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REPLACEMENT NECK FITTING INSTRUCTIONS.

Please read carefully before starting work.

If you are unsure of your ability to complete the fitting of this replacement neck please refer the task to a qualified guitar repairperson or technician. Status Graphite cannot be held responsible for any damage to the original instrument or the replacement neck no matter how it is caused.

To ensure you get the best out of your instrument we have a direct factory fitting and set-up service available for all models. Call or e-mail on the above numbers to make arrangements.

In the unlikely event of discovering an original manufacturing fault, as the original owner you are fully covered by our Status Graphite Limited Lifetime Warranty. However, this does not cover damage to either the neck or your original instrument caused accidentally or through neglect or misuse. It also does not cover general wear and tear of frets etc. All Status Graphite replacement necks are designed to be direct replacements for original fitment on standard 34" scale Fender and Musicman style instruments and are compatible with 3, 4 or 6 screw neck fixing.

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTION BEFORE STARTING.

It may take a few minutes to read through but it will be worth it...you only have to fit this neck once and it is worth getting it right first time!

Please note : As the lacquer on the neck is very hard, all drilled holes should be countersunk to prevent the lacquer from lifting or cracking when a screw is inserted.

1. Prepare your work surface: A large soft towel will help prevent scratching the instrument.
2. Remove strings.
3. Remove the neck fixing screws and carefully remove the original neck. Be careful as some necks can become slightly "stuck" in the neck-box.
4. Check the fit of the replacement neck. The Status neck has been designed to fit into most regular basses without any modification. It should be a comfortable fit...do not try to force the neck into the neck-box if it is tight. You will need to make the neck-box slightly bigger if necessary.
5. Hold the Status neck in the neck-box (make sure it is lined-up with the edge of the neck-box) and use a drill that fits smoothly through the hole in the body : (normally about 5mm / 3/16"). This is only to mark the lacquer on the heel of the neck
Do not drill the holes at this stage....just mark the lacquer.
6. Next... Lay the neck down and remove the tuners and the string tree from the original neck.
7. Remove the tuner bushes (if fitted) by pressing / tapping from the rear of the headstock. Be very careful as the wood and lacquer on the front face may be fragile.
8. If using conventional tuners with a push-in front bush, the tuner bushes should fit comfortably into the pre-machined holes in the headstock. These holes will have been machined to 17.4mm / 11/16" which should suit all standard tuners. It is possible that your bass may have either non-standard tuners or bushes which are slightly larger or smaller than standard...it may be necessary to carefully sand the hole larger if it is tight or wrap a layer of tape around the bush if it is loose. Do not force the bush into the hole if it is too tight. Once the correct size is established, add a little glue to the inside of the hole and press the bush in so that the knurl of the bush is lightly glued. Rubber solution is OK as we are only looking to hold the bush in place. Leave the glue to harden.

9. Carefully insert the tuners, making sure the hole is clear, and line them up square to the edge of the headstock. To keep them in line while the screw holes are drilled I suggest placing a piece of tape along all the butterfly tuner keys, taping them together, to stop them from twisting.
10. Select a drill to suit the size of the tuner fixing screw. **Please note** : as graphite is much harder than wood it will be necessary to use a drill that has a slightly larger diameter than you would normally use when drilling wood. Do not force the screw if it is tight as it may snap. Get the drill size right on one screw hole before drilling all of them. (Do not forget to countersink all holes before trying screws) Fit all the tuners.
11. Next, drill the previously marked neck fixing holes.

PLEASE NOTE: It is only necessary for the neck fixing screw to reach about 12mm (1/2") into the heel of the graphite neck. Make sure the drill is not too long so it will not be forced against the underside of the graphite moulding or fingerboard.

The diameter of the drill is critical the same principles apply as with the tuner holes.....the drill will need to be a slightly larger diameter than you would use on a wooden neck. Try one hole before drilling all of them. You could carefully fit the neck with just one screw to check the alignment between the bridge and the edge of the neck with a straight-edge or long ruler. Be careful as the neck / body fixing will not be too strong with one screw.

PLEASE NOTE: as the graphite moulding has a lighter core material, the drill will only cut through about 6mm/ ¼" of the outer graphite. It will then be very easy for the drill to push into the core material. Do not apply any pressure once the drill has cut through the outer shell. Do not forget to countersink all holes before trying screws. Fit the neck to the body.

12. Fit the strings and tune to pitch. Do not worry about the height of the top-nut at this stage.
13. Check the relief in the fingerboard.....To do this press the string down behind the first fret and after the last fret. There should be a slight gap between the string and the 8th fret of between 0.5mm and 1.0mm. The size of the neck bow depends on your own playing style, preferred string gauge and action required.

To adjust the truss-rod, insert the 4mm Allen key.

Turn clockwise to bow the neck back and anti-clockwise to bow the neck forward.

14. Each neck is designed as a direct replacement but it is possible you may need to shim the neck / body angle if the string playing action seems too high. If so, slacken the strings and carefully remove the neck fixing screws. Insert a strip of thin card or sandpaper across the neck-box at the base of the neck. When the neck is re-fitted this will have the effect of angling the neck back slightly away from the body. (This 'neck-shimming' procedure has been common practice when fitting bolt-on necks and is simply used to set the neck/body angle). Replace the strings and tune to pitch....re-adjust neck shim if necessary. Adjust the individual bridge heights to give a reasonable playing action.....do not worry about getting it perfect yet.
15. Check the string height between the top-nut and the 1st fret. The top-nut has been pre-cut to allow a small amount of final setting up if necessary. File the slots in the top-nut to allow for a comfortable playing action without buzzing on the first fret. Please note : Be careful not to cut the slots too deep. You can always trim it again at a later date once the neck has "settled in" but it is really difficult to replace the top-nut if it is too low.
16. It's final adjustment time.....check the action intonation of each string and adjust where necessary. The truss-rod may need a final tweak.
17. Start playing and discover all the un-heard clarity and dynamics that have been locked up in your instrument for so long.

Over time and after some playing the neck will settle down and may need some fine adjustment. Enjoy.

Rob Green.