

FRETLIGHT[®] GUITAR



Owner's Manual

FG-400 Series

Table of Contents

- 3** Introduction
- 4** Software Installation
- 5** Connection Tips
- 7** Getting Started
- 8** Fretlight Neck & System
- 9** Truss Rod Adjustment
- 10** Customer FAQ
- 11** Service Note
- 12** Customer Care
- 13** Fretlight Limited Warranty

Introduction

Thank you for purchasing a Fretlight® guitar. Please take a few minutes to read this manual so you can better understand and enjoy your Fretlight guitar. You are a valued customer and we thank you for your support. Remember, when not using your Fretlight, please unplug your Fretlight from your computer.

Your Fretlight guitar includes the following items:

Fretlight owner's manual



Fretlight software disk (data DVD)



10 ft.
Fretlight-to-USB
cable



Whammy bar for
tremolo bridge
(if applicable)



Truss rod and bridge
saddle wrenches
(if applicable)



Software Installation

PC Installation:

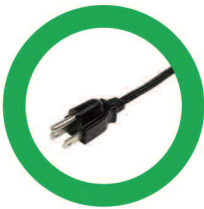
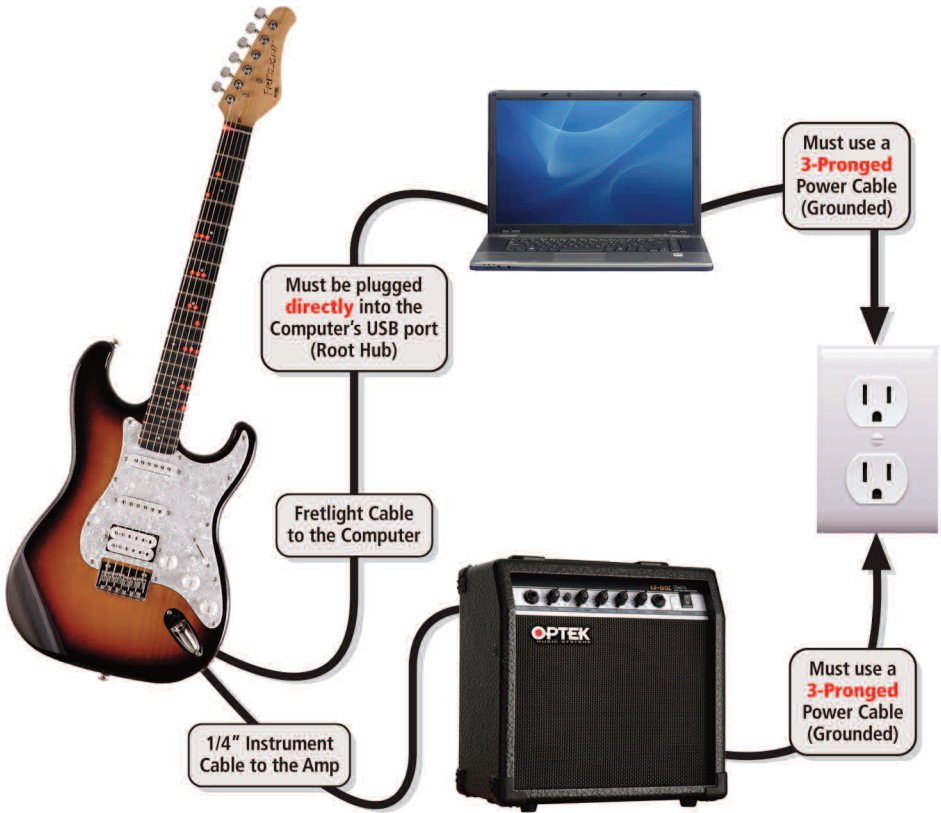
- Step 1** Insert the Fretlight software disk into your computer. A menu screen will pop up with various menu options. Click to select the Fretlight Studio software.
- Step 2** Connect the Fretlight-to-USB cable to your guitar and your computer. **NOTE:** The ¼" female jack located on the USB end of your cable is for connection to the optional Fretlight dual footswitch.
- Step 3** Launch the Fretlight Studio software on your desktop by double-clicking the Fretlight Studio icon.

That's it! Simply select a menu option and begin learning.

Mac Installation:

- Step 1** Insert the included Fretlight software disk into your computer. Browse the disk and install Mac designated programs.
- Step 2** Connect the Fretlight-to-USB cable to your guitar and your computer. **NOTE:** The ¼" female jack located on the USB end of your cable is for connection to the optional Fretlight dual footswitch.
- Step 3** Launch any of the Fretlight software programs on your computer and start jamming.

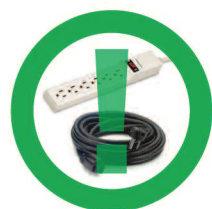
Connection Tips



3-Prong Cable



2-Prong Cable and 3-to-2 Adapter



Power Strips and Extension Chords

Connection Tips (Continued)

DO:

- When your computer is connected to a power outlet, make sure it has a grounded three-prong plug. Most computers come standard with grounded power supplies and cables.
- If you have a laptop, you can certainly use it without connecting it to a power supply, thereby running it off its internal battery.
- Make sure that the Fretlight-to-USB cable is plugged into a root USB hub on your computer. That is likely one of the USB ports on the back of a desktop computer.
- Make sure that you are plugging into a wall outlet that is grounded—in other words, has three prongs as shown at left.

DON'T:

- Do not use a two-prong plug or a 3-to-2 adapter plug.
- Do not use a two-pronged wall outlet—only use a three-pronged, grounded wall outlet.
- Do not use an external USB hub. The Fretlight must be connected directly to the root hub of your computer.

CAUTION:

- Try not to use power strips or extension cords as they WILL introduce extra noise into the system. For best results, connect your system as shown at left.
- Make sure that you're using a shielded guitar cable. There is a difference when it comes to extraneous noise introduced into the system. We recommend using a name brand cable.

Getting Started

Beginner Players

Now that your Fretlight is connected to your computer, you're ready to start playing. We encourage you to jump right in and try a video riff or demo song (PC only) or a try playing one of the demo songs (Mac).

PC Users

Launch Fretlight Studio software and choose the option that says **Start Playing Now**. The Fretlight Player will open and you will see some demo video riffs in the window on the right. Double-click on one to open it and watch as your Fretlight lights up in time with the video. Don't worry if it's too fast, you can slow the tempo down to a speed that is comfortable for you.

You'll also see a folder in that window titled **Free Demo Songs**. Double-click the folder and you see some demo songs. Double-click one of the songs and again, you'll see the magic start to happen on your Fretlight.

Mac Users

Launch the M-Player software. The built-in demo songs are located in the Demo Song menu. Choose a song and you're ready to rock. If you've purchased one or more songs from our Fretlight Store, then you'll need to click the up-arrow button on the left side of the song title window. A standard Mac file navigation box will open. Navigate to where you have saved or downloaded your purchased songs and click Open. Start jamming!

Intermediate & Advanced Players

A good place to begin is to practice soloing over one of the 129 built-in progressions in Fretlight Studio.

PC Users

Launch the Fretlight Studio software and choose the **Improvise a Solo** option. The Fretlight Improviser application will open. Click the up-arrow button on the left side of the song title/progression title window. A standard Windows file navigation box will open. The built-in progressions are located in the program files/Fretlight Studio/improviser/FLI files folder. Navigate to the folder above, select a song and start jamming!

Mac Users

Launch the Improviser software and choose **Open**. The Fretlight Improviser auto locates your (.fli) files. Simply select a file and start jamming!

*** See each programs help file for more information on software operation.*

Fretlight Neck & System

The 8-Pin DIN Fretlight Jack



Your Fretlight guitar has what looks like a MIDI jack mounted in the body. This is NOT a 5-pin MIDI jack. This is an 8-pin DIN plug. The data and power transmitted over this connection is proprietary to Optek Music Systems, Inc. Please do not try to plug a MIDI cable or MIDI plug into this jack or try to send any MIDI information to your Fretlight neck. Doing so will result in severe damage to your Fretlight guitar system and will VOID the warranty.

Your Fretlight Guitar Neck

Your Fretlight neck has a circuit board in between Optek's advanced polymer fretboard and maple neck. If you ever need to remove the neck from the body, you will need to re-attach the internal cable with the GREEN wire on the left, oriented as you look down the neck to the headstock.

Optional Fretlight Dual Footswitch

Integrating the optional Fretlight dual-footswitch gives you hands-free control of your Fretlight software. Simply plug the ¼" male jack from the footswitch into the ¼" female jack on your Fretlight-to-USB cable.



Cleaning Your Fretboard

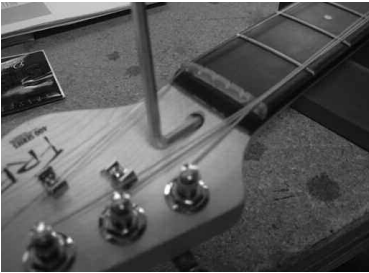
The advanced polymer fretboard acts and behaves like a normal rosewood or ebony fingerboard in many ways except, for example, cleaning and/or sanding. Please only use a dry or damp cloth (water only) to clean any finger oil or residue from your Fretlight fretboard. DO NOT use any solvents, oils, or fluids other than water at anytime. Doing so will VOID the warranty. If you want to blend any fingernail scratches that may occur naturally over usage and time, we strongly recommend lightly sanding your fretboard with a scotch-brite pad, or some fine steel wool-hand sanding only. If you use a powered sander or sanding device on your Fretlight, you will VOID the warranty.

Because the fretboard is a polymer material, you may never experience any fret migration and, for the most part, your Fretlight neck is going to remain more straight and true than most all other wood fingerboard necks. The inert dense polymer material will also provide your tone with an increase in the natural sustain of the guitar.

Truss Rod Adjustment

Your Fretlight guitar is fitted with a two-way adjustable truss rod that is accessible at the headstock.

Two-way truss rods allow you to adjust the neck into a back-bow or upward-bow aka "relief".



1. Start by sighting down the length of the neck. Looking from the base of the body to the headstock to see if the neck has a back-bow or upward-bow ("relief").
2. If you see a back-bow, you will need to turn the truss rod *counter-clockwise*. If you see too much "relief" or upward-bow, you'll need to turn the truss rod *clockwise*.
3. Before actually turning the truss rod, loosen the strings.
4. While turning the truss rod you will not be able to do a full circle but will make $\frac{1}{4}$ turns. We suggest three to four, $\frac{1}{4}$ turns so that you can then tighten the strings and take another look.

Special Note

The two-way truss rod has a period of neutrality from being bowed in either direction. When adjusting the truss rod nut (that you are turning) may feel loose like it is stripped or just turning freely-don't worry. After 4 to 5, $\frac{1}{4}$ turns the nut will "catch" and you will begin to feel tension again.

Remember

There is no exact amount of perfect "relief". The relief on your guitar neck will depend on what gauge strings you have and what kind of action you like as a player as well as playing style. When it feels comfortable stop adjusting.

Being careful and taking your time when performing this procedure will produce the best results. If you don't feel confident in performing this procedure you can have a guitar technician do so. Any local guitar shop should have a guitar technician available.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: I broke a string; what do I do now?

A: You will have to purchase another string, they are usually sold in a set of six. Your local guitar store should have strings or you can purchase a set from us at www.store.fretlight.com.

Q: What does the Optional Fretlight Dual Footswitch do?

A: It allows a player to have hands free operation of Fretlight software functions. **Note:** The optional Fretlight footswitch is not functional with **Fretlight Lesson Player**.

Q: How do I operate my Optional Fretlight Dual Footswitch?

A: You will need to set the action/function for the two footswitch selectors in each of the program's options or settings menu. To perform this action, begin by choosing the action you wish the footswitch to perform and step on the footswitch selection you wish to assign to that action. If the footswitch is not responding, rotate the cable where the 1/4" cable connects to the USB Y connection while testing the foot pedal.

Important Service Note for Guitar Technicians

Two-Way Truss Rod Adjustment

If you are performing a set-up or adjustment on a Fretlight please understand that every FG-400 series guitar has a two-way truss rod. Turning the truss-rod performs the following action:

1. Clockwise-turning the truss rod in a clockwise direction will induce the neck to form a back bow.
2. Counter Clockwise-turning the truss rod counter clockwise will induce a forward or "upward" bow.

NOTE: When turning the truss rod from back bow to forward bow (or vice versa) please realize that the truss rod will go slack. It will turn freely, as if it is loose or stripped. After 4 to 5 more quarter turns of the truss rod it will "catch" and begin to tighten and bow the neck in the opposite direction.

Other Set-Up Concerns

A Fretlight is a normal guitar in every way except for the polymer fretboard and cable running from the neck to the back of the body. You can remove the Fretlight cable from the neck if needed by pulling it straight out from the neck.

To re-insert the cable, make sure the GREEN wire is on the left, oriented as you look down the neck to the headstock. Please only use water to clean any finger oil or residue from the fretboard. DO NOT use any solvents, oils, or fluids other than water at anytime. If you have any other questions regarding the Fretlight you are working on please feel free to contact Customer Support at 800.575.6511.

Customer Care

Please feel free to contact us at anytime we appreciate your feedback!

Email

Product Support: support@fretlight.com

Sales and Service: info@fretlight.com

Live Chat

www.fretlight.com

Phone

1.800.575.6511

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. PST, Monday thru Friday



Don't forget to visit www.fretlight.com to download the free Fretlight Video Riff of the week! A new classic riff or chord progression is posted weekly.

One Year Limited Warranty

Optek Music Systems, Inc. (herein "Optek") warrants this product as stated below:

One Year Limited Warranty

Except as provided below, Optek warrants this product against defects in workmanship and/or materials for a term of one year from the receipt of product. Upon receipt of notice within the warranty period, Optek will, at its option, repair or replace the defective part or parts at no charge to the purchaser exclusive of this warranty.

Exclusions

The above warranty does not cover maintenance or replacement of parts coincidental to the intended use of this product, including but not limited to replacement of guitar strings and or neck adjustment.

Obtaining Warranty Service

To obtain warranty service, notice must be given within the warranty period. Proof of assignment must be presented. The product, bearing its serial number, must be returned to Optek or its designated repair facility once Return Authorization is provided to the customer by Optek. The purchaser shall prepay shipping charges for the product returned for warranty service and Optek shall pay for return of the product to the customer. The purchaser or his or her assigns shall pay all shipping charges, duties, and taxes for products returned to Optek from locations outside the United States of America.

Warranty Limitations

Optek makes no other warranty, either expressed or implied, with respect to this product. Optek specifically disclaims the implied warranties for merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. Some states or provinces do not allow limitations on the duration of an implied warranty, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. However, any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness is limited to the one year duration of this warranty.

Exclusive Remedies

Repair or replacements as provided under this warranty are the purchaser's sole exclusive remedies. In no event shall Optek be liable for any direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages, weather based on contract, tort, or any other legal theory. Some states or provinces do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation may not apply. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which may vary from state to state, or province to province.

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