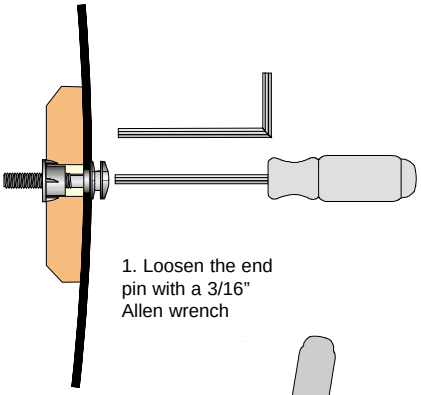
TAYLOR TECH SHEET

JACK INSTALLATION

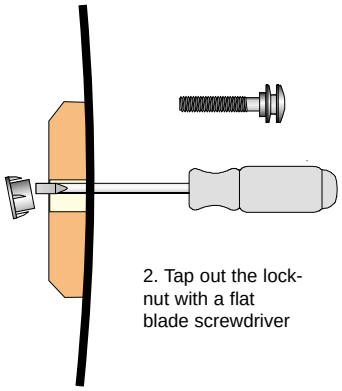
AS PUBLISHED IN WOOD&STEEL

REMOVING AN END PIN

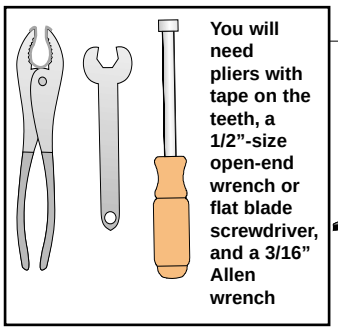
Note: If your guitar was made before February, 1995, it has a wooden end pin. This should be removed only by an experienced repair person.
[See Taylor Tech-Sheet Installation of an End Pin Jack]



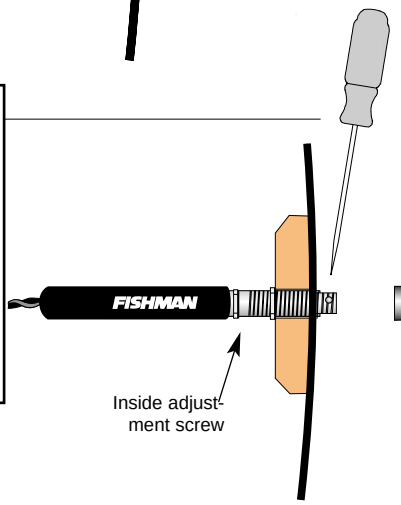
1. Loosen the end pin with a 3/16" Allen wrench

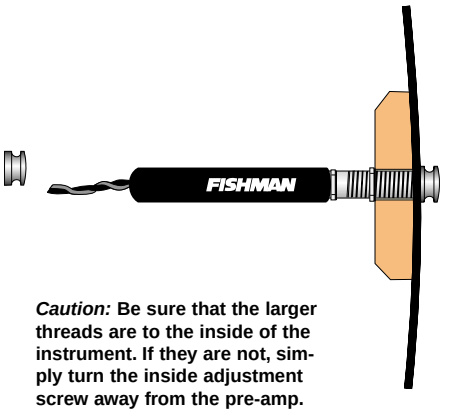


2. Tap out the lock-nut with a flat blade screwdriver



You will need pliers with tape on the teeth, a 1/2"-size open-end wrench or flat blade screwdriver, and a 3/16" Allen wrench





Caution: **Be sure that the larger threads are to the inside of the instrument. If they are not, simply turn the inside adjustment screw away from the pre-amp.**

TIGHTENING AN INPUT JACK AND THUMBSCREW

1. If your input jack becomes loose, first try to loosen the thumbscrew on the outside of the guitar. If the whole unit turns instead of the thumbscrew itself, reach inside the guitar and hold the pre-amp unit. If your arm isn't small enough to reach inside, maybe a friend can help with the task.
2. Once the thumbscrew is removed, you will notice the exposed threads and visible nut for tightening the unit from the outside of the instrument. Again, be sure that the larger threads are to the inside of the instrument. Notice the hole in the threaded barrel. Simply insert a scribe or similar item through the hole to hold it in place, and use an open ended wrench or pliers to tighten the nut.
3. Re-install the outside thumbscrew to hand tightness and you're finished. If the thumbscrew frequently comes loose, you may wish to tighten it slightly with a pair of pliers. It is wise to put a piece of tape on the pliers before doing this, to prevent marring.

by Terry Myers

Over the years, we've tackled a number of guitar-making advancements, only to discover that some of them didn't want to be tackled. Such technological challenges as the fingerboard sander ("Pushing the Envelope," Summer '94 *Wood&Steel*), the acoustic bass (cover, Summer '95 *Wood&Steel*), and the UV oven for finish curing ("Pushing the Envelope," Winter '96 *Wood&Steel*) initially defied our most earnest efforts to conquer them.

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JACK INSTALLATION (continued from page 1)

Eventually, hard-headed persistence and ingenuity won the day.

This isn't one of those cases. This is a mini-story about a simple improvement — the new Taylor end pin — that nevertheless will be well received by those of you who decide, *after* buying your Taylor guitar, that you want a pickup.

Until February 1995, the ebony end pins we put on our guitars were more or less like violin end pegs. They looked nice, and they catered to "tradition." But we couldn't help but notice that a lot of customers ran into problems when they decided, post-purchase, to install a pickup.

To install our normal end pin, we would drill a hole and glue the ebony pin in place. Removing it later was difficult, not only because of the wood and glue, but because it is hard to enlarge a 1/4-inch- or 3/8-inch-wide hole without chipping the wood. It takes a skilled repairman, and, while there *are* quality repairmen out there, there also are many who don't fit that description. We saw a lot of pickup-installation jobs that had been botched by repairmen who didn't know how to enlarge that hole, and ended up damaging the end of the guitar.

We knew that it was becoming more commonplace for players to add a pickup, so we decided to help them by writing a "Tech Sheet" on the process — how to saw off the wooden end pin, and so on. Then, a couple of years ago, we woke up. "Why don't we just admit that we live in a world of acoustic guitars that require pickups?" we asked. When no one answered, we realized we were talking to ourselves, so we kept thinking. "If some guitars leave our factory without pickups, we should at least outfit them so they easily can be retro-fitted."

Starting fresh at square one, we bored a larger hole in the guitar, one that could accommodate an end pin jack. Next, we designed an aluminum end pin with a black anodized finish that has the same shape and visual appeal as the ebony ones we used all those years. We also had to make some new tools and look for a machine shop that could make the pins. That proved difficult, because the quotes were always extremely high — as much as a couple dollars each for a part that should have cost about 50 cents.

We finally got the right price, and started putting the new pins on our guitars at the beginning of 1995. As far as end pins go, they're beautiful; the fact that they're made of metal doesn't detract from the guitar's aesthetic appearance. They look every bit as good as the ebony ones did.

What does this mean to you? Well, if you never install a pickup on your Taylor, nothing's lost. Only if and when you *do* decide to install a pickup will you truly appreciate this new end pin. It simply unscrews, and the end pin jack replaces it, meaning that your repairman doesn't have to drill a hole or risk chipping the finish.

"It's hardly a major technological advancement," Bob Taylor says. "I mean, yikes, they're putting pig hearts in people, you know? And, we're not making some far-out, weird version of what a guitar should be; we're pretty sensitive about that. But, the new end pin *is* a convenience for the player."

Customer service manager, Terry Myers concurs. "You can't imagine how many repair people call me with a big, fat 'thank-you' and a sigh of relief," he says. "Frequently, they'll say 'It's about time someone did this.' It seems like a small thing, but it reminds me of some car designs, where you have to lift the motor just to change the spark plugs."

"Once again, we're challenging tradition," Taylor adds. "'You mean, you don't drill a tapered, reamed hole in the back-end and have a tapered, wedge-fit pin? Isn't that the way they're made?' Well, not anymore! Something I think we do better than anybody is gradually improve and modernize the guitar, while leaving the instrument's visual aesthetic intact. We're able to upgrade the guitar to a more modern instrument, but still package it in a way that people love. This end pin is just one more step forward in taking our guitars out into the 'real world.'"

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