

Theo's Saga PB-10 Bass Kit project

“BIG BOTTOM”

The Kit

- We purchased a PB-10 Saga bass kit from Online Guitar for \$99.00 + S&H
- The body is multiple pieces (seven!) of bass wood
- The neck is made from what looks to be gnarly parawood (I have seen cleaner 2 X 4's). While parawood is more dense than maple or mahogany, it has a hideous grain pattern.
- Electronics and hardware are less than the best but for under \$100, what can you expect?
- The pick guard is three layer plastic and the edges are beveled but not so pretty.



Prepping the Headstock

- We stuck to the traditional 'violin scroll' but did not copy the shape. Instead we used drawing tools to achieve the classic look we wanted.
- The inside curves were chosen based on the size of a forsner bit I had handy.



Cutting the Headstock

- The inside curve was drilled out using my forsner bit. This made for an easy place to start the cut with the jigsaw.



Finished Headstock

- After the rough shape was cut out 'proud' of the lines, the shape was finished with a random orbit sander using 60, 150, 220, and 400 grits of sandpaper.



Prepping for Paint

- I chose not to remove the sanding sealer as I really don't see the need.
- Sanding was necessary to knock down imperfections caused by the factory machining processes and to ensure good paint adhesion
- We made a sacrificial neck paddle to bolt on to the body to make painting easier.
- Last was to tape off the finger board.



Paint

- We chose to paint the whole beast. The body was more than 7 pieces of lumber and the neck had more imperfections than exterior grade plywood. Best to hide it all under a good paint job.
- We next decided to prime the wood before the color coat. This will give the color an even hue and help hide all that ugly cheap wood and glue lines. The primer is a sandable multi-surface product.
- The paint/clear coat is tried and true acrylic lacquer from the local auto parts store.
- We also picked up some wet sanding paper of 800 and 1500 grits and the M&M candy tube is better than a wood dowel for interior corners.



Priming the Wood

- Attaching the paddle to a work bench made priming a lot easier; perfect height and orientation.
- We hung the neck from a bent hanger to prime it
- The primer is fast drying and two coats built up enough primer to hide all the imperfections
- A light wet sanding with 800 grit smoothed out the primer for the color coat.



Painting the Neck

- We found that painting the neck while hanging is not the best idea; runs and drips are a problem for those new to painting.
- If you lay the neck down to paint the the back side, the finished product is much improved.



Painting the Body

- We had only one real problem with 'spider web'
- A little wet sanding and a couple more light coats of color will solve this...
- ...or not. The web grew with each additional sanding and paint application. Next to try is to remove the paint completely from the affected area, re-prime, blend in new paint, and cross your fingers...



Painted

- Three coats of Dupli-Color SUV Paint
- Six coats of Dupli-Color SUV Clear
- Buffed with Turtle Wax Polishing Compound
- Waxed with Eagle 1 Wet Wax and Polish
- Since all the paint products are 'automotive', I figure the automotive finish care products should work better than the traditional guitar polishes.



Ready to play...

- Assembly was a little more tricky than the instructions let on
 - The tuning machine bezels required gentle persuasion to be installed flush
 - The ground wire required trimming back of insulation
 - Cheap screws broke off in the body and removal is not easy
 - Strings are crap. The E-string broke before it could ever tune up for the first time.
- All in all, not bad for \$135 for the kit, paint and strings.



Next...

- We have to get 'water slip' decal paper and make the Logo for our creation
- The closest to the 'classic Fender' look is to use "Brush Script MT" true type font. The lower case e is not correct but it will do the job for our purposes.
- Using the next slide as a gauge, we think it should look pretty good.
- The Logo is part the name of its owner and part Fender...

Theocaster

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