

Customizing the Feel of the Rotating Collar

The Woodside Guitars GS1 is equipped with a special feature called a “rotating collar”, which allows the cradle to pivot independently of the leg rest. Many players enjoy this feature, since it allows the instrument to be pivoted without causing the leg rest to slide around on their leg, or cause stress on the cradle and/or guitar body.

However, there will be users of the product that prefer a more firm, or even rigid, feel with regard to this pivoting or rotating feature.

Here's what we mean by the rotating collar:



You will notice that the GS1 allows the cradle to rotate freely, independent of the Leg Rest. If this is a feature feels too loose to you, it's possible to modify your GS1 to better suit your needs.

Following are some suggestions and procedures that will help you to get the feel you want.

Before Continuing:

Read all the instructions fully, to be aware of the steps needed, the parts or tools you might need, and to understand the end result compared with what you are seeking.

IMPORTANT NOTE – Before doing these modifications, be sure you have other aspects of the GS1 set up the way you prefer. This is especially true of anyone who chooses to use the HLK-1 Lift Kit – be sure you have set that up **first** before making these modifications.

Also, note that the “Extended Collar” part of the HLK-1 is also possible to customize in this very same way, so as to change the feel of the rotational aspect of the collar. Simply these steps to the female threaded portion of the “Extended Collar”, that comes with the HLK-1, and where that is mated with the Ball End Rod.

Customizing the Rotating Collar Feel

Plan ahead for the feel that you are aiming for. Basically, there are three modes to choose from:

- Freely rotating (as shipped)
- Some resistance, but still able to rotate
- Completely fixed – no rotation

If you are not sure, we would recommend going with the middle option – some resistance – before going with the completely fixed modification. The Completely Fixed modification will be difficult, maybe even impossible without damaging your support, to undo.

Woodside Guitars will not offer warranty replacements for any parts damaged by trying to undo the “Completely Fixed” modification, so please use caution.

Freely Rotating – No change – you’re already set up for that in the stock product.

Some Resistance – Please follow these steps. This is a quite friendly modification, as it can be changed later, either by adding more tape, or removing it altogether. It’s not a permanent modification, and it’s not particularly difficult to do.

Parts Needed – Plumbers PTFE “Teflon” Tape. We recommend the narrower width of tape, but it does not matter too much since you can trim away any excess later on. This can be found at any hardware store, or online at many shops.



Step 1 – Disassemble the support partially, taking the Ball/Socket assembly out of the Cradle, and removing the Ball End Rod / Collar from the Leg Rest (extender rod).



Step 2 – Unscrew the Collar from the Ball End Rod.



Note – It's best to keep the Retaining Cup (the big round brass piece) on during these steps, so you won't forget to put it on later. In some of the photos we may show the Ball End Rod without the Retaining Cup in place, just to make the photo more clear.

Step 3 – Wrap the threads of the Ball End Rod with the PTFE (Teflon) tape. It will work a lot better if you wrap the tape in a “clockwise” direction when looking directly at the threaded end (as shown). It will work either way, but your results may be a little better if you follow this direction.



As mentioned, everything here for this modification is reversible, so if something comes out not quite to your liking, you can simply take it apart and try again. You may find that you want to add more tape, for example, to get more resistance. Conversely, you may find that there is too much resistance, or you can't get the threads started; in that case remove the tape and start over.

Wrap the tape with a fair amount of tension, so that it will snugly seat over the fine threads of the Ball End Rod.

It will look like this when finished:



Step 4 – Thread the Collar back onto the Ball End Rod. Be sure you put the Retaining Cup (the big brass part) back in place correctly before putting the Collar back onto the Ball End Rod.



Be sure to thread a few turns of the Ball End Rod into the Collar. However, it is not necessary to completely thread it until it “bottoms out”. Just be sure there is enough engagement so that the assembly is secure.

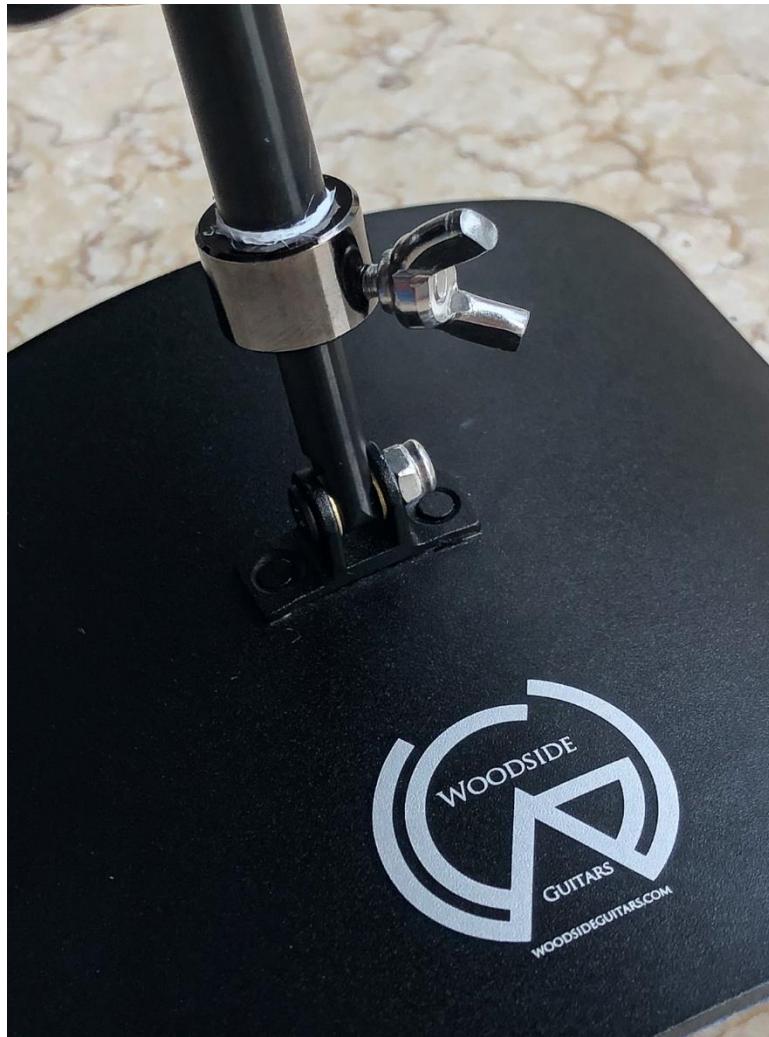
Step 5 – Trim away any excess PTFE tape. While this is not a function necessity, it will make the finished result look a little nicer. Use care to not scratch the Ball End Rod and cause unwanted cosmetic flaws.



Note that the Retaining Cup is not in place here – for clarity of the photo. Be sure it's in place when you do this, though.

Step 6 – Put everything back together. Put the Retaining Cup / Ball end Rod / Collar assembly back onto the Cradle, and put the Leg Rest back onto the Collar.

You're finished! Adjust to suit your height preference, and continue enjoying your GS1 support.



Try it out. If it feels right, you're done! If you still want more resistance, try tightening the Collar down farther. If it's still not stiff enough, take it apart and add more tape until you get the feel you're after.

Completely Fixed

For those who are sure they want NO rotation between the Collar and the Ball End Rod, please follow these instructions. We really do not recommend making this modification, but offer these instructions and some precautions for those who are convinced they want to make this change.

Caution! – This is easy to do - but not easily reversible. While the prescribed adhesive is said to be removable with ordinary hand tools, doing so may scratch the surfaces of your GS1 Parts, or the forces required may lead to other problems.

Again we recommend trying the “Some Resistance” fix before going to this method. For most people, this will a happy balance between free rotating and fixed.

Parts Needed – For making the permanent bond between the Ball End Rod and the Collar, we recommend using Loctite Brand 222 Adhesive (so-called “Purple” thread locker).



This is the mildest thread locker made by LocTite, and it may be possible to undo this if necessary. You may have better results, in case there is a need to undo the threading, by heating up the parts before attempting to unthread them.

Reminder – Do not remove the brass Retaining Cup(!). Be sure you will not be upgrading to the HLK-1 later, as that would require unthreading the Collar from the Ball End Rod. If the Collar is glued onto the Ball End Rod, the full installation of the HLK-1 will not be possible.

Step 1 – Simply unthread the Collar from the Ball End Rod.

Step 2 – Put a small amount of thread locker on the Ball End Rod threads (one or two drops is enough).

Step 3 – Thread the Collar onto the Ball End Rod. It is recommended that the Ball End Rod be fully threaded into the Collar (the photo below shows them only partially threaded).

Step 4 – Wait 10-15 minutes for the thread sealant to cure.



That's it! Now your Collar will no longer rotate independently of the Ball End Rod.

The Cradle may still be able to rotate, but that would now only happen at the Ball/Socket interface, or between the Collar Wing Nut set screw and the Extender Rod.

This may be undesirable, since it may cause the angle position of the Ball/Socket to shift, and/or some surface scratching or scarring may occur on the Extender Rod.

Note also that this same modification/fix can be applied to the "Extended Collar" part of the HLK-1, for those using the HLK-1 Lift Kit.