

This series will focus on some clues for the acoustic and electric guitar (rhythm players).
We will cover: maintenance and tuning care.

Easy 9 Step Guitar String Changing

There are 1001 ways to string a guitar; here are some clues to help preserve care and increase playability:

Ingredients: Guitar, new strings, pliers, neck rest system and cleaner-polish.

Steps:

1. Rest Guitar on a neck rest system to ease stress.
2. Don't rip off those strings yet! Try this idea.
 - a. Change one string at a time; leave the remaining strings on until complete.
 - b. Work outer-strings first to inner strings: E and E, A and B, D and G. (as shown).
This method ensures the fret board and truss rod from bending too much during typical string changing.
While keeping tension on the guitar with the old strings as you change-out with the new strings one by one, the guitar truss rod will not freak-out.
3. Put on each new string, thread the string through the machine head with one hand, keep tension on the string slack with the other hand.
4. After threading the string through, at the top end of the string, bend it back once and hold down to make the string lock over the existing loop (this ensures no slippage).
 - a. Wind the number of loops per peg-shaft.
D - 4 G - 5
A - 3 B - 6
E - 2 E - 6
5. The string needs to be wound completely down to the peg-shaft over the nut to make each loop smooth as it winds.
Check & press bridge pins down on the bridge before and during winding to ensure the string's seating.
6. As you wind the machine head to tighten the string, keep tension down on the slack to ensure a smooth wind around the peg-shaft. Tune-up to the string's tuning note.
7. After initial tuning of new string, take one hand near the sound hole and locate the new string. On the top of the fretboard, press down on the new string with your thumb and hold; with fingers 3-4 pull up on the string to stretch. Work your way down the fretboard as a combination of thumb and fingers - pulling the string easily from frets 12, 7, 5, 3. This process helps stretch and breaks in the string more evenly.
8. Repeat above steps on other strings - working your way from outer to inner strings.
9. Wipe-down strings and guitar with Martin Guitar Polish.



String lock



Bridge Pins



String stretch
from neck low.



String stretch
to neck high.

Tuning: Below represent both standard and alternative tunings. Keep in mind: strings often wear easily and/or break as you change tension (tunings). String size and tunings begin with the lowest string (6th) as you work upward to the highest string (1).

1. Standard Tuning: E A D G B E

Diagram illustrating Standard Tuning (E A D G B E) on a guitar. The diagram shows the string layout (1.E, 2.B, 3.G, 4.D, 5.A, 6.E) and the fretboard positions for the notes E(1), A(5), D(4), G(3), B(2), and E(1). A fretboard diagram shows the positions for E A D G B E (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) and the 5th fret position. Below the fretboard diagram is a musical staff showing the notes E(6), A(5), D(4), G(3), B(2), and E(1) in standard tuning.

2. Drop-D Tuning: *D A D G B E*

D(6) D(1) B(2) E(1) D(6) A(5) D(4) G(3)

Used in Songs: *Black water, Carry Me Country Road, Millworker.*

3. Double Drop-D: *D A D G B D*

D(6) D(1) B(2) D(1) D(6) A(5) D(4) G(3)

Used in Songs: *Bluebird & Cinnamon Girl.*

4. *D A D G A D*

D(6) D(1) A(2) D(1) D(6) A(5) D(4) G(3)

5. Open D:

D(6) D(1) A(2) D(1) D(6) A(5) D(4) F#(3)

6. Open G Tuning: *D G D G B D*

D(6) D(1) B(2) D(1) D(6) G(5) D(4) G(3)