

THE PLEK SYSTEM

By Jay Graydon

For all of the guitar players:

As we know, "fret out" is a drag. We adjust the truss rod hoping to take care of the problem. Yea, if not the fix, time to get the frets honed or replaced by our favorite tech. Even with the many years of experience, typically, the result is good but note that such work by hand is just that - the accuracy of the leveling of the frets is typically useable to good but how about a computer driven hardware machine that could hone the frets with an average accuracy to a 1000th of an inch!

Such a machine exists!

A very basic explanation of the PLEK machine workings. It has a sensor that reads the neck bow along with each fret height showing a visual readout on a computer screen. The next move is to manually tweak the truss rod a taste and scan again. When the truss rod is happy with the program (just a very slight truss rod relief), the machine is told to hone and polish the frets.

Dan Sawyer hipped me to Rodney Millar (FRET TEK) who has the PLEK system in his shop. Dan said the PLEK fret hone work was the best he had ever experienced. Dan loves low action (as I) so I took a guitar to Rodney. I was amazed as well and I continue to take guitars to Rodney for such work!

If you wanted to move up to a heavier a string gauge, this is reason enough to get the work done as the heavier gauge with lower action feels like the string set a gauge thinner!

Don't take my word for it. Go to Rodney's web site (if in LA, go to his shop and play a few of his guitars as to note the results). Here is his contact information.

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