

Cleaning ain't very rock'n'roll - but it makes a difference, and you needn't tell

Chrome Frets

Fretboard/String Cleaner

If you've ever had a guitar set up and cleaned by a good luthier, you'll know how beautiful a freshly-polished fretboard feels. Chrome Frets Silky Strings aims to replicate this in a matter of minutes. You get a spray bottle, a reusable two-sided leather pad

and a cotton cloth. The whole kit is silicone-free and requires a three-stage application process and a little elbow grease.

We chose a very grimy rosewood-board Strat with dead, dull strings and oxidised frets as the patient, making for a really hard test. The heart of this product is TefloWax, which contains a mild solvent, liquid PTFE (also known as non-stick Teflon) and a thin wax which simultaneously cleans and polishes the frets and strings while lubricating and rehydrating the fingerboard. It manages all this with the instrument strung up.

The results were remarkable. The solvent removed all traces of grime and the frets and strings gleamed, making for a truly slick - but not slippery - playing feel on strings that really should have been collecting their pension. As a bonus, it can also be used as a nut and bridge saddle lubricant or to simply add a gloss to new strings.



VERDICT

A high level of R&D has gone into this product and the result is an essential all-in-one addition to everyone's gigbag. One word of warning: it may discolour lacquered maple boards, particularly any worn areas of bare wood, so use caution.

Contact: Chrome Frets

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FINAL SCORE

Sounds 19/20

Useability 19/20

Effectiveness 19/20

Value For Money 18/20

Vibe 18/20

TOTAL 93%

Good for... transforming manky fingerboards into smooth, sweet playing surfaces

Look elsewhere... unfinished maple fingerboards