

Corsa Guitars

Caring for the finish on your Corsa guitar

NTN Aged Satin Finish: The finish on your guitar is called “NTN Aged.” The NTN stands for “Next To Nothing,” and that is quite literally how the guitar is finished. The guitar is not intended to look “new.” No grain filler is used anywhere on the guitar, because grain filling the mahogany and applying numerous coats of lacquer (even so called “thin nitro”), so that the guitar’s finish resembles a fine piece of furniture, is what makes any other similarly constructed guitar sound dead in comparison to your Corsa. For best results, I recommend you never polish the mahogany, as the grain is “open,” and polish will dry in the grain and appear white. It will be very difficult to remove the dried polish, and likely impossible to remove all of it. After all, your Corsa guitar was built for exceptional, unequaled tone, and the way I finished it is critical for that tone. I’m sure your decision to purchase a Corsa was primarily for the tone it provides. Therefore, my advice is to just leave the mahogany alone. Simply wiping it down hard with a clean cotton cloth is all you should ever need to do.

The neck is another matter, and personal preference will determine how you deal with the finish. Over time, your hand will “polish” the neck and possibly start to feel sticky, like a regularly finished high gloss neck. For at least 60 days after the completion date of the guitar, do nothing. After that period of time, you can use 0000 steel wool or a very fine abrasive pad on the neck (equivalent to 0000 steel wool, such as 3M grey Scotch Brite) to remove the shine and stickiness. That will get it back to how it should be. Afterwards, using a soft, clean cotton rag, wipe the neck to remove as much of the residue from the grain as possible. It is possible you may not remove all of it, but your playing comfort is more important than that.

The top and headstock, being light relic, also have minimal coats over the stain and burst color (if any). The NTN finish has an intentionally dull sheen to the top finish. NEVER attempt to make the top shinier than how you received it. It may have some dimples, pin holes, polishing scratches and minor edge sandthrough in places, but please do not attempt to try to fix them and make the top look like a normally finished guitar. Any minor areas of “sand through” are best left alone. Think of such minor imperfections as “birth marks” that will not adversely affect the tone in any way. The very thin finish is responsible for much of the tone of a Corsa. After six months, the top can be polished with a very safe and non abrasive good quality polish, if desired. I highly recommend Virtuoso polish. I strongly advise against using Virtuoso Cleaner, as it is abrasive, but certainly it should not be used until the top has cured for a minimum of six months.

High Gloss Top: On guitars with the High Gloss top option, the mahogany is finished the same way as with the NTN Aged Satin Finish, and all advice given above applies to caring for the body and the neck finish.

The High Gloss top finish is much higher gloss than the NTN aged satin finish, but will still differ from a normally finished guitar, in keeping with the “NTN Aged” process used on the mahogany. No attempt has been made to produce a perfect mirror-like finish. The guitar is not intended to look “new.” Rather, it is a light relic finish, with very fine polishing scratches and possibly some minor edge sandthrough, such as would develop naturally over the years. I don’t intentionally add relic “dings” anywhere on the guitar, but some minor dinging, scratching or other imperfections can happen unintentionally as the guitar is assembled. As with the “NTN” top finish, you should not attempt to “fix” any minor things you may find with the finish. There were many more clear coats applied to the top initially, but much of the finish has been removed by sanding and buffing, so that it is higher gloss, but still incredibly thin. Again, just an occasional polish with Virtuoso is all you should need.