SWB Series

Owner's Manual - English translation of the Japanese original (Arai Trading Co., Ltd. / Aria)

Translator's note: this manual is written for the SWB-200 and SWB-300. The preamp controls and accessories described here may differ on other SWB models.

Precautions for Use

Do not use in humid places: Do not use the instrument near water or in damp places, in a bathroom, or outdoors on a rainy day.

Do not disassemble, modify or repair it: Doing so can cause faults.

Keep your face away from the strings: Do not bring your face close to the strings while playing, changing strings or making adjustments. A string may break and injure your face. A broken string that enters the eye can damage it and may cause blindness.

Do not use rusty strings: Playing with rusty strings can cut your fingers. Replace rusty strings with new ones as soon as possible.

Beware of sharp metal edges: In dry conditions, metal parts can start to protrude from the wooden parts. Their edges can then cut your hands. If metal parts protrude, stop using the instrument immediately and ask a shop to arrange a repair.

Take care not to hurt your fingers on the strings: String ends and cut surfaces are very sharp. When tuning, or wiping the headstock with a cloth, keep your hands away from the string ends. After changing strings, trim the excess string short so that it does not touch your hands.

Do not over-tighten the strings: Tightening a string more than necessary when tuning can make it break and cause injury. A broken string that enters the eye can damage it and may cause blindness, so keep your face away from the strings when changing them.

Do not lean the instrument against furniture: When not in use, keep it away from damp places and fire. Store it in its case, placed low, or on a stand where it is unlikely to fall. A fall from a height can cause injury or damage furniture. Leaning the instrument directly against furniture for a long time can also dissolve the finish or transfer colour.

Take care when carrying the instrument: When carrying it in a bag or case, fasten the zips and clasps firmly and check that the hooks of the bag's shoulder strap are securely attached. A fall can cause injury or damage. Be careful not to trap your fingers in the bag's zip or the case lid.

Storage and Transport

- The instrument is made of wood and is vulnerable to extreme temperature and humidity. If it is left for a long time in a car, near a stove or in a damp place, the finish can crack, the neck can warp, and the body can split, causing damage that cannot be repaired. Give the instrument a comfortable place to live.
- If you leave the instrument unused for a long time, take the seasons into account. In winter, heating makes rooms very dry, so keep it somewhere that stays relatively moist, such as the lower shelf of a closet. In summer, and especially in the rainy season, put a desiccant in the case and take the instrument out of the case from time to time.
- If you will not use it for a short period, you can leave the strings tuned. If you will not use it for a long period (one month or more), it is safer to loosen the tuning pegs by one or two turns. Loosening them too far, or removing the strings, is worse.
- If the body gets dirty, wipe it lightly with a silicone cloth (sold separately). For heavy dirt, put a small amount of polish (sold separately) on the body or the cloth and wipe lightly. If you use a spray, the surface may look cloudy at first. Wipe it well with a dry cloth to restore its shine.

Preamp Functions and Operation

The preamp runs on two AA batteries, held in a battery box on the back of the body. If the sound cuts out, is quiet or distorts, replace the batteries first. Take care to get the polarity right. Alkaline batteries are recommended.

The pickup is under the bridge seat. Take care not to shift the bridge seat when changing strings.

VOLUME: Adjusts the instrument's output (volume). Turn clockwise for more volume.

BASS: Adjusts the low range. Turn clockwise to emphasise the lows.

MID: Adjusts the mid range. Turn clockwise to emphasise the mids.

PRESENCE: Adjusts the very high range. Turn clockwise to emphasise the very highs.

MIC. VOLUME: Adjusts the output (volume) of a microphone connected to the MIC jack. Raising it while no microphone is connected causes noise, so set it to 0 when you are not using a microphone.

SUBSONIC FILTER: Cuts the very low range. Normally leave it OFF. If feedback caused by the very low range occurs, switching it ON may improve it.

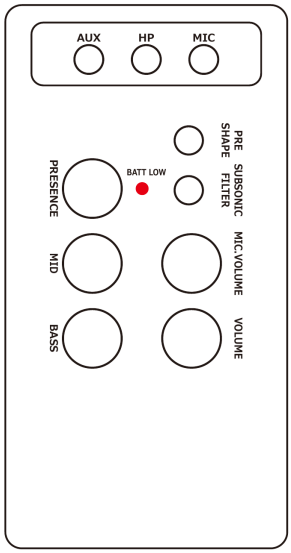
PRE SHAPE: When ON, adds a preset amount of high and low range to reproduce a rockabilly sound.

BATT LOW: The LED lights when the batteries are running low. Replace the batteries when it lights.

MIC jack: Connect a vocal microphone to send it out together with the bass sound.

HP jack: Connect headphones to practise without an amplifier.

AUX jack: Connect a music player to play along with music.



Preamp panel layout (from the original manual)

Technical Information

Item	Value
Gain range	+7 dB
Frequency response	20 - 20,000 Hz (3 dB)
Subsonic filter	12 dB/octave at 50 Hz
Bass	±8 dB at 135 Hz
Mid	±9 dB at 900 Hz
Presence	±10 dB at 9 kHz

Strings

When you change strings, you can use ordinary strings for upright bass or contrabass. The FW-1000 strings fitted at shipping are also sold separately.

Attaching Accessories

SWB-300

Accessories: bag, support arm.

Attach the supplied support arm to the body. Fit it so that the arm sticks out toward the back (the player's side). If you feel you do not need it for playing, using the instrument without it is fine.

The endpin is already attached to the body. Adjust it to a height that is comfortable to play at, and fix it firmly.



SWB-300: support arm fitted to the body

SWB-200

Accessories: bag, dedicated stand.

Set up the supplied stand. Spread the legs firmly, within a range that does not get in the way of playing, and tighten the screw to fix them. Fit the stand into the hole on the back of the body and tighten the screw so that the stand and the instrument are held firmly together. Adjust the stand to a height and angle that is comfortable to play at.



SWB-200: the hole on the back of the body



SWB-200: the stand fitted to the body

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