VALLEY BANJO WORKS

Saving the world, one banjo at a time.

Bill Evans' 1929 Gibson Granada - Personal Setup Profile

Before and After Setup Measurements

A concise record of the setup changes and why they were needed.

Measurement	Before work	Why it needed attention	After work
Head Tension	196 Hz	Much too low for traditional and progressive playing styles	210 Hz
Head Condition	Age unknown	Due to the warped flange, the head could not be adjusted	Hooks adjusted to fit flange warpage, head now adjusts perfectly.
Neck Relief	0.25 mm	Too much bow in the neck, causing buzzing in the middle and higher end of the neck	0.12 mm, after fretwork was addressed, the neck now has nice low action with no buzzing.
Nut Slot - 1st String	0.52 mm	Too low, buzzing in open position	0.63 mm Perfect for Scruggs and progressive styles
Nut Slot - 2nd String	0.69 mm	A bit too high, uncomfortable to play and causing intonation issues.	0.63 mm Perfect for Scruggs and progressive styles
Nut Slot - 3rd String	0.81 mm	Too high, uncomfortable to play and causing intonation issues.	0.65 mm Perfect for Scruggs and progressive styles
Nut Slot - 4th String	0.66 mm	A little low for the 4th string, playable, but 4th limits the power and growl of the string	0.70 mm Perfect for Scruggs and progressive styles
5th-String Pip	Slot cut incorrectly	Too low and incorrectly cut, causing buzzing weak attack	New bone pip installed, action in line with the rest of the strings, much clearer attack.
5th-String Spikes	Spikes were usable, but they were large and sharp	Uncomfortable to play, especially for progressive style with a lot of 5th string work	Smaller spikes, shaped and polished to match the frets.
Action at the 12th Fret	2.25 mm at the 12th fret	Action okay, but buzzy with inconsistent fret work	2.30 mm - comfortable low action with no buzzing after the fretwork was corrected.
Fret Condition	Poor and Inconsistent fretwork	Several high and unseated frets with poorly defined crowns. Very buzzy neck, especially when combined with inconsistent nut slots.	Frets seated, leveled and crowned, allowing much lower action with no buzzing, and clear notes over the entire fretboard.
Tailpiece	Period Presto	Tailpiece was in good shape, but the right angle where the screw attaches was no longer at a right angle, causing a weak and unstable connection to the rim.	Angle correct, providing a much better connection, helping tuning stability and sustain.
Resonator Fit	Resonator fit fine, but a few of the screws were loose.	Loose screws can cause buzzing.	Tightened all screws
Tone Ring or Hoop Fit	Tone Ring fit perfectly	No action necessary	Refitted during reassembly; no corrective work was needed.
Bridge	5/8" "Jim Mills" Dotson Standard spacing	The existing bridge was retained; no corrective work was needed.	The existing bridge was retained; no corrective work was needed.

This profile shows how the important setup measurements, observations, and completed adjustments are documented.

A completed Personal Setup Profile creates a clear baseline for future maintenance, seasonal changes, and careful experimentation.