

ELECTRIC GUITAR & BASS

QUICK START GUIDE

This guide shows you how to tune and change the strings on your guitar. It will also show you how to check your guitar's action, and how to make adjustments. These things will help you keep your guitar in good working order and provide you with years of enjoyment.

For more on tuning, tips, and tricks visit us online at www.firstact.com

Happy playing!

TUNING YOUR GUITAR

Here are three ways to tune a guitar:

1. TUNE TO ANOTHER INSTRUMENT

For example, you can use a piano keyboard to tune. Play the piano keys one at a time, and tune the corresponding guitar string to it.

Guitar Standard Tuning

NOTE	E	A	D	G	B	E
STRING	6	5	4	3	2	1



Bass Standard Tuning:

NOTE	E	A	D	G
STRING	4	3	2	1



2. USE AN ELECTRONIC TUNER

An electronic tuner detects the pitch of each string, and indicates if the pitch is too high or too low.

3. TUNE THE GUITAR TO ITSELF

This is called relative tuning:

GUITAR RELATIVE TUNING

E STRING

First, tune the 6th string to an E on a piano or a keyboard, or any other instrument that is already in tune.

A STRING

Press the 6th string behind the 5th fret and tune the open 5th string to it by turning the 5th tuning key until the two strings sound the same.

D STRING

Press the 5th string behind the 5th fret and tune the open 4th string to it by turning the 4th tuning key.

G STRING

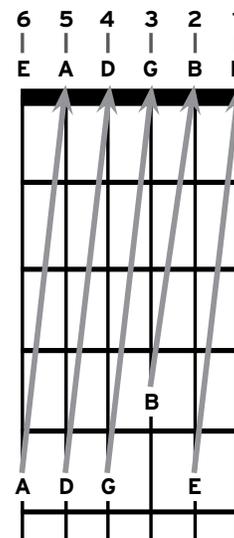
Press the 4th string behind the 5th fret and tune the open 3rd string to it by turning the 4th tuning key.

B STRING

Press the 3rd string behind the 4th fret and tune the open 2nd string to it by turning the 2nd tuning key.

E STRING

Press the 2nd string behind the 5th fret and tune the open 1st string to it by turning the 1st tuning key.



BASS RELATIVE TUNING

E STRING

First, tune the 4th string to an E on a piano or a keyboard (see above), or any other instrument that is already in tune.

A STRING

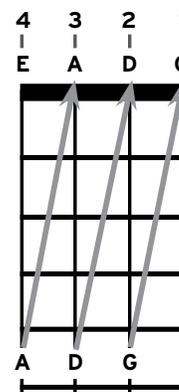
Press the 4th string behind the 5th fret and tune the open 3rd string to it by turning the 3rd tuning key until the two strings sound the same.

D STRING

Press the 3rd string behind the 5th fret and tune the open 2nd string to it by turning the 2nd tuning key.

G STRING

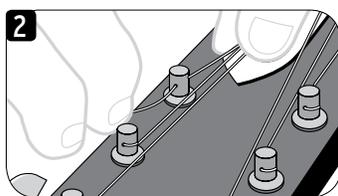
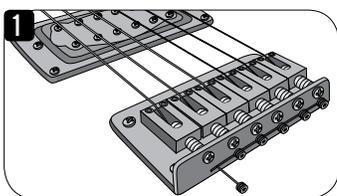
Press the 2nd string behind the 5th fret and tune the open 1st string to it by turning the 1st tuning key.



CHANGING STRINGS

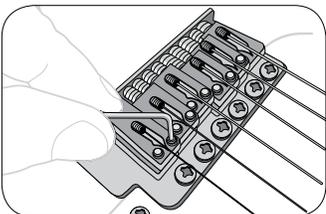
Strings should be replaced when they become dirty, discolored, or produce a dull sound. Change one string at a time to maintain the string tension on the neck. You can change guitar strings in five easy steps:

1. Loosen the string by turning the tuning peg and remove the string from the guitar.
2. Thread the string through the hole in the bridge, either on the back of the guitar or at the end of the “stop tailpiece” bridge (Figure 1).
3. Feed the end of the string through the hole in the tuning peg. Leave some slack so the string will wind around the post a few times (Figure 2).
4. Bend the end of the string and tighten it by turning the tuning peg.
5. Carefully trim the excess string with wire cutters.



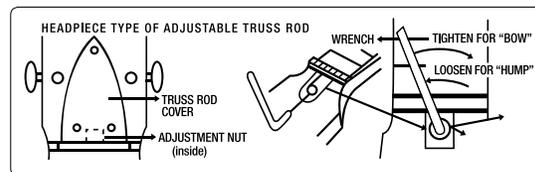
ADJUSTING THE ACTION

On electric or bass guitars, the bridge or bridge saddle can be raised or lowered to adjust the action. Turning the saddle screws clockwise usually raises the height of the saddle and increased the space between the strings and the frets.



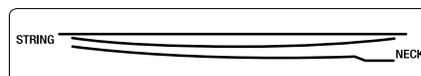
TRUSS ROD ADJUSTMENTS

The truss rod is a device installed in the neck of the guitar to stabilize and control the straightness of the neck, and support it against the string tension. A guitar neck flexes under string tension, bending forward. Removing the string tension will straighten out the neck.



BOW

A neck with a “bow” in the middle will cause bad action and impair intonation. The truss rod can be tightened to eliminate a bowed neck.



HUMP

A neck with a “hump” in the middle will cause string rattle and false tones. The truss rod can be loosened to eliminate a hump in the neck.



It's best to have a professional repair person adjust your guitar's truss rod. If you're doing it yourself, be very careful. Too much of a turn can damage the neck of your guitar.

If you are familiar with making adjustments yourself, you can locate the truss rod at the end of the neck, just above the nut of the guitar. Loosen the 3rd and 4th strings to access the truss rod.

Adjustments should only be made to the truss rod in very small increments. Start with less than a quarter of a turn. It's helpful to mark your truss rod so you can monitor your progress or return it to its original position.

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

Phone: 888.551.1115
Email: info@firstact.com

First Act Inc.
745 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116 USA

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