

How to String a Guitar

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(2016) Exploding Guitar

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Audience/Purpose Analysis:

- My audience includes anybody who owns an electric guitar already, or is planning to purchase one.
- I am generally expecting most of my audience to be complete novices, however there are cases where people who can already play quite well never learned how to string their own guitars.
- Keeping this knowledge level in mind, well keeping things very basic, I should probably at least include the official names of the different parts of the guitar to keep it accessible to people who already know them as well.
- While it means they at least have some interest in learning guitar, the audience age probably ranges from around age 13 all the way to age 85 or so. Basically anyone with enough dexterity to handle the strings.
- It's important to keep in mind that all these people probably have very different learning styles so my instructions should be well detailed, brief, and have many visual aids included. I might even add arrows pointing to specific things in the pictures.
- Some people may have already tuned a guitar before, and just forgot how to do one or two steps, so my table of contents should be on-point.

Required Tools:

- An electric guitar *Figure 1*
- A new set of strings *Figure 2*
- A guitar tuner *Figure 3*
- Wire Cutters *Figure 4*
- A String Winder (optional) *Figure 5*



Figure 1

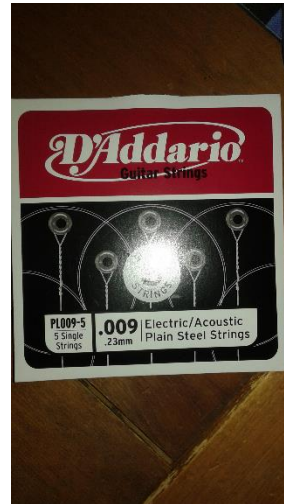


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

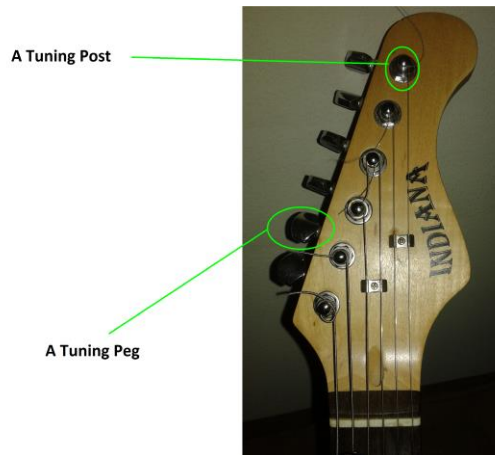


Figure 5

Electric Tuner

Terms and Figures:

- Bridge
- Tuning Peg
- Tuning Post
- “Pointed” side of String
- “Ball” side of String



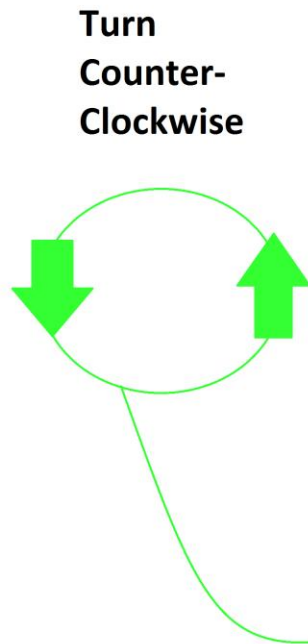
**Pointed End
of the String**



Step 1:

Loosen the Old Strings.

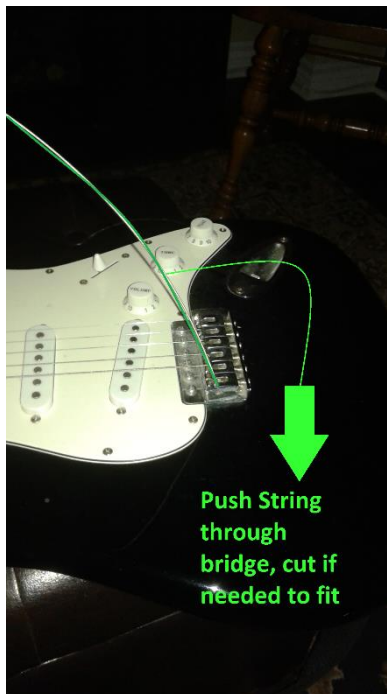
- Turn any tuning peg (as shown in the diagram) counter-clockwise. You should feel the tension in the string slowly lowering, and if you pluck the string it will produce a lower sound than it did before you started turning.
- After you loosen it all the way, you should notice that the strings will become so easy to manipulate that you can yank the strings right out from inside the tuning post.
- You can use a string winder to do this if you desire.



Step 2:

Remove the Old Strings.

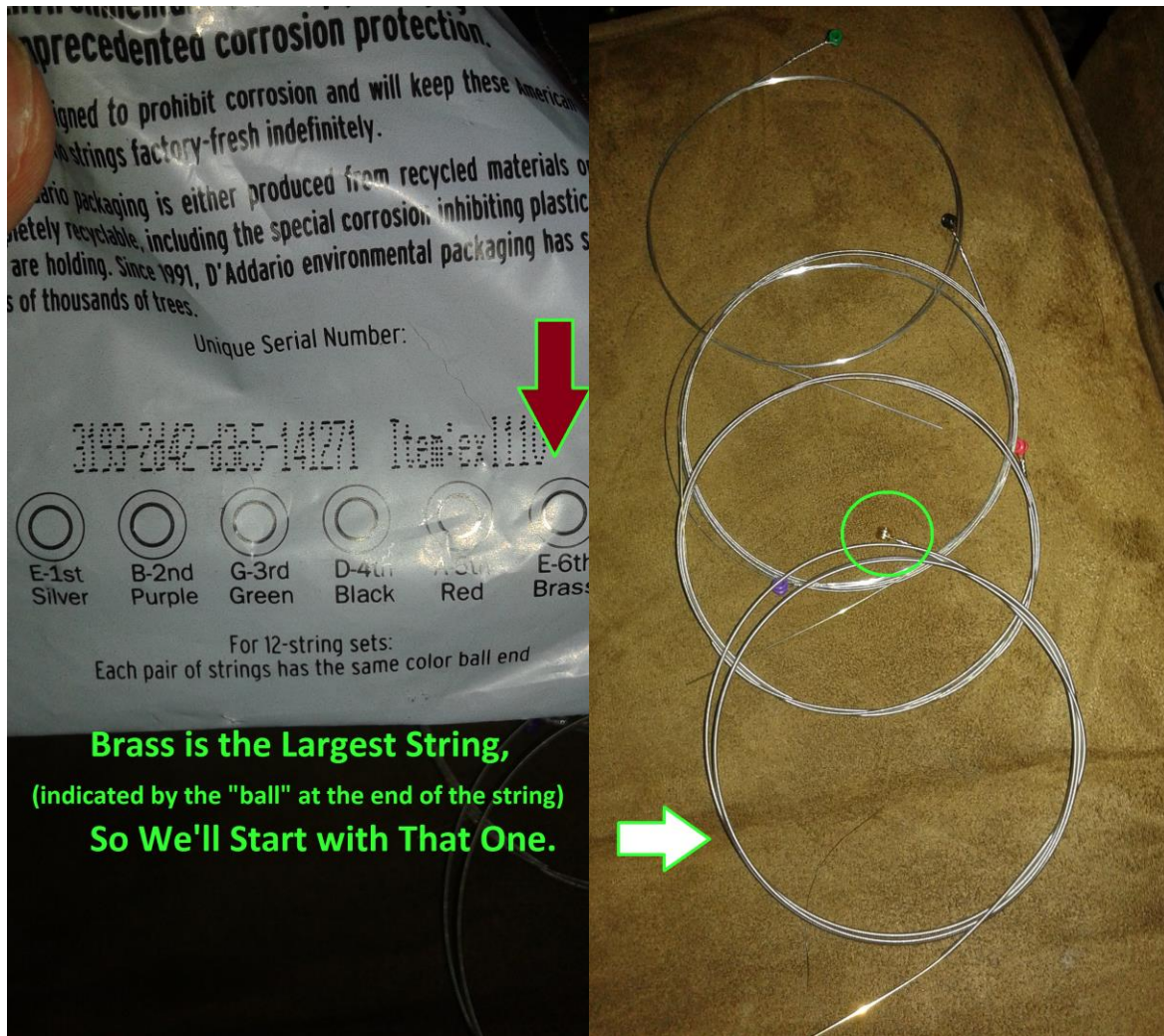
- If you haven't already pulled the strings from the tuning post, then do so now.
- Finally, either push the strings through the bridge, or simply cut them off if they don't fit.



Step 3:

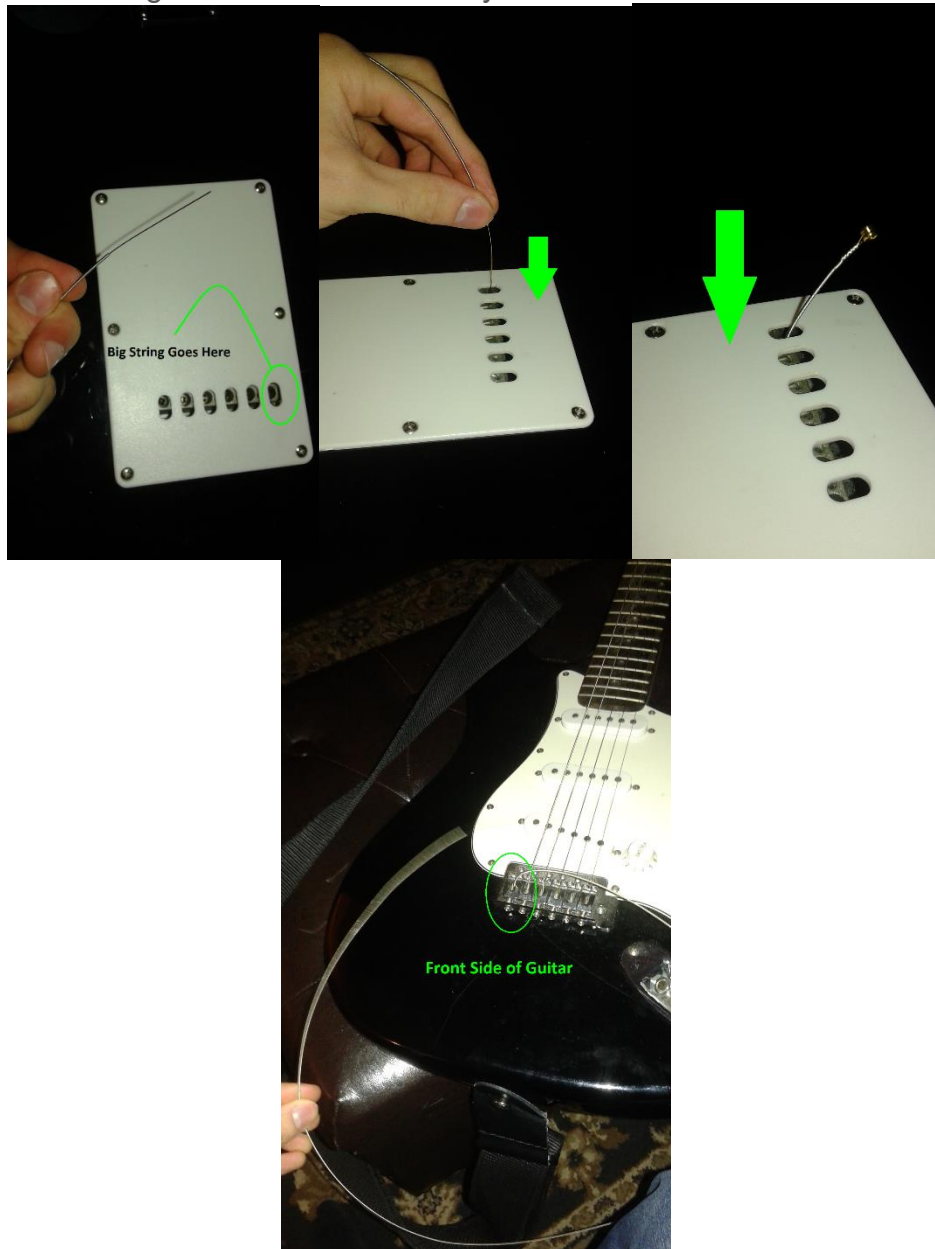
Make sure you have the correct strings.

- For an electric guitar there are a few different string sizes you could choose from.
- If you're an absolute beginner just start with regular, or 11-gauge sized strings for now.
- The sizes on the package should be around .011 .015 .018 .026 .036 .050
- Notice you have six strings, and each are a different size from biggest to smallest.
- For the following steps, use the biggest string (Big E) first.



Step 4: Feed the String through the Hole in the Bridge.

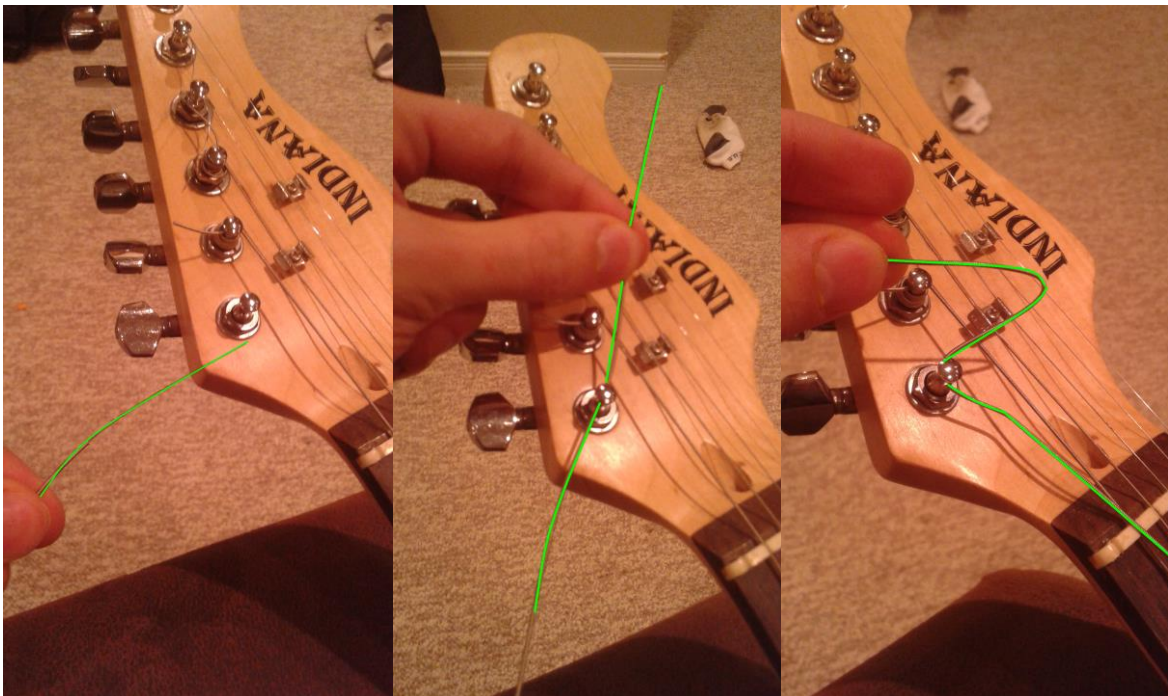
- Unravel your string if you haven't done so already
- Using the pointed end of the string, thread the string through the hole in the back of the guitar (as shown in the diagram)
- Make sure the string passes through the bridge on the other side of the guitar.
- Grasp the string on the other side and lightly pull until the "ball" at the end of the string is pulled inside the bridge until it can't move any further.



Step 5:

Pass the String through Tuning Post.

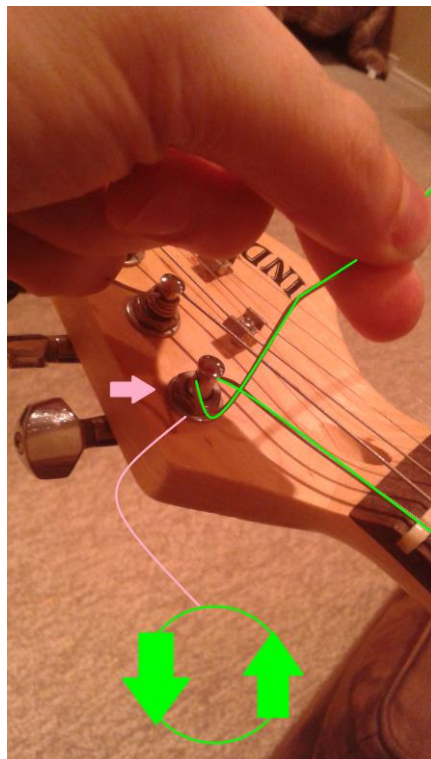
- At the top of your guitar, bring the pointed end of your string through the hole in the tuning peg.
- The tuning post you use should be vertically aligned with the hole in the bridge you just passed the string through.
- Now compress the string using both hands into an “Z” shape away from the tuning post.
- Leave a few inches of slack on the other side.



Step 6:

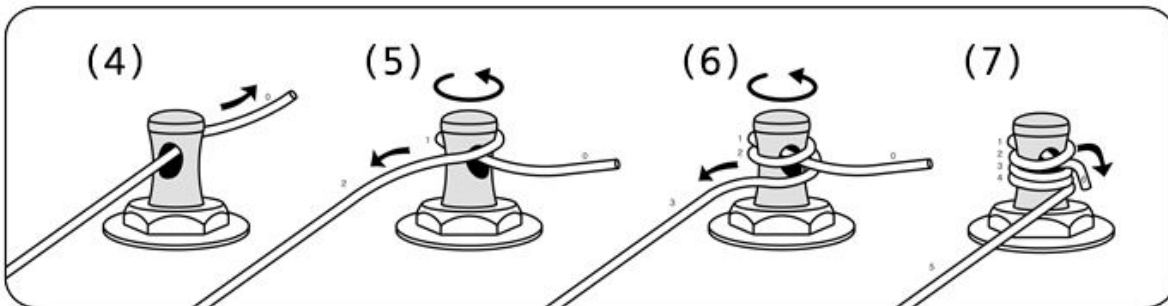
Wrap the String around the Tuning Post

- Grab the pointed end of string you just passed through the tuning post
- Pull the string tight
- Make a rotation with the string around the tuning post one time
- Keep it tight, and keep the String “loop” towards the top of the tuning post
- Still leave a little bit of slack string at the end.

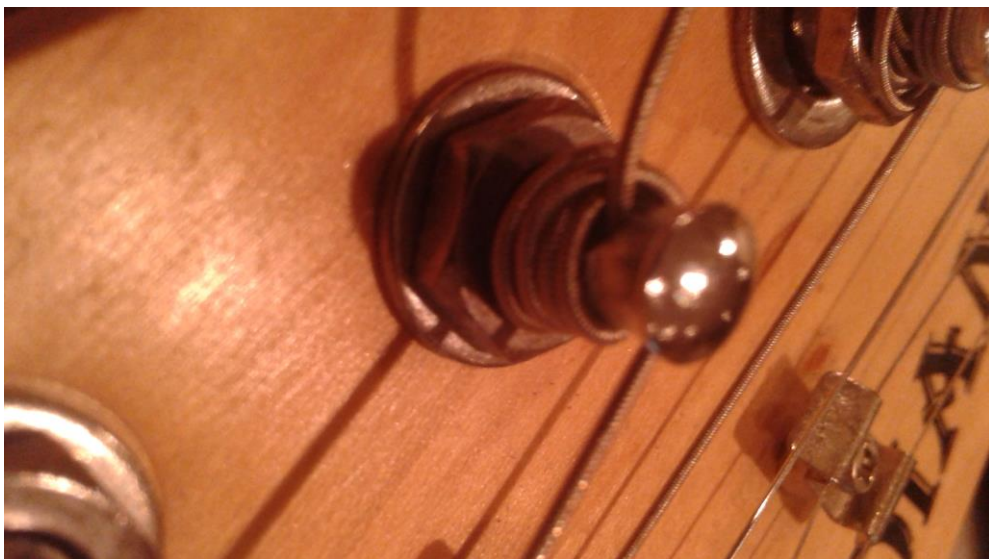


Step 7: Tighten the String:

- Hold the String down with one hand, to keep the coils in place while you tighten the string with the other
- Turn the tuning peg clockwise (as shown in the diagram) to tighten it
- Make sure you are turning the correct tuning peg
- If it's easier for you, use a string winder to tighten the string.
- You should notice the string “coiling” downwards on the tuning post it's wrapping around into a corkscrew like shape.
 - Caution: Make sure the string isn't forming coils on top of each other, keep moving downwards as you make the rounds!
- Make several rotations until the string is secure, but don't tighten to the point where it will snap from increased tension.



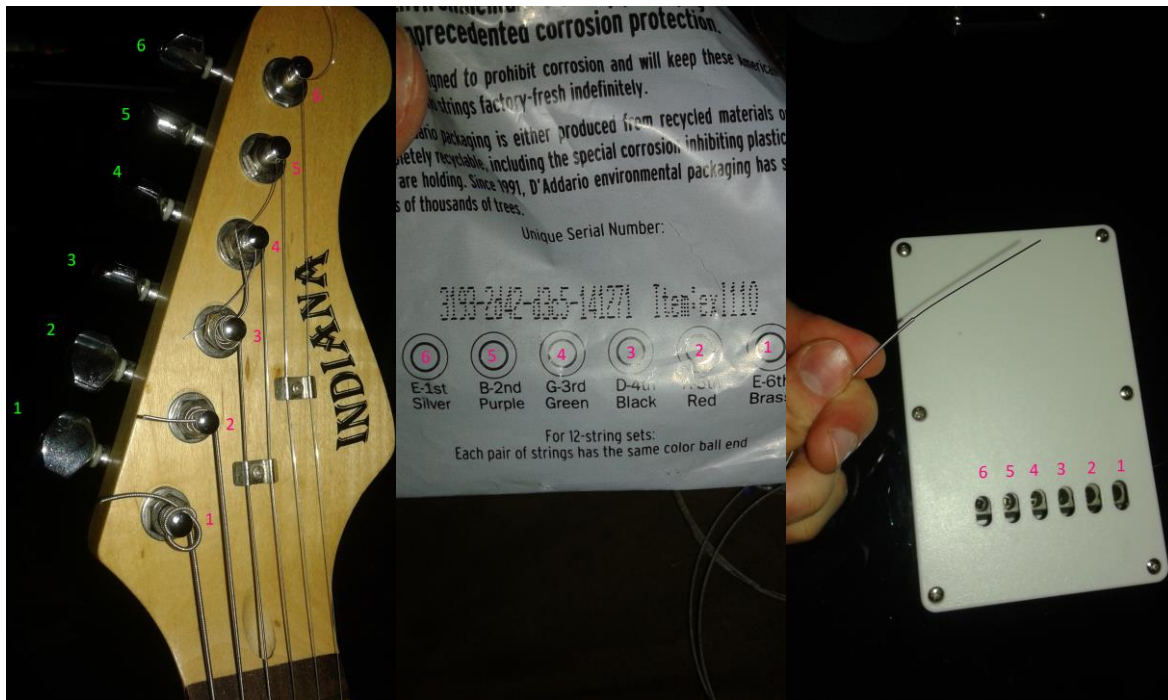
Wrapping String Around Peg



Step 8:

Repeat steps 3 through 6 for the other five strings:

- If you started with the biggest string (E), then do the next biggest string now, and so-on until the final smallest (E)string.
- Use the next hole (in the bridge), and the tuning post next-in-line right beside the first ones you used, and keep going in order until you've used all six.
- The same as the strings, and the bridge holes, you use the next tuning pegs and posts in order as well across the top of the guitar.



Step 9:
Cut the ends of the string off:

- Using a pair of wire cutters, carefully cut off the ends sticking out of the string as shown in the diagram
- Leave around half an inch or so of wire in case you want to tune the guitar differently.
- An example of about how much you may wish to leave on is shown below.



Step 10:
Tune the Guitar:

- Using an electric tuner, you can now tune your guitar.
- Since the strings are new, you will need to do this several times until they begin to settle
 - If you don't own an electric tuner, you can use a free one online at <http://www.gieson.com/Library/projects/utilities/tuner/>
 - Or if you prefer to tune a guitar without an electric tuner, you can learn how at <http://www.howtotuneaguitar.org/tuning/how-to-tune/>

Congratulations, you now have a fully functioning and playable guitar!



Driskall Guitar

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