

**Case Load**

Every now and then someone will ask me what professional musicians jam into the crannies of their guitar cases. While I wouldn't know the answer to that, I can say what I jam into MY guitar case.

First, my guitar: a Guild dreadnaught size 12-string. It contains an LR Baggs iBeam active pickup and a 9 volt battery to power it.

Then comes the pile shown below. My case is a meteor proof thing by SKB, bought after airlines ruined lesser plywood units and the guitars therein. It has lots of padding so not much room for crap, but I still manage to tote half a mu-

sic store. The one item I am still trying to invent is a guitar stand that will fit either into the case or inside the guitar. Since the main part of a guitar is just a big empty wooden box, sometimes I wonder why some sort of telescoping legs couldn't be built into the thing. Maybe that can be my retirement project.

But anyway. This collection of bric-a-brac is ever shifting in its specifics, but the general ideas have remained pretty much the same for years. Notice that many of the supplies are duplicates and emergency backups. I have no faith in my memory and if space permitted would probably have a pair of pants tucked away here. Once I actually forgot to put my guitar in the case, and almost left a gig carrying a case with nothing in it but the stuff pictured below.

A few notes: The spare eyeglasses are of a prescription worn on stage for reading from a music stand. The guitar strap is mostly a length of parachute cord, with

a small shoulder protector cut from a vinyl floor mat for cars. Regular guitar straps take up huge amounts of room so I use this instead. The Snark tuner is one week old as of this writing, bought in Bennington VT to replace an old duct taped workhorse that finally failed. The Sabine tuner I can Velcro to my pick-guard so it's a nice spare. The small lengths of duct and magic tape have come in handy in all sorts of sticky situations, most commonly when my index fingernail has broken and my Alaska Pik, which is normally held on by the fingernail, needs to be taped to my finger. The emergency lyric sheets contain two 45 minute sets of lyrics, in case we ever leave our stage songbook in the motel. The extra .025 G-string is there because I use that instead of the octave-G string that comes with a 12-string string set.

Any more detail about this collection would put a night owl to sleep, and besides, as with the assemblage in question, I seem to have run out of room.

