



Dear Customer,

Your new guitar body and/or neck has been handcrafted and finished in vintage correct, 100% nitrocellulose lacquer. Unlike Polyester or "Poly" finishes, nitrocellulose is delicate and very susceptible to cosmetic damage from climate changes, different humidity levels, harsh chemicals and courier mishandling.

Finish checking (natural splitting in the finish) typically occurs during in the winter or summer months when the temperature is at either extreme of the thermostat. Checking can occur as either a result of exposing a cold guitar to the shock of warmer temperatures, or vice versa. When a finished body or neck has been brought out of the cold into warmth in the winter months, please leave the item wrapped in the packing materials for a few hours to allow plenty of time for it to acclimate to the new temperature before exposing it to open air. In the summer, allow the same acclimation period for a warm guitar that is being brought into a cold, air conditioned room. (Especially if you live in a particularly dry place like the Mountains or American Southwest.) We know waiting can be difficult, but it is essential to acclimate the body if you wish to keep the finish as close to factory as possible.

We are diligent to make sure that we buff our "nitro" finishes to the cleanest state possible, however you may notice a sparse "swirling" or buffing marks on bodies that have a dark or black finish, as darker finishes tend to show polishing marks exponentially more than lighter colored finishes. Some lightweight, open-grained woods such as swamp ash or paulownia may also show some signs of lacquer sinking into the deep, open grain of these woods. This is a normal occurrence when applying a traditional thin nitrocellulose lacquer finish over these types of woods. We carefully inspect each item before packing and shipping -- ensuring that it is in the promised condition before leaving the shop. As a result, we will not be held liable for damages resulting from temperature, humidity, courier/customer mishandling or other environmental factors. Needless to say, this also includes any accidents that occur when assembling guitar.

**The good news is that if you are experiencing any of the damage listed above, it is purely cosmetic and will not hinder the structural integrity, play-ability or function of your guitar.** Checking, swirling and sinking are all part of the natural wearing process of your nitro finish, and will just add individual character to your instrument.

Thank you for your order and enjoy your guitar!

**Best Wishes,**

Mario Martin & The Guitar Mill Luthier Staff