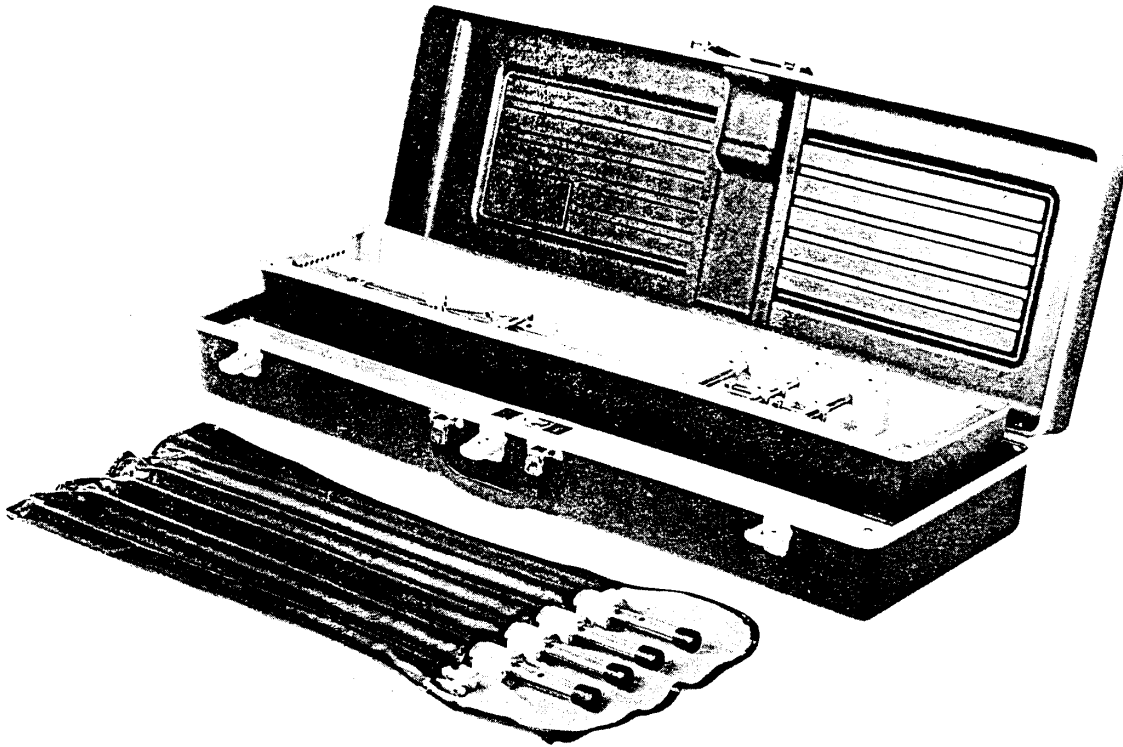


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MSA SIDEKICK STEEL GUITAR

The MSA Sidekick is carried in a single custom molded case designed for maximum protection with a minimum weight. The guitar fits upside down into the bottom of the case with the pedal bar along side the guitar. The legs and rods are carried in a protective bag which is also carried in the case.

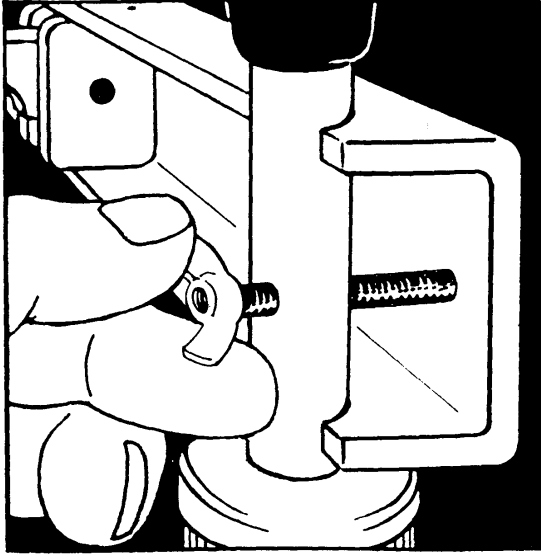


Fig. #2

A. Set up and Removal From Case

1. Remove the leg bag and pedal bag from the case, remove the legs from the bag, and screw the legs into the frame of the guitar. Note the front legs (or pedal bar legs) go toward the back of the case.

2. Place the pedal bar at the bottom of the front legs, fitting the notch portion of the bar to the legs and bolt through the front legs. Tighten the wing nut on each leg, securing the pedal bar to the front legs. See figure 2.

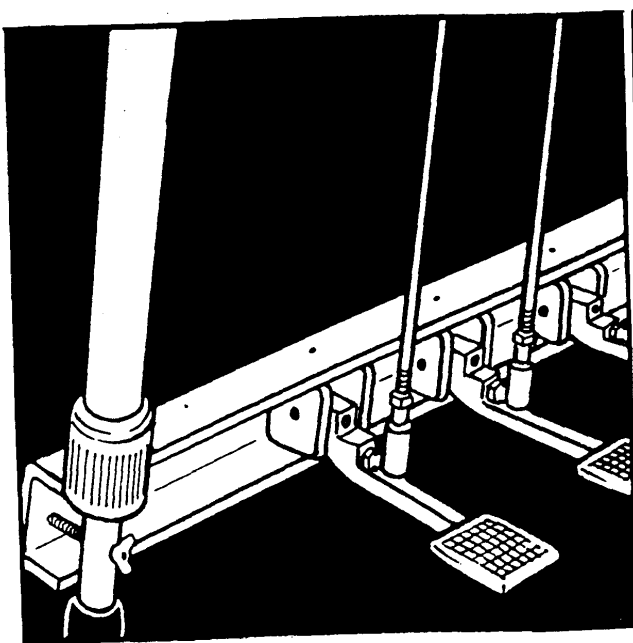


Fig. #3

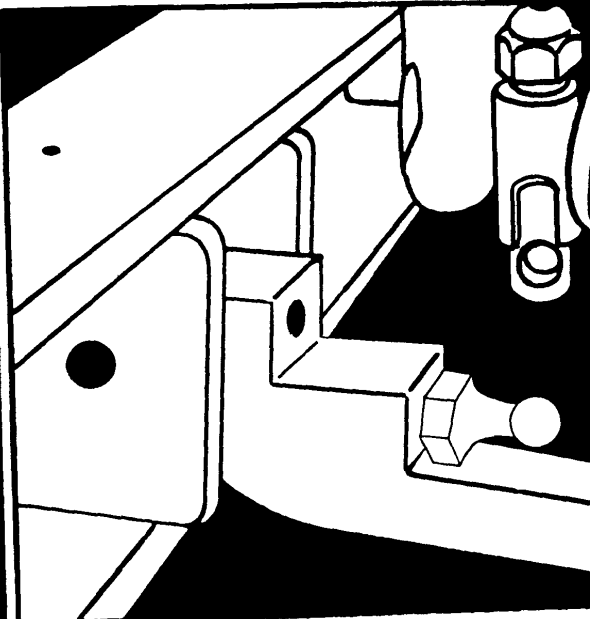


Fig. #4

3. Remove the pedal pull rods from the bag, noting that each rod has a number on its side. Starting with the pedal farthest to your right as you face the guitar and with the rod marked #1, hook the rod in the first pull link on the right and extend the rod up toward the first pedal on your right. (Note pedal pull rod connection and safety spring lock for connecting the pedal pull rod to the pedal). See figure 4. Simply pull the spring loaded safety lock down, then place the hole in the end of the rod over the nipple on the pedal, releasing the safety spring lock. Push on the pedal to see that you have completed the train. Repeat this operation for each of the pedals, keeping in mind the rods are numbered with the lowest numbered rod on your right.
4. Raise the knee lever to an upright position. At this point, the guitar is still in the case with the legs and pedal rods attached.
5. To remove the guitar from the case, pick up by its legs turning the guitar right side up with front of guitar closest to player.

B. Tuning Your MSA Sidekick

Your new MSA Sidekick has been set up and adjusted at the factory to operate at standard concert pitch (A - 440). As with any pedal steel guitar, it is important for proper operation that the instrument be kept tuned to the standard concert scale. It is also important that as strings break or become dead, they should be replaced with the same gauge string as is recommended by the tuning chart. Before attempting to tune the Sidekick, the player should thoroughly familiarize himself with the standard E9th tuning setup as given by the tuning chart on page 10.

DETAILED TUNING PROCEDURE:

1. Tune the 4th string (E) to standard pitch using a pitch-pipe, piano, organ, or some other reference at or near standard pitch.
2. Tune the preliminary open tuning of all other strings as indicated by the tuning chart based on the standard pitch of the 4th string (E).

3. Tune pedal number 1 (on the left) by holding the pedal down and tuning the RAISED pitch of the 5th and 10th strings using the tuning pegs. Release pedal number 1 and retune the open pitch of strings 5 and 10 by turning the stop screws at the bridge end of the guitar using the tuning wrench provided. See figure 5.
4. Tune pedal number 2 (strings 3 and 6) using the same procedure as for pedal number 1.
5. To tune pedal number 3 (strings 4 and 5) this procedure MUST be followed since string no. 4 both raises and lowers. Tune the RAISED pitch of string no. 5 by adjusting the pedal stop screw under the guitar using the wrench provided. See figure 7. Tune the RAISED pitch of string no. 4 using the tuning peg.

Release pedal no. 3 and retune the open pitch of string no. 4 by turning the knee lever return stop thumb screw under the guitar. See figure 6. The open pitch of string no. 5 has already been tuned. The

other stop screw at the knee lever is for limiting the overtravel of the knee lever.

6. Tune the knee lever by pushing it to the right and holding it against the stop and tuning the LOWERED pitch of the 4th and 8th strings by tuning the stop screws at the bridge end of the guitar using the tuning wrench provided. See figure 5. It will be noticed that as the knee lever is depressed, the 3rd pedal will raise slightly. This is normal.

GENERAL RULES FOR TUNING SIDEKICK

1. The pedals raise string pitch.
2. The knee lever lowers string pitch.
3. Strings that do not pull are tuned using the tuning pegs.
4. Strings that raise ONLY are tuned to the raise using the tuning pegs. The relaxed or open pitch of these strings is tuned by the stop screws at the bridge end of the guitar.
5. Strings that lower ONLY are tuned to the open pitch using the tuning pegs. These strings are tuned to the LOWERED pitch by the stop screws at the bridge end of the guitar.
6. Strings that raise AND lower (normally 4th string E only) are tuned to the raised pitch using the tuning pegs and to the lowered pitch using the stop screws at the bridge end of the guitar. The middle-tone (or open pitch) of the string is tuned by the knee lever return stop thumb screw.

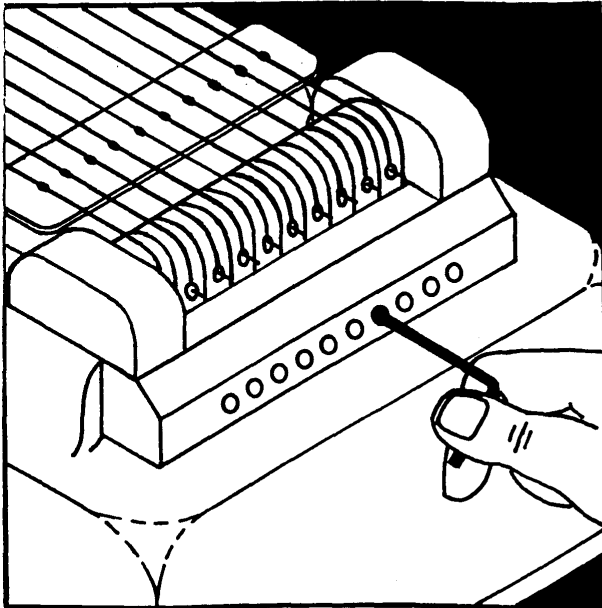


Fig. #5

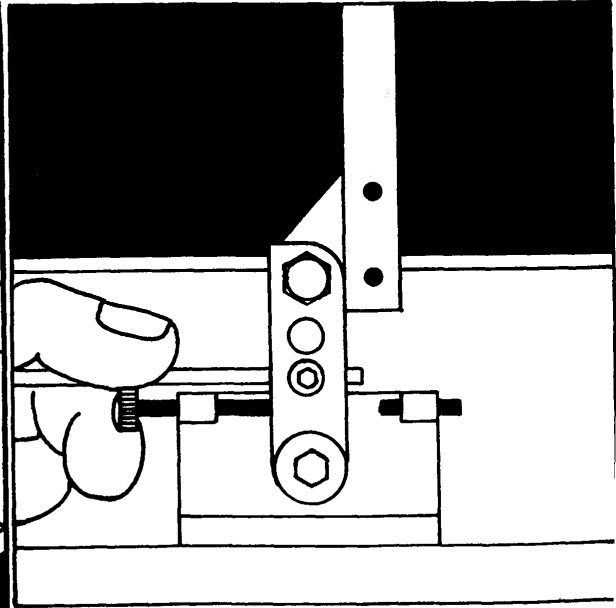


Fig. #6

STANDARD SIDEKICK SET-UP (w/3 & 1)

1	F# .013				
2	E ^b .017				
3	A ^b .010		+1/2		
4	E .013			+1	-1/2
5	B .017	+1		+1	
6	A ^b .024w		+1/2		
7	F# .026w				
8	E .030w				-1/2
9	D .036w				
10	B .038w	+1			
	E ^a	1	2	3	RKR

11

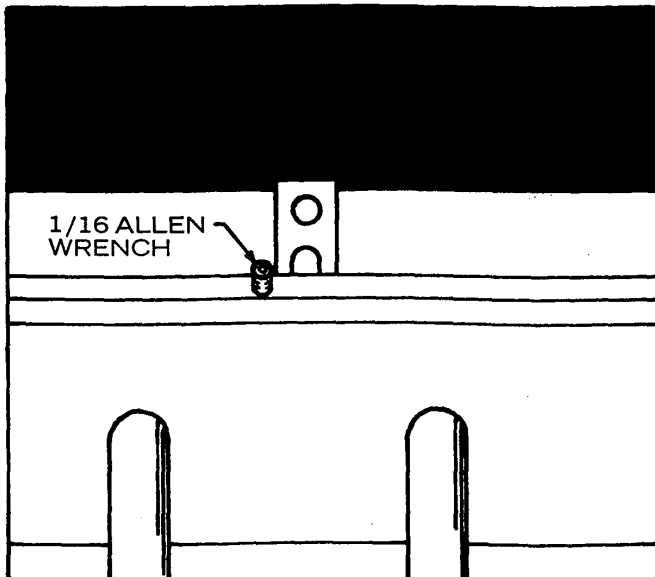


Fig. # 7

C. Adjusting the MSA Sidekick

1. The height of the pedals off the floor can be adjusted by loosening the lock nut on the pull rod at the ball joint connection. After loosening the lock nut, screw the ball joint in or out as desired. The lock nut should then be re-tightened.
2. Pedal stop adjustment — To obtain more travel out of the pedals, the pedal stop must be readjusted and this adjustment is made under the guitar and requires a 1/16" Allen wrench for the pedal stop screws. Turning the screw in a clockwise direction decreases the travel of the pedal and turning the screw in a counter-clockwise direction increases the pedal travel. See figure 7.

D. General Care and Lubrication

As with any precision instrument, proper care and lubrication of the guitar will greatly enhance its appearance, operation, and value. In general, on the molded plastic finish, never use an abrasive cleaner. We recommend cleaning the guitar with a spray type furniture polish and buffing with a soft clean cloth. Lubrication should be done on all pivot points under the guitar approximately twice yearly. A light high grade machine oil is recommended.

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SIDEKICK REPLACEMENT PARTS LIST

Part #	Description	Part #	Description
D-2926	Shell, Guitar	A-2835	Pull Pin
A-2931	Strip, Trim	A-2930	Return Spring
C-2927	End Plate	A-2908	Pedal Pull Bar Assembly
C-2928	Chassis, Mechanical	A-2845	Pedal Pull Rod
A-2916	Finger, String Control	A-2630-2	Nut (Pedal Rod)
A-2602-1	Shaft, Finger	B-2865	Pedal
A-2808	Support, Finger Shaft	A-2905	Pedal Mounting Shaft
A-2915	Support, Spacer Block	A-2887	Ball Joint Connector Assembly
A-2607	Roller	B-2841-1	10 String Pickup
A-2613-1	Shaft, Roller	A-2888-2	10 String Fretboard
A-2806	Support, Roller	A-2897-1	Tuning Key, Right Hand
A-2635-1	Knee Lever	A-2897-2	Tuning Key, Left Hand
A-2863	Knee Lever Mounting Bar	A-2893	Output Jack
A-2964	Knee Lever Support Bracket	A-2895	Leg Tips (Black)
A-2637-5	Crossrod	A-2929	MSA Oval Nameplate
A-2811-2	Puller	A-2920	Sidekick Nameplate
		A-2886	Pedal Bar Decal