G	196.0 cycles per second
2nd string, B	246.9 cycles per second
1st string, treble E	329.6 cycles per second

The above frequencies are based on A-440. This reference point may be varied somewhat according to the preference of the player.

Standard Tuning

There are several ways to tune a guitar, depending on the music to be played. Standard tuning means simply that the open strings on the guitar are tuned to the frequencies shown above.

Using a guitar pitchpipe, electronic Ovation Tuner, or tuning fork, tune the bass E string to 82.4 cycles per second. The other strings on the guitar may then be tuned in the following manner:

1. Tune the open A, 5th string, to the 6th string fretted at the fifth fret.
2. Tune the open D, 4th string, to the 5th string fretted at the fifth fret.
3. Tune the open G, 3rd string, to the 4th string fretted at the fifth fret.
4. Tune the open B, 2nd string, to the 3rd string fretted at the fourth fret.
5. Tune the open treble E, 1st string, to the 2nd string fretted at the fifth fret.

String Chart

Ovation String Set	Description	Playing Characteristics
1E	Extra Extra Light Gauge Nickel Wound	Extremely light action for easy bending. Plain 3rd string.
2E	Extra Light Gauge Nickel Wound	Most popular gauge. Easy bending, plain 3rd string. Factory installed on Ovation solid bodies.

3E	Light Gauge Nickel Wound	Solid tone for rhythm or lead playing, plain 3rd string. Holds tuning longer than lighter gauges.
5E	Light Gauge Flat Wound	Easy action with no string noise. Warmer tone for jazz players. Wound 3rd string.
6E	Medium Gauge Flat Wound	Flat wound with wound 3rd string. Stiffer action for better volume and tone. Ideal for rhythm or jazz players.
3C	Monel Steel	Acoustic guitar feel and action.

Neck Construction

The UK II features a solid Honduras mahogany neck with an adjustable steel tension rod. For playing comfort, the back of the neck has an asymmetrical configuration that conforms to the shape of your hand in the playing position. To give the instrument extra sustain, the UK II neck has been bolted and bonded to the body.

CAUTION: The UK II neck has been bonded to the body. Neck removal should not be attempted. To maintain the validity of your Warranty, your repairman should be instructed to contact the Ovation Service Department Manager for complete details on removal, repair and re-installation of the UK II neck.

Tension Rod Adjustments

Extreme changes in humidity can cause the neck of any guitar to bow or warp enough to need correction. The UK II has a steel tension rod to counter the effects of string tension on the neck, as well as to correct a bowed or warped condition. The adjustment is made at the peghead with the nut hidden beneath the rod cover.

This procedure is recommended to help you decide if adjustment is needed, and if so, how to make the correction properly.

With the guitar in tune,

1. Fret the bass E string at the first and seventeenth frets, using both hands. The string and the fifth fret should not touch or be more than 1/32" (.032) apart. Check the treble E string in the same manner. If the string touches the fifth fret you have a bowed condition that needs correcting because the strings will buzz when the first few frets are played. The other extreme, excess clearance indicates warping, which must also be corrected since the intonation and the action will be difficult and unpleasant.
2. Either condition is corrected by removing the rod cover from the peghead and using a 1/4" hex nut driver

on the tension rod nut. To correct for a bowed condition (no clearance at the 5th fret) loosen the nut by turning counterclockwise. With a warped condition the nut is tightened clockwise.

It is to your advantage to double check the distance between the string and the fifth fret several times. This is a delicate and important adjustment. Don't overdo the adjustments. If you are in doubt, or the amount to be corrected appears excessive or uneven (possible twist), please consult your Ovation dealer.

It is also recommended that you visit your dealer within 90 days of purchase, at which time he will make this check and any necessary adjustments.

Maintaining Your UK II— protecting your investment

Ovation believes that you gained a competitive edge over your peers when you bought your UK II. It takes a bit of thought and some effort to insure your guitar will continue to operate at peak efficiency thus protecting your investment, and maintaining that competitive edge.

A regular cleaning procedure will keep the instrument free of dust and foreign matter that can impair its efficiency. It is especially important to clean the tuning machines, fingerboard and strings after every playing. Ovation Guitar Polish and Polishing Cloths

will preserve the appearance and playability of your instrument.

Ovation offers a thermoplastic compression-molded case that is form-fitted and plush-lined to protect your guitar. We recommend that you purchase the appropriate case and use it to store and transport your guitar. The Ovation case is heat, moisture and impact resistant: it affords the best possible protection for your instrument.

Service

Your Ovation dealer or Authorized Service Centers can handle most service problems that might be encountered with your guitar. If you require factory service, write to:

Service Department Manager
Ovation Instruments Inc.
Greenwoods Road
New Hartford, CT 06057
Tel. (203) 379-7575

For your own use, we recommend that you record the following information before returning your Registration Card:

Model Number _____ Serial Number _____

Date of Purchase _____

Dealer _____ Price _____