



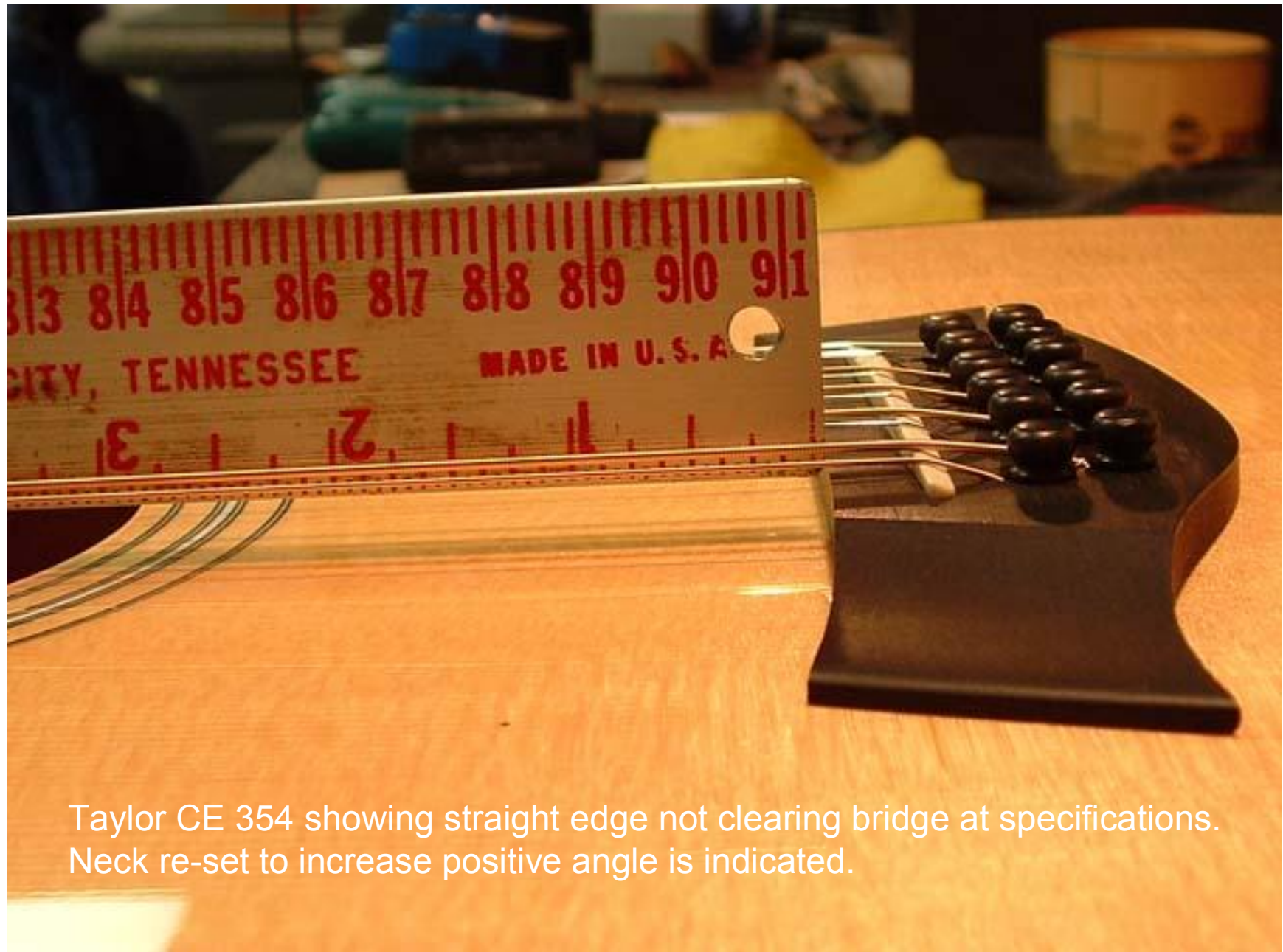
Here's The Way We Re-set A Taylor Guitar Neck At

The Blue Guitar

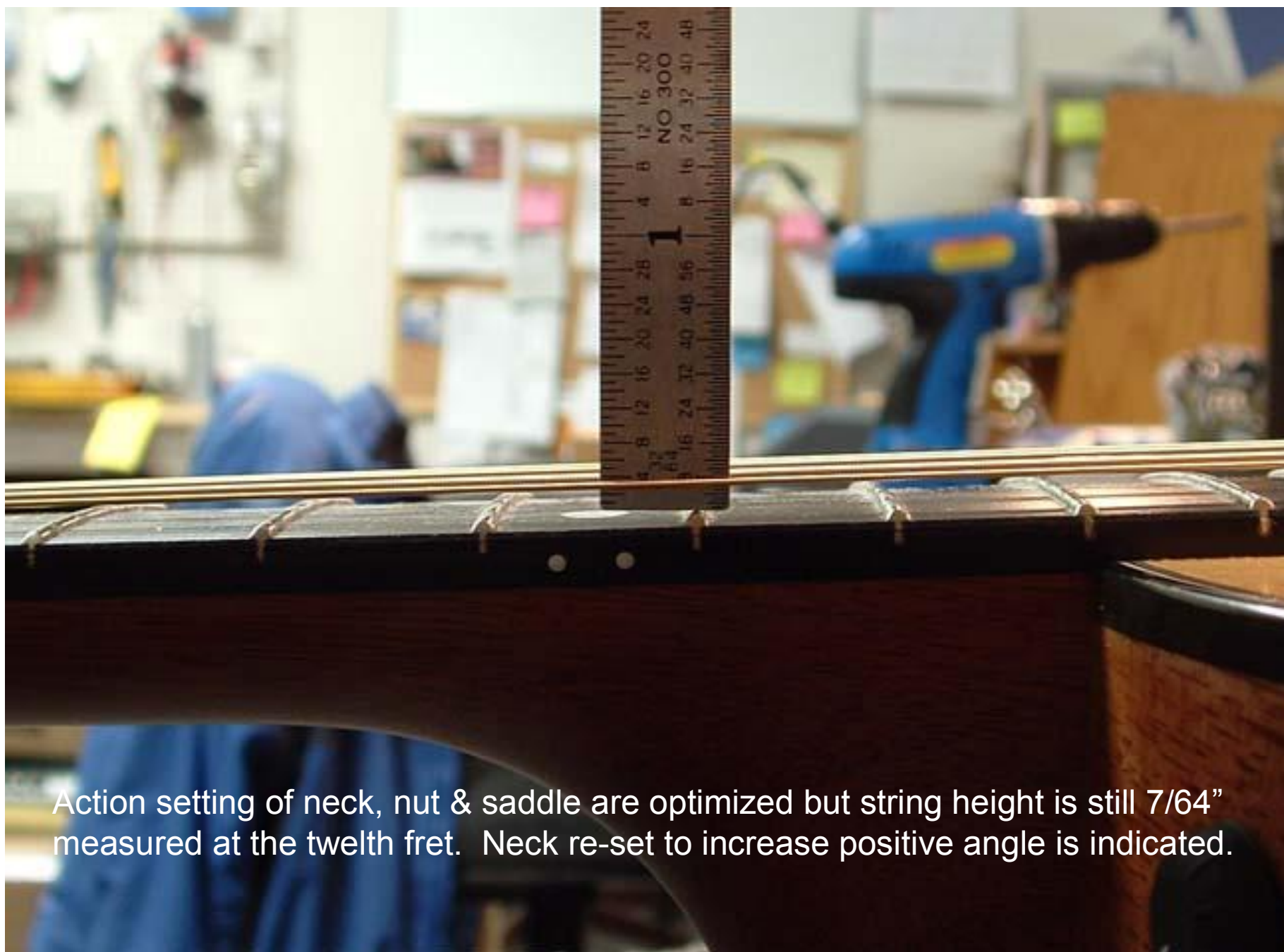


The guitar selected for this project is a 2005 Taylor 354 CE. The instrument was initially inspected with tuning at E standard pitch and neck straightened for a few thousandths clearance when fretted at the first and fourteenth fret and tapped at the 7th-8th fret. When applying a straight edge to the fingerboard and testing for clearance over the bridge the straight edge struck the bridge approximately 1/16th inch below the top of the bridge. Measurement of string height, clearance between bottom of string and top of fret, at the 12th fret was a full 7/64 inch on the octave low E string and about the same on the treble E string side. This condition, we felt, was primarily due to a raising or belly in the top that had developed behind the bridge and may have been caused by a weakened top and brace issue or due to an overheating occurrence while the strings were at pitch. Regardless, we desired this instrument to play with a lower action and have recommended the neck reset to provide the preferred playability.

The following photos describe the process we used to address the problems and bring this instrument to the tolerances we had selected.



Taylor CE 354 showing straight edge not clearing bridge at specifications. Neck re-set to increase positive angle is indicated.



Action setting of neck, nut & saddle are optimized but string height is still $\frac{7}{64}$ " measured at the twelfth fret. Neck re-set to increase positive angle is indicated.



Tools & shims to be used for re-setting Taylor Guitar neck.





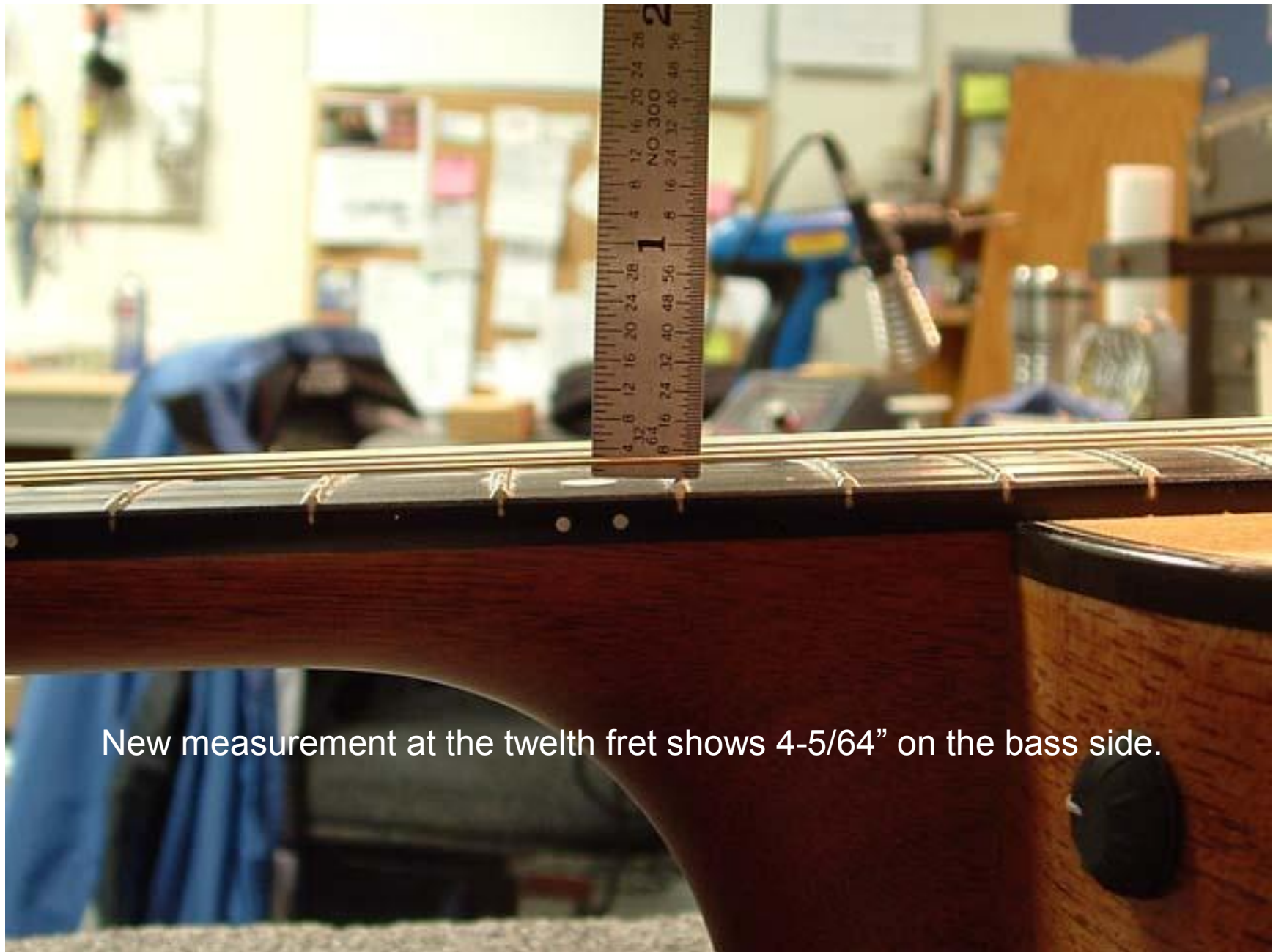
Moving from original 4/0 shims to an 8/4 combination.



New shims installed and re-assembly of guitar as prescribed.



Guitar restrung and at pitch the straight edge now just clears the bridge.



New measurement at the twelfth fret shows $4\frac{5}{64}$ " on the bass side.



Can't get the ecstatic guitarist in focus as the new action on his Taylor Guitar has him playing like it never did before the neck re-set.



The process used during this repair was provided by Taylor Guitars as demonstrated and described on their DVD Repair Procedures: Resetting the Neck.

We found the repair to follow exactly as described by the video and the results to be consistent with our expectations. Probably the most difficult task in the procedure was the removal of the label as we were not sure at what point the adhesive would release with the application of heating. To be on the safe side we tested removing the label at several points short of its actual releasing and therefore lost part of the original label due to tearing. Now that the tolerances of the label removal have been experienced we believe this would not be a big problem in the future to remove the label undamaged. But, better safe than sorry and as Taylor Guitars provided us with replacement labels we installed a new label over the end block. Actual positioning of the label in a correct, clean and square orientation was probably the second most difficult process of the neck reset. We are completely satisfied with the results of the neck resetting, the information provided and the opportunity to explore more about Taylor Guitars construction methods. These technologies never cease to amaze us and please our repair department.

Thank You,

Jeff Bush; Luthier