Nite-Fly Player's Guide

NITEFLY-SA • NITEFLY-SA STANDARD • NITEFLY-M

Dear Fellow Guitar Enthusiast:

Larry Fishman and I formed Parker Guitars in 1991. It continues to be a rewarding project and a great education for us. We're thrilled that you have chosen to make your music with our creation!

Guitar players of every style in more than 20 nations are choosing the Fly Guitar, and some have suggested that the Fly is taking its rightful place alongside other ground breaking and enduringly great designs of yesteryear. Thanks to your support, our little duet of inventors has grown to a sturdy group of craftspeople collaborating to make the most useful and highest quality instrument available.

Feedback from you guitarists influenced us to design a "bolt-on" sibling to the Fly. Your comments, suggestions and criticism helped to shape the NiteFly. We chose the pickguard format to simplify changes in the pickups. The neck shape is thicker; with "firmer cheeks". The frets are taller and wider. The body, similar in outline and contouring, bears a distant resemblance to other members of the Fly family.

Your input will continue to inspire us as we develop new instruments with new capabilities for years to come. Meanwhile, we expect you'll enjoy many years of faithful service from your NiteFly.

Thanks for your support. Play from the heart!

-Ken Parker

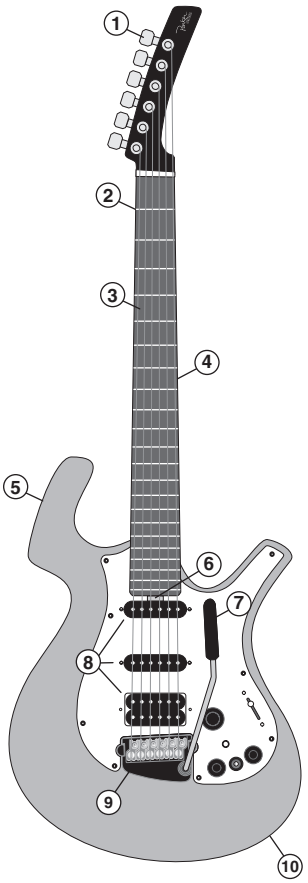
NITEFLY SPECIFICATIONS

BODY	
NFV-SA & NFV-SA Standard:	Ash
NFV-M:	Mahogany
Neck	Mahogany
Fingerboard	Glass and Carbon Fiber
Neck Radius	10" to 13" conical form
Scale length	25 ½"
Frets	22 medium jumbo hardened stainless steel
Bridge	Custom Parker cast aluminum bridge featuring stainless steel saddles and Fishman® piezo pickups
Magnetic Pickups	Custom DiMarzio® magnetic pickups NFV-SA & NFV-SA Standard: One Humbucker and two Single-coils NFV-M: Two Humbuckers
Magnetic Controls	NFV-SA & NFV-SA Standard: Magnetic Pickup Volume, Tone, and 5-way Pickup Selector NFV-M: Magnetic Pickup Volume, Tone with push/pull coil-split switch, and 3-way Pickup Selector
NITEFLY MODELS EQUIPPED WITH PIEZOS	
Piezo System	6-element Fishman® piezo pickups and Powerchip™ preamp/mixer circuit
Piezo Controls	Piezo Volume, 3-way Magnetic / Piezo Selector Switch

SUPPLIED ACCESSORIES

- 1/8" T-handle allen wrench (Bridge Stud Screws/Height Adjustment), Bridge Stop Screw)
- 3/32" T-handle allen wrench(Bridge Saddle Screws, Vibrato Bar rotation tension screw)
- 1/8" steel rod (Truss rod capstan adjustment)
- Stereo Y-Cable (15 feet)
- Vibrato Bar (3/16" round stainless steel)

FEATURES



1. *Sperzel® locking tuning machines*

2. *Hardened stainless steel frets*

3. *Composite fingerboard*

4. *One piece solid wood neck encapsulated in glass and carbon fibers*

5. *Solid hardwood body*

6. *Easy-Access truss rod adjuster*

7. *3/16" stainless steel vibrato bar*

8. *Custom DiMarzio® magnetic pickups*

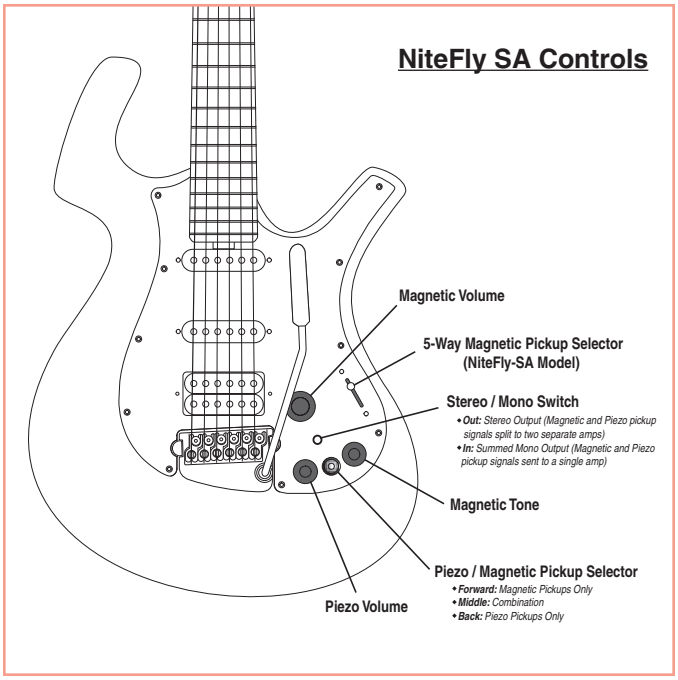
9. *Cast aluminum bridge with stainless steel bridge saddles and Fishman® piezo pickups*

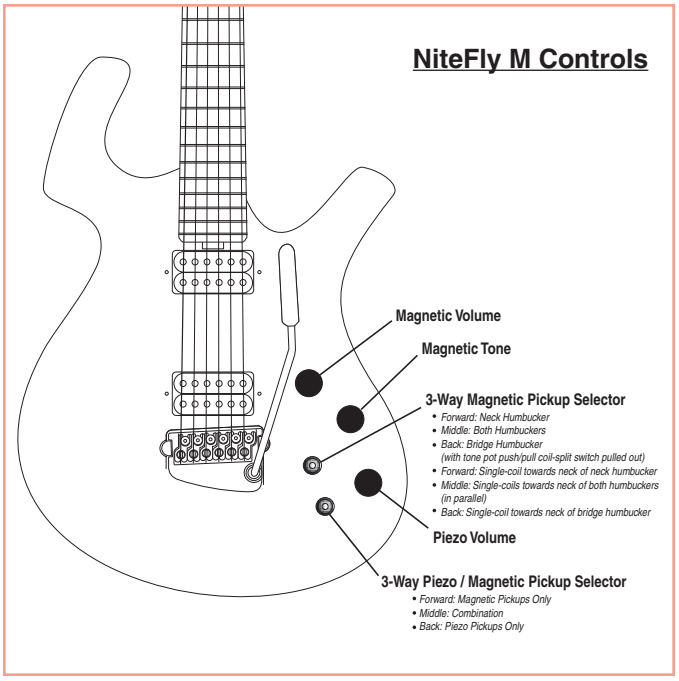
10. *Stereo output jack*

CONTROLS

NiteFly SA & M - with Piezo Systems

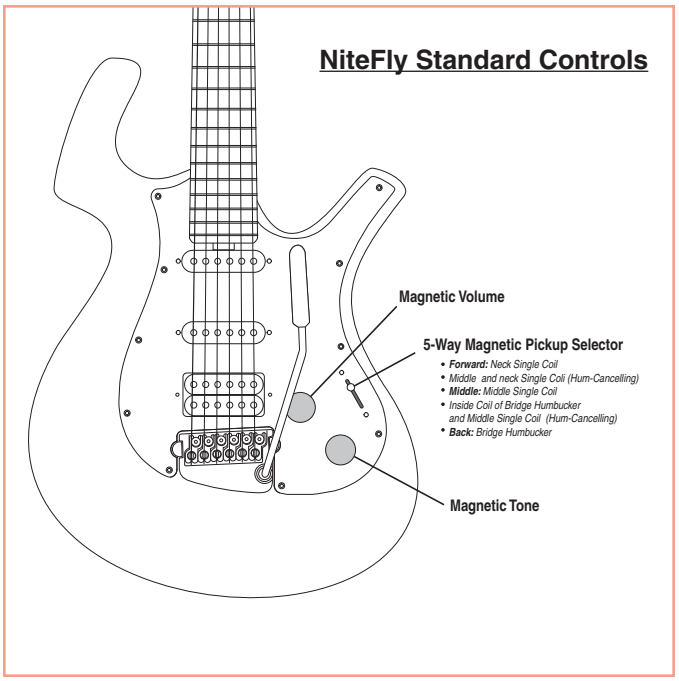
Along with the familiar Volume, Tone, and Magnetic Pickup selector found on the NiteFly Standard, (and most electric guitars), the NiteFly-SA and NiteFly-M are piezo equipped models and feature additional controls for Piezo Volume and a Magnetic / Piezo Pickup Selector switch.





NiteFly Standard Models - without Piezo Systems

The NiteFly Standard models feature Custom DiMarzio® humbucking pickups along with volume, tone and a pickup selector switch.



ADDITIONAL FEATURES AND CONTROLS

Stereo / Mono Operation
"Smart Switching" Output Jack

The Fishman Powerchip™ circuit, featuring a "Smart Switching" output jack, automatically senses whether a stereo or mono jack is inserted. This circuit makes it possible to mix (sum) the piezo and magnetic pickup signals, by automatically sensing the output cable, and play both sounds through a single amp, or split them to two separate amps or mixers.

1. Mono Guitar Cable

When a standard mono guitar cable is inserted, the guitar's two signals (magnetic and piezo) are automatically mixed (summed). Both sounds can be played through a single guitar amplifier or mixer.

2. Stereo Cable

When a stereo guitar cable is inserted, the guitar's two signals (magnetic and piezo) are automatically split into stereo. The special stereo Y-cable provided with the guitar allows you to send the two signals to two separate amplifiers. The buffered piezo pickup signal (Ring) will sound its best through a PA, an acoustic guitar amp, a keyboard amp, or some other high-fidelity unit. Send the unbuffered magnetic pickup signal (Tip) to a traditional electric guitar amplifier. Switching between the two signals (or blending) is done with the 3-way Piezo/Magnetic pickup selector.

Battery

Because the two kinds of pickups have "irreconcilable impedance differences", their outputs cannot be mixed without the help of an electrically powered (active) circuit. The 9-volt battery that powers the Fishman Powerchip preamp/mixer has a life of approximately 200 hours. The circuit switches on when a cable is plugged into the guitar, so to conserve batteries, unplug the cable when you're not playing your NiteFly.

NOTE: To replace the battery, release the catch and swing open the door. The flip-out holder will not close if the battery is installed incorrectly. Please be gentle!!!

Piezo Balance Trim Pot

Your guitar is equipped with a Piezo Balance Trim Pot. We set this control at the factory so that the full volume outputs of the piezo and magnetic systems are equal. Since string gauges and pickup height affect the output of the magnetic pickups, you may want to change the relative levels of the two systems by adjusting the piezo output.

• **To adjust the Piezo Balance Trim Pot:** Remove the three pickguard screws nearest the controls. Carefully lift the pickguard and adjust the small trim pot located on the Fishman Powerchip circuit board with a small screwdriver. This "trim pot" adjusts the output of the piezo pickup.

Piezo Frequency Response

Piezo pickups have a far greater treble response than magnetic pickups. Some guitar amps have no trouble with the additional high frequency output, but others may distort. If this happens, either lower the piezo volume on the guitar, lower the input volume at the guitar amp, or try lowering the treble control of the amp.

Ground Loops

Sometimes when using two amps, there may be a loud hum when the guitar is plugged into the second amp. This hum is caused by a ground loop. This ground loop isn't the fault of the guitar (or the amps for that matter), but rather the result of essential electrical safety code requirements. Ground loops can occur whenever two pieces of electronic equipment are connected.

NOTE: Do Not Disconnect Or Otherwise Attempt To Defeat Ground Connections On Your Electrical Equipment !!

There is ONLY ONE safe way to rid yourself of ground loops: Use a Direct Box with a ground lift to isolate the two amps. Plug the magnetic end of the stereo "Y" cable into one amp and the piezo end into the Direct Box. Plug the Direct Box's output into a balanced input on the second amp.

ADJUSTING YOUR GUITAR

If you're unfamiliar with adjusting instruments, we suggest that you take your guitar to a qualified guitar technician. He or she can help demonstrate these adjustments and you can decide which ones you are comfortable making yourself and which ones you might prefer to have made professionally.

Action

Action (bridge / string height) is adjusted by the two bridge post screws located at the front edge of the bridge (illustration). Using the larger 3mm allen wrench, turn the screws clockwise to lower the bridge, and counterclockwise to raise it. Also, it's a good practice to alternate between the two screws, taking no more than ¼ turn at a time.

Individual string height is adjusted by the two small Allen screws on each of the six bridge saddles. First loosen the saddle screw and then, using the smaller 1.5mm allen wrench, turn the screws clockwise to lower the saddle, and counterclockwise to raise it.

NOTE: *Parker Nite-Fly guitars are shipped from the factory adjusted to a very low action of .070" on the treble side and .080" on the bass, at the 14th fret (string open, not fretted). If you lower your action even further, be aware that some buzzing may occur.*

Intonation

To set the intonation (string length), loosen the screws that hold the bridge saddles using the smaller 1.5mm allen wrench supplied with the guitar.

- **If a string plays sharp:** Insert the same 1.5 mm allen wrench into the back of the saddle. Turn the screw clockwise to move the saddle back to make the string length longer.
- **If a string plays flat:** Turn the screw counter-clockwise to move the saddle forward to make the string length shorter.

Once the strings are intonated re-tighten the saddle screws. Do not over-tighten the saddle-screws. The piezo-electric elements in the bridge are delicate, so be careful.

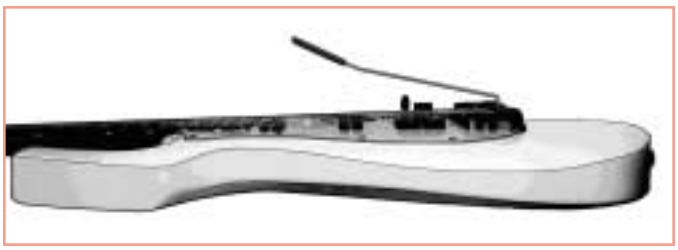
Truss Rod Adjustment

If you're unfamiliar with adjusting a truss rod, we STRONGLY suggest that you have this adjustment made by a qualified guitar technician.
The truss rod adjuster wheel is easily accessible. To adjust the truss rod, use the steel rod capstan wrench supplied with your guitar. Rotate the wheel towards the high E string to tighten the truss rod and towards the low E string to loosen it.

NOTE: *Over tightening WILL result in damaging the truss rod.*

VIBRATO ADJUSTMENT

Start from HOME: When the bridge is adjusted parallel to the top of the guitar and the guitar is in tune, the bridge is in the HOME position.



NiteFly Guitars are set up at the Parker Guitar Factory with D'Addario® .009" - .042" strings. Three coil springs balance the tension of the strings. When you change string gauges or use alternate tunings, you alter the string tension. This changes the attitude of the bridge, and therefore you will need to re-adjust the bridge to the HOME position.

To do this: Remove the back cover, and with the guitar tuned to pitch, tighten or loosen the two Phillips head "CLAW" screws (see back of guitar illustration) to reset the bridge parallel to the top of the guitar.

The NiteFly Vibrato is a high quality, stable system that can be operated in three modes:

1. Balanced (Free-Floating): In this mode the bridge can bend up and down. The Stop Screw must be adjusted (lowered) so that it won't prevent the bridge from bending up. The HOME position of the bridge is set by adjusting the Claw Screws (balancing the tension of the coil springs).

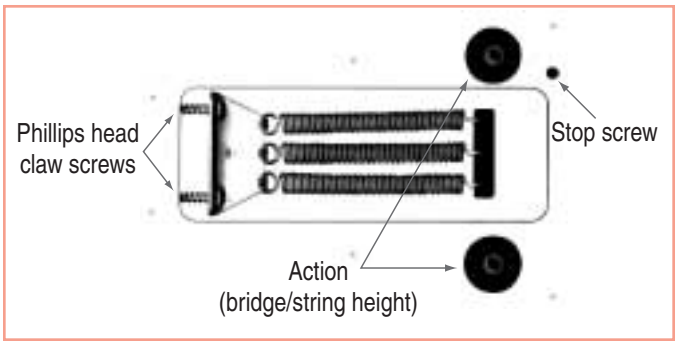
2. Bend Down Only: The NiteFly comes set up from the Parker Guitar factory in Bend Down mode. In this mode the bridge can only bend down and returns HOME to rest lightly against the Stop Screw. The springs must be tensioned slightly more than in the Balanced mode so that the bridge at HOME is held against the Stop Screw. Unlike the Balanced mode, you can rest your hand on the bridge without throwing it out of tune.

3. Fixed: This mode is similar to Bend Down mode. HOME position is also setup by contact with the Stop Screw. Additional spring force is applied against the stop by tightening the Claw Screws. The bridge will still bend down, but with a stiffer feel. In this mode you can bend a string while other strings are sounded and not change their pitch. Like the Bend Down mode, resting your hand on the bridge will not throw it out of tune.

No matter which mode you prefer to use, it's quickest to tune, set intonation, and adjust the action of your NiteFly when it's in the Fixed mode.

Stop Screw

Using the larger 1/8" T-handle Allen wrench supplied with your guitar, the Stop Screw can be adjusted to limit or stop the bridge from bending up to any desired amount.



NOTE: When you raise or lower the Action you should also raise or lower the Stop Screw by the same amount (unless the Stop Screw has already been fully lowered for the Balanced mode).

Vibrato Bar Rotation Adjustment

To set the rotation tension of the vibrato bar (or to prevent the bar from falling out), adjust the Allen screw, located on the bottom rear edge of the bridge, using the smaller 3/32" T-handle Allen wrench supplied with the guitar.
To do this: Insert the vibrato bar and push down so that the back of the bridge lifts, allowing better access to the screw with the Allen wrench. Adjust the screw to the preferred tension.

OTHER FEATURES

Tuning Machines

We proudly use Sperzel® tuners - designed and manufactured in the USA - because they combine excellent quality and design, the best string locking system, and minimum weight. Sperzel's patented string clamp eliminates the need for tying and multiple string wraps, greatly improving tuning stability.

• **To remove a string:** First loosen the tension of the string, then loosen the knurled clamp knob at the back of the tuner and slide the string out of the tuner.

• **Before restringing:** Turn each tuner until the hole in the capstan is parallel with the string path. Feed the string through, pull out the slack, tighten the knurled clamp knob, and tune up.

NOTE: Do Not over tighten the knurled clamp knob as this may cause the capstan to break the string potentially jamming the tuner capstan. Do Not tighten or loosen the knurled clamp knob with anything other than your fingers. The knurled clamp knob cannot be removed without damaging the tuning machine.

Frets

Our patented fingerboard and frets consist of hardened stainless steel frets bonded to a glass and carbon fiber fretboard. Not only will these unique frets outlast ordinary soft nickel frets, due to our super-accurate manufacturing processes, they also all have the correct "half-round" shape.

The frets may only be serviced at the Parker Guitar Factory or by a Parker Authorized Repair Facility. Fret service performed elsewhere will void the warranty.

Cleaning and Polishing

If you're just trying to remove fingerprints or dust, use a soft guitar-polishing cloth. To remove fine scratches or clean heavy dirt, use a non-abrasive guitar polish and follow the manufacturer's directions. Please use products designed only for guitars, as some polishes contain abrasives that can scratch the finish.

NOTE: Do not use fingerboard "lubricating" products such as "FingerEase®" or "FastFret®" as they may damage your NiteFly's fingerboard or frets and void the warranty.

LIMITED WARRANTY

There is a 1-year limited warranty beginning on the date of first customer purchase on all unmodified and properly cared for Parker Guitars.

Any Parker Guitar found to be defective within the 1-year warranty period set forth above will be repaired or replaced at the option of Parker Guitars provided the guitar is promptly delivered (freight and insurance prepaid) directly to Parker Guitars for service.

Please contact Parker's Product Support office at (978) 988-0102 for information, return authorization, and a Parker Work Order Number. Please visit the Parker Guitars website at www.parkerguitars.com for more detailed warranty information.

Warranty Repairs Outside the U.S.

For warranty repairs outside the U.S. please contact either the dealer from whom you purchased the guitar, or the Authorized Parker Distributor in your country for information and assistance.

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