



work in close relationship with numerous artists to improve their products. Once of the specifications of a new type of strings are established after several prototype have been completed, it goes into production bearing in mind each string has to meet criteria so painstakingly determined. Each step along the way is carefully checked and rechecked to assure the exacting specifications are met from the moment the wire is pullet from the spools until each string is fed into its envelope and packaged in sets. As far as we could establish the number of sets manufactured by Elgin is somewhere in the region of 2 million sets a year. This definitely puts Gibson among the world's leading manufacturers of strings... a fact which is often ignored by many who only see in Gibson a guitar manufacturer. Now you know as well as we do why a separate operation for strings is maintained.

1 *Electronic equipment used to bring to a specified gauss the magnets used in guitar pick-ups.*

2 *The string is gauged and the finishing touch is putted to with this plant.*

3 *Visual inspection of guitar strings.*

4 **5** *Automatic string-winding machine for putting wrap wire on core. Shows close-up of start of cover wire operation, as described in photo 4.*

6 *Special machine used to grind and polish the surface of certain Gibson strings producing a mirror smooth finish.*

7 *One of several string testing devices. This one used to measure string tension when brought to pitch, elasticity, and certain components of harmonic structure.*

8 *Each string is fed into its envelope and packaged in sets.*

9 *Winding machine wich winds pick-up coils*

10 *Encapsulating the pick-ups in epoxy resin to eliminate microphonic tendencies.*

11 *Elgin staff.*