

How to Restring a Guitar

If one of your guitar strings breaks, that is a good sign that your guitar strings are old and need to be replaced. This document will explain how to install new strings to your guitar if you have not done so before. This document will not explain how to tune a guitar.

Materials needed:

- New strings
- Wire cutter
- Tweezers (optional)
- Peg winder (optional)
- Tuner (needed after replacing strings)

Removing Old Strings:

1. Place the guitar on a flat surface.
2. Starting with the first string, use either your fingers or a peg winder to slacken the string. For the lower three strings, the tuning peg needs to rotate clockwise. For the higher three strings, the tuning peg needs to rotate counterclockwise.

The third (D) string is one of the lower three strings, so the peg winder must be rotated clockwise to slacken the string.



3. After the string has been slackened, pull the end of the string out of the tuning peg.



You can take out the string before it has completely unwound from the tuning peg. Be careful, because the end of the string may be sharp.

4. At the base of the guitar, push the first string downward into the bridge pin. The bridge pin should loosen, allowing you to pull the bridge pin out. If this does not work, use tweezers to squeeze the bridge pin. Then, push the tweezers downward so that the bridge pin pops up. Place the bridge pin in a safe place next to the guitar.



5. Repeat Steps 2-4 for each of the strings. Coil the strings and dispose of them safely.



If your guitar is dirty, use a damp cloth to wipe the guitar. Since the strings are gone, you can scrub areas that were previously hard to access. Dry the guitar with the other side of the cloth.

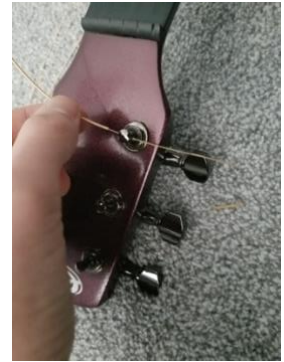
Installing New Strings:

6. Starting with the lowest string, bend the ball at a 45-degree angle and place the ball in the bridge. Place the bridge pin gently inside of the bridge with the ridge facing toward the string.



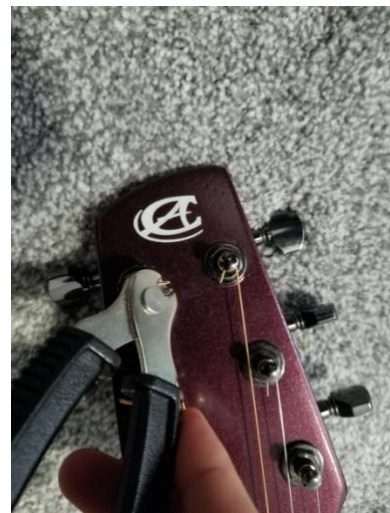
7. Place the end of the string into the appropriate tuning peg. Leave slack so that the string does not break when tightening.
8. Use either your fingers or a peg winder to tighten the string. For the lower three strings, the tuning peg needs to rotate counterclockwise. For the higher three strings, the tuning peg needs to rotate clockwise. Be sure that:

- the string tightens on appropriate place on the fretboard. You will know that the string is correctly oriented if the string rests perpendicular to the frets.
- you tighten the strings carefully. If you tighten the strings too quickly – especially the G string – they could snap.



Each of the strings rest perpendicular to the fretboard.

9. Use the wire cutter to remove excess length from the tuning peg.



10. Repeat Steps 6-9 for each of the strings.

Congratulations, you have successfully restrung your guitar! Tune the new strings to the desired tuning and resume playing the guitar.