

Pack It & Pick It!

**OWNERS MANUAL** 

### **General Features**

Your *Tranjo* was designed by Sam Farris to be sturdy and portable without sacrificing playability or a quality sound. Its unique features are a full 26 3/8" scale fingerboard, a detachable neck without tools or string removal, and recessed

string ends and tuning pegs. Sam designed the *Tranjo* to meet the needs of the traveling banjo player, so you can Pack It & Pick It without the worry of damage to your "regular" banjo, and can conveniently practice and play a high quality instrument wherever you go. It is our hope that you will enjoy many, many hours and miles of playing your *Tranjo*.

**Farris Travel Banjo Company** 

www.Tranjo.com

## **Tuning Tips**

Hold the *Tranjo* with the body in your lap and perpendicular to you. Pluck a string with your right hand and adjust the corresponding tuner with your left. Make sure you are turning the correct knob – it can be a little confusing at first, but you'll get the hang of it quickly.





## **Storage Compartment (Model 6.0 only)**

The metronome removes by pulling the ribbon tab. Your picks, the elastic capo and the adjustment wrench can be stored in the compartment. Gently press the metronome back into place to close the compartment. There are separate instructions included for use of the metronome. Metronomes are a great aid to your playing skills and using one for every practice session is highly recommended.

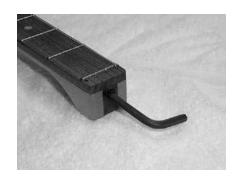




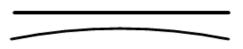
## **Truss Rod Adjustment**

Normally, your *Tranjo* neck will never need adjustment. If a slight adjustment is required to correct a bend in the neck, insert the adjustment wrench and make gradual adjustments (1/4 turn at a time) until the problem is corrected. When in doubt about truss rod adjustment, consult an experienced musical instrument repairman.

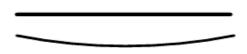
The two-way adjustable truss rod is accessible from the end of the neck.



Turn the wrench clockwise to correct a back bow



Turn the wrench counterclockwise to correct a forward bow.



## 5th String Replacement

There is a smaller post in the side of the neck for the fifth string. A ball-ended fifth string can fit over the small

post as well, or can just be held in place by friction behind the access hole in the fingerboard. Be sure to feed the fifth string over the metal string guide in the access hole.

The *Tranjo* uses high quality sealed guitar tuners that need 16 turns of the knob to make the shaft turn once, unlike most regular banjo tuners that are 4 to 1. This makes it easier to fine-tune each string to the correct pitch. You may want to use a string winder to change strings – any music store will carry them.

#### **Maintenance**

If you disassemble your *Tranjo*, use a small drop of light oil (3-in-One or similar) on each bolt when reattaching the rear plate. Do not use excessive force to turn a bolt – you may strip the bolt or the threaded insert. A little oil on the neck bolt once in a while will keep the neck attachment smooth and easy. The same goes for the thumbscrew on the string clamp.

You can vary the tone of your *Tranjo* by adjusting the tension of the head. Loosen or tighten the plate attachment bolts evenly to the desired tension. To replace the head, remove all the bolts and separate the front and back plates of the *Tranjo*.

#### **Neck Removal**

Put the capo on the sixth fret

De-tune all the strings enough so that they may be easily pressed to touch the wooden face of the *Tranjo* 

Remove the bridge (optional)

Unscrew the thumbscrew holding the string clamp from its storage area underneath the neck.

Reattach the string clamp to the face of the *Tranjo*, clamping down all the strings. Be careful not to

cross thread or strip the thumbscrew and do not over tighten!





Remove the knobbed bolt that holds the neck.











### **Neck Removal (cont.)**

Pull the neck away from the body (parallel to the strings) and then rotate the neck forward to remove it from its mounting cavity.





If you have trouble pulling out the neck, loosen the strings a little more.

To reattach the neck, perform these steps in reverse order. Be careful not to strip the knobbed bolt when screwing it into the neck – don't force it! After reattaching the neck and tuning up the strings, it may take a few minutes for the tuning to stabilize as the neck settles back into its regular tension. Make sure to reposition the bridge if necessary. There are small pencil marks on the head to help position the bridge. The metronome can play a fixed pitch A – 440 to help you tune (third string, second fret is A).

You can unscrew the neck bolt slightly to make small adjustments to the playing action. Permanent adjustments can be made by using a slightly taller or shorter bridge.

The knobbed bolt can be replaced by a standard 1 ¼" long 1/4-20 bolt if you not need to remove the neck regularly.

### **Strap**

The custom-made strap that comes with your *Tranjo* attaches to the thumbscrew behind the base of the neck and the other end clips onto the recessed post near the rollers.

To attach the clip end, hold the clip as shown and press it onto the post.







## **String Replacement**

Regular ball-end guitar strings are easiest to use to string up your *Tranjo*. Some stores may carry banjo strings with ball ends, but most banjo strings are loop ended. You can buy individual guitar strings in your preferred gauges at most music stores or online. Regular loop end banjo strings will work just fine, or you



can mix and match. There are 2 posts at the end of the neck to attach to the loops – 2 strings per post. To replace the bottom string on a post you will need to loosen the other string enough to slip it off the post as well.

Your *Tranjo* was shipped with .010, .012, .014, .022w, .010, 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> strings.

# **Warranty**

Your *Tranjo* is guaranteed to the original owner against defects in workmanship and materials for a period of five (5) years from the date of purchase. If you have any problems with your *Tranjo* during that time, I will make every effort to do whatever it takes to make it right to your complete satisfaction. Normal wear and travel damage is not included in this guarantee, however if something happens I'll do my best to fix it at a fair price.

Normal wear and/or travel damage repairs will entail labor, parts and shipping cost.

### **FARRIS TRAVEL BANJO CO.**

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