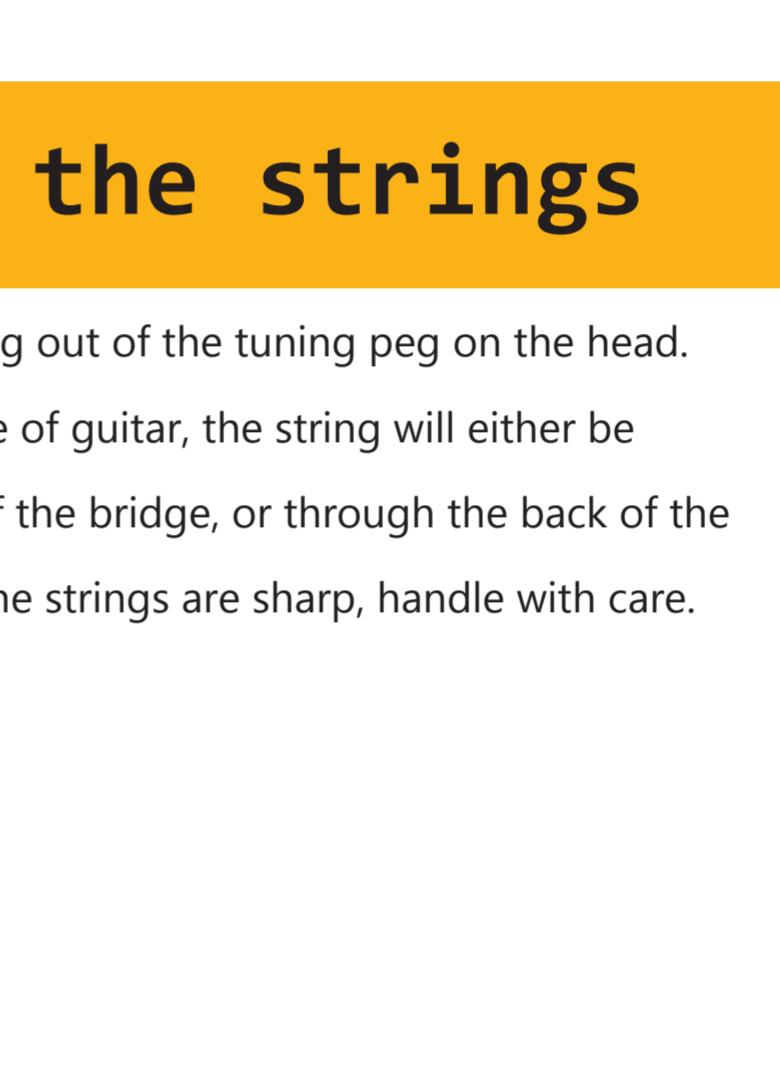


How to change electric guitar strings

Here at BDTStudios, music is a passion. Founder Brad Thompson has been playing guitar for over 15 years with classical musical background. He was lead guitarist in the Little Rock band Plexus for several years. He also has a lot of solo material, available in the music section of this site. If you are looking to breathe new life into your guitar playing, putting on a fresh set of strings can change the feel and sound of your guitar.

1 Loosen the strings

Loosen and unwind the strings using the tuning knob on the head of the guitar. The pitch that the string makes will quickly lower, turning into an incoherent sound rather quickly.

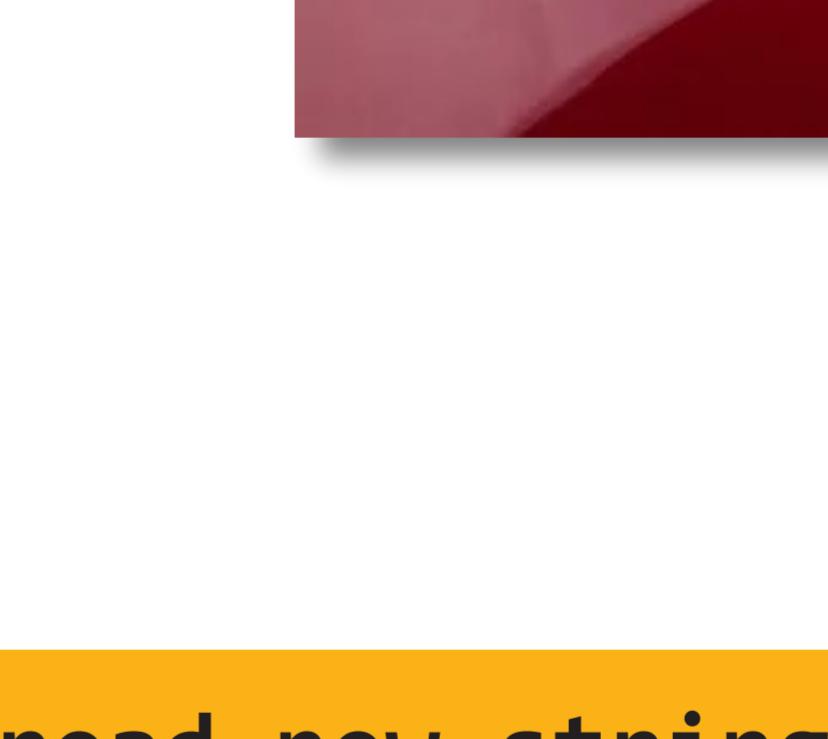
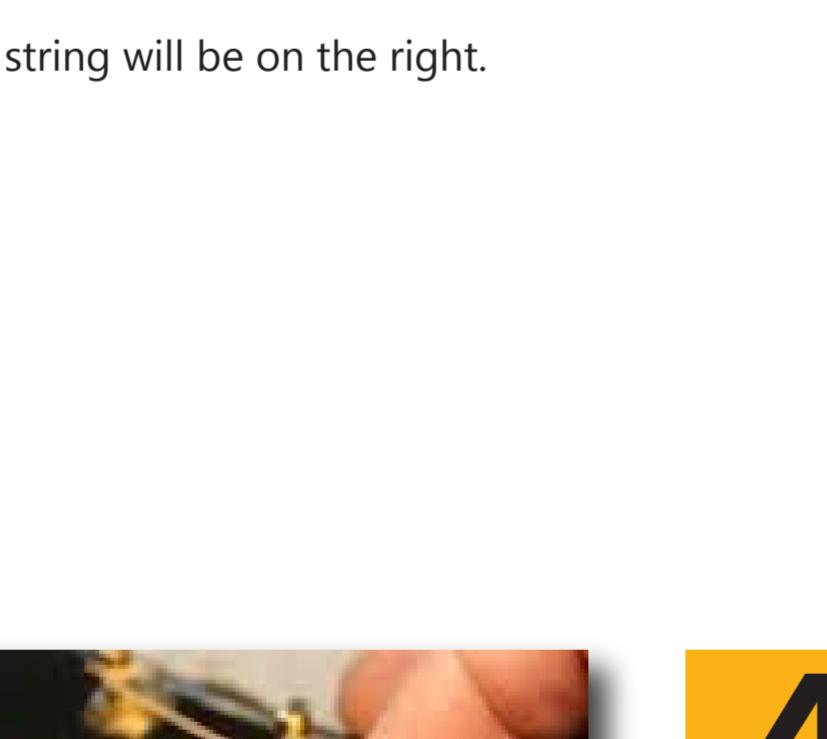


2 Remove the strings

Once loosened, pull the string out of the tuning peg on the head. Then, depending on the style of guitar, the string will either be removed from the bottom of the bridge, or through the back of the guitar. Caution! The tips of the strings are sharp, handle with care.

TIP!

Now, with the strings removed, would be a good time to clean those hard to reach parts of your guitar (usually on the head of the guitar and around the pickups.) This can be done with a dry cloth or Q-tip.



3 Insert new strings

Depending on the style mentioned in step 2, either insert the string into the corresponding location of the guitar where you removed the old one from. For right handed players, the highest gauge (thickest) string will be on the left, if looking at the guitar head on. For lefties, this string will be on the right.



4 Thread new strings

This is probably the most crucial step. You'll want to thread the new string through its corresponding tuning peg. You will want some slack when doing so, enough for it to wrap around the peg at least once but no more than three times. This is to reduce stretching of new strings while they're being broken in. With enough slack, bend the tip that is through the peg, making a hook shape so it stays in place. Turn the tuning knob until the string is taught. Repeat this step for the other strings.



5 Stretch and tune-up

Once all the strings are attached, tighten them until you reach the desired pitch, approximately. New strings will stretch slightly, so go string by string, fret by fret, and bend the strings to break them in and eliminate any stretchiness. Once this is done, tune up and you are ready to play! New strings may still stretch, this is normal.



Strings come in a variety of sizes and styles, so choose a set that fits your style of playing. Thicker strings are better for lower tunings, and smaller strings will feel looser on your fingers.