

kmguitars

neck finishing and fitting to body

Safety. Wear eye protection.

Installing the neck, should be a straight forward task, masking tape at the back of the neck pocket, find centre line, mask and centre line neck plate, align the two centre lines.



mark the centre of holes through neck plate , check the marks are square. Its difficult to get the neck and body into a drill press, so drilling holes by hand is the only answer. Clamp down neck and



body to give you room for hand drill. Centre punch holes, so the drill bit does not wander, check depth of screw and mark drill bit with masking tape or drill stop. I use a wood 4mm drill bit, which gives the screw, room the cut some thread in neck pocket as well as in the neck heel. Take it slow and keep the drill and bit vertical. The first time you tighten in the screws, I apply a small amount of washing up liquid to the thread, just to give it a bit of lubrication.

Safety. Wear a mask.

The neck is already prepared to 600 grit, normally I would go to 1200 grit to make the neck as smooth as possible. Use the palm of your hand and follow the contour of the neck and sand in the direction of the grain. On the flat areas of the headstock I use a small piece of wood wrapped in 1200 wet n dry. When the neck is smooth we need to mask off the fret board ready to apply our



finish.

Safety. WELL VENTITATED AREA, correct mask for spraying, eye protection
Wipe the neck with the tak cloth to remove all dust particals. To spray the neck with lacquer, with a light first coat, cover the front and sides of the headstock, lay the neck on support blocks under fret board. This allows you in long easy strokes to cover the back of the neck. Allow the first coat to become tacky and cover again in a heavier coat. Unless there problems to sand out I do not spray the neck with any more lacquer, when hardened and dry the neck feels smooth and slippery.

Safety. Wear eye protection.

To fit the tuning heads, place a strip of masking tape along the line the securing screws will follow. Install one tuning head to the furthest hole with a set square align the tuning head square with edge of head stock(see photo).



Mark on the masking tape the position of the securing screw hole, repeat process for other end hole. Joint the two securing hole marks, this should give you perfectly aligned tuning heads. If possible use a bench pillar drill to drill holes, I use a 1mm drill bit for screw depth and a 2mm drill bit one third depth to start the screw off. Be careful not to drill right through the headstock, it means a lot more work if you do. Take a break and have a cup of tea.

Safety. Wear gloves

Installing the nut, I use wood glue for the nut, if anything goes wrong and you have to replace the nut, it is easy to break the wood glue seal. Clean the nut slot and nut with white spirit, small amount of wood glue onto nut and push in aligning at edges. Clamp in position and clean off any wood glue squeezed from the slot, leave or a couple of hours to dry.