

Taylor Notes

0% Financing on Taylor Purchases Extended Through December 31

Taylor
EASY TO PLAY
EASY TO OWN
0% INTEREST FOR 12 MONTHS ON SELECT TAYLOR MODELS.

If paid in full within 12 months, minimum payments required. For a limited time only, on approved credit. Ask for details.

We're happy to announce that our GE Money Consumer Financing program has been extended through December 31, 2011. You can get 0% interest on select Taylor purchases (on approved credit) if they're paid in full within 12 months. Monthly payments are required, and some restrictions apply. Eligible Taylor models include:

- All 500 Series/Acoustic 5 Series and up, including Limited Editions
- T5 Standard and T5 Custom
- All T3 Models
- All SolidBody models

New Owner Resource Web Page

We recently finished retooling our Owner Resources page at TaylorGuitars.com to showcase the level of support you receive as a Taylor owner. As a full-service company, we're with you every step of the way, whether you need help choosing the right model or keeping your guitar in tip-top condition. The page is a hub of helpful information, where you can register a guitar, learn about Taylor innovation and our commitment to the environment, access tips for changing strings and humidifying your guitar, and get the most out of your acoustic electronics. It's located at: www.taylorguitars.com/owners/resources

Seasonal Tips: Humidity Control

It's that time of the year again, when the change of seasons often leads to shifts in relative humidity (RH) in people's homes. As we regularly remind owners, managing humidity conditions is important for the health of their guitars. In the summer months, many of us run air conditioners; in the autumn and winter, we use heaters. Both scenarios can create dry conditions that can compromise a guitar's performance, and in some cases, lead to serious damage. The good news is that with proper monitoring and some simple-to-use tools, keeping your guitars healthy is not difficult.

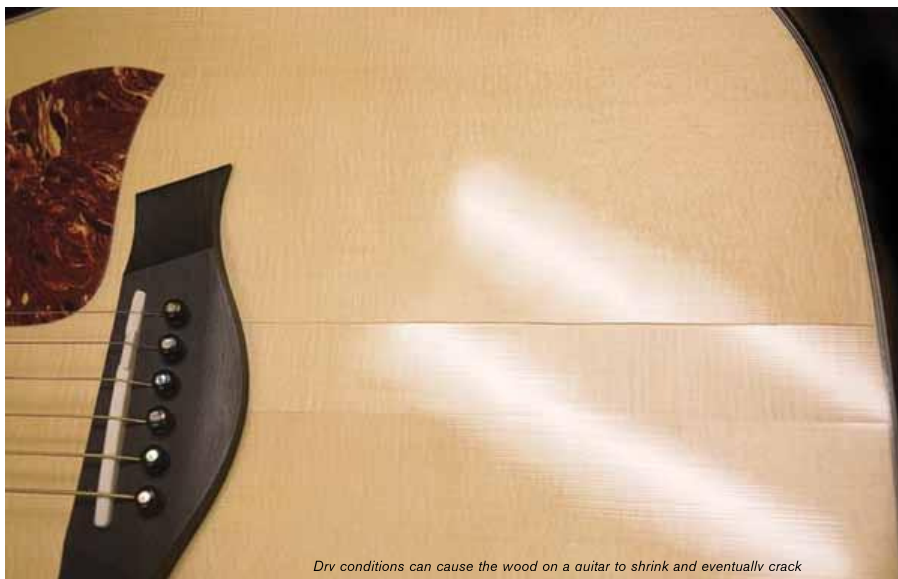
First things first: All wooden instruments are affected by relative humidity conditions. The fact that guitars have finish on them may give some folks a false sense of security, but as Bob Taylor pointed out last issue in "Ask Bob," humidity is water in vapor form, and the finish on a guitar is not a vapor barrier. Here are a few tips to help you keep your guitar in optimal condition.

Keep your guitar in your case when you're not playing. It will offer some protection against dry conditions. Because it's such a small, confined space, it's fairly easy to manage the humidity level.

Use a digital hygrometer to monitor the humidity of the space where you keep your guitar. You can pick one up for about \$30. Don't get an analog/needle-style one: they're less accurate. It might even be good to get two — one to keep in the case and one to monitor the room where you play.

Your humidity target zone should be 45-55% RH. Solid-wood instruments are structurally and sonically at their best when they are kept at the same RH as the environment in which they are built. At the Taylor factory, we maintain an environment of 47%.

If you use a guitar humidifier, be sure to close your case when you take your guitar out to play. This will ensure that the humidity level in there is maintained.



Dry conditions can cause the wood on a guitar to shrink and eventually crack.

Guitar Humidifier Options

There are several types of humidifiers available to guitar owners. We like the **Planet Waves Humidipak®** because it's effective and easy to use. The beauty is that the gel-filled packets are engineered to maintain 48% RH, meaning they give you two-way humidity control — they will either add or remove moisture from the air on their own. One point to remember: The Humidipak is great for maintaining humidity levels, but if you're starting with a dried-out guitar, you'll want to use a sponge-style humidifier or the gel-style Oasis® humidifier to replenish the guitar more effectively. You can purchase the Humidipak through TaylorWare.

Sponge-style humidifiers such as the **Planet Waves Acoustic Humidifier** or **Dampit** are also effective, although they require slightly more effort to maintain. The most important thing to remember, especially for the Dampit tube-style humidifier, is to make sure the sponge is completely wrung out and any excess water is wiped from the outside. This is a key point. Our Customer Service department received several repairs over the summer that needed repairs because the wood had warped due to sponges dripping inside guitars.

The **Oasis guitar humidifier** incorporates a leak-proof container that allows vapor transmission. Once it's filled with water, it interacts with super absorbent polymer crystals inside that together form a leak-proof gel. The Oasis has a larger capacity for holding water vapor than a sponge-style humidifier.

As vapor is released, the container begins to shrink, making it easier to see when it's empty.

For owners who have multiple guitars and like to display them, a **free-standing room humidifier** is an option worth considering. Depending on the model you choose, these come with an array of features. The better versions have a sensor for the humidity reading, which turns the unit on automatically when the RH level drops, although it's still good to have a hygrometer in the room on an opposing wall as a cross-reference. There are also models that can do the job without the auto feature, but they have to be maintained by the person using the device. You can pick one up at a department store like Sears or Target.

Room size needs to be taken into account when choosing a room humidifier. The capacity of the humidifier must be adequate for the number of cubic feet of air space in the room. A very small humidifier, for example, will not be able to maintain the correct RH level in a large room. You have the best chance of keeping your guitars in good condition if the humidifier's capacity exceeds the size of the room.

One other point on room humidifiers: They should never be placed underneath or too close to the guitars. Doing so can over-humidify the area immediately around the guitars. It's best to place the humidifier in a corner or central spot on the wall, away from where the instruments are hanging.

Owners who have an extensive instrument collection might consider a more sophisticated system. Nortec,

a leading manufacturer of commercial humidification systems, also makes a residential unit that works independently from an in-home heating/air conditioning system. Other options include April Aire, which works in conjunction with the heater.

Over-humidified Guitars

Although over-humidified guitars tend to be a less frequent occurrence than dry guitars, some climates that experience extended periods of high humidity, like Central America and certain areas in Asia and the Pacific, can cause a guitar to swell to a point where glue joints and binding separate, and finish lifts. Our Customer Service department has found bamboo charcoal and silica gel packs to be effective dehumidification tools. In fact, there are some silica gel products available that are compact and plug into the wall to be recharged. Room dehumidifiers can also be effective. Another tip is to periodically blow-dry the interior of your guitar case (after removing the guitar).

If you have any questions about humidity control, feel free to call our Customer Service department in North America at (800) 943-6782, or in Europe at +31 (0) 20 667 6030. Toll free numbers for Europe and contact information for other countries can be found at: www.taylorguitars.com/dealers/international/. You can also download Tech Sheets from the Taylor website (under Service & Support) that detail the symptoms of dry and wet guitars, and offer more instruction on using guitar humidifiers.