

TYPES OF GUITARS

Classical Guitar

Classical Guitars are a type of acoustic guitar strung with nylon strings. They are used for playing classical, flamenco and traditional folk music. This guitar provides a good starting point for young players and beginners as the strings are softer and easier to play. Classical guitars are available in full size, 3/4, 1/2 and 1/4 sizes.

Steel String Guitar

Steel string acoustic guitars come in many sizes, the most common being dreadnought. There are a number of larger and smaller sizes to suit different taste and size of the player. OM guitars would suit a smaller build player, whereas a Jumbo guitar would be better suited to a larger player who is looking for a more “bassy” louder sound.

Some steel string guitars are able to be plugged into an amplifier, these are called acoustic/electric guitars. These guitars are very similar to normal acoustic guitars, except that they have a built in pickup which transforms the acoustic sound into electric current so that you can amplify the sound through a guitar amp or PA system, or plug directly into a recording system.

When amplified they sound just like an acoustic guitar, but louder (not like an electric guitar.)

Electric and Bass Guitars

Electric guitars and electric bass guitars are made to be solely used with an amplifier. Generally they do not produce sound on their own as an acoustic guitar does. It's called an electric guitar not because the guitar itself is connected to any power, but because it has pickups set under the strings that convert the string vibrations into very small electrical current. This travels from the output of the guitar, through a guitar lead, to the input of the amp which amplifies the electric current and converts it back to sound which you hear out of the speaker. Amplifier sizes range from bedroom practice amps to large amp stacks for playing on stage. Electric guitars use steel strings.

Headstock



Neck

Body

Headstock



Neck

Body

Headstock



Neck

Body

CARING FOR YOUR GUITAR

Guitars play their best and last much longer when they are well cared for. A guitar is a delicate instrument, and when not in use it should be kept in a safe place where it's not too damp or too dry (in winter in front of a heater can be extremely dry and this isn't good for the wood in your guitar).

Don't ever lean a guitar on a wall, or anywhere it may fall because if accidentally knocked it could damage the guitar (it's a very easy way to break the headstock). The safest place to leave your guitar is in its case or, even better, a guitar stand where it is safe and your guitar is always ready to play. Alternatively, if you lay your guitar down flat, out of the way, there is nowhere for it to fall.



When you finish playing, clean the guitar and strings with a soft cloth, like a micro-fibre cloth. Cleaning after use will mean that the strings last longer. Don't use any solvents or silicon based polishes (only use guitar polish) as these might affect your finish. Strings should be changed regularly to get the best sound out of your guitar (1-2 months is ideal for most players, professionals will change every week, and stars will change every concert!)

Always keep at least one spare set of strings, in case a string or two breaks just before you want or need to play the guitar.

STRING REPLACEMENT

Don't put nylon strings on a steel string guitar and don't put steel strings on a nylon string guitar. Do not over tighten guitar strings otherwise you could cause serious damage to the bridge and top of the guitar.

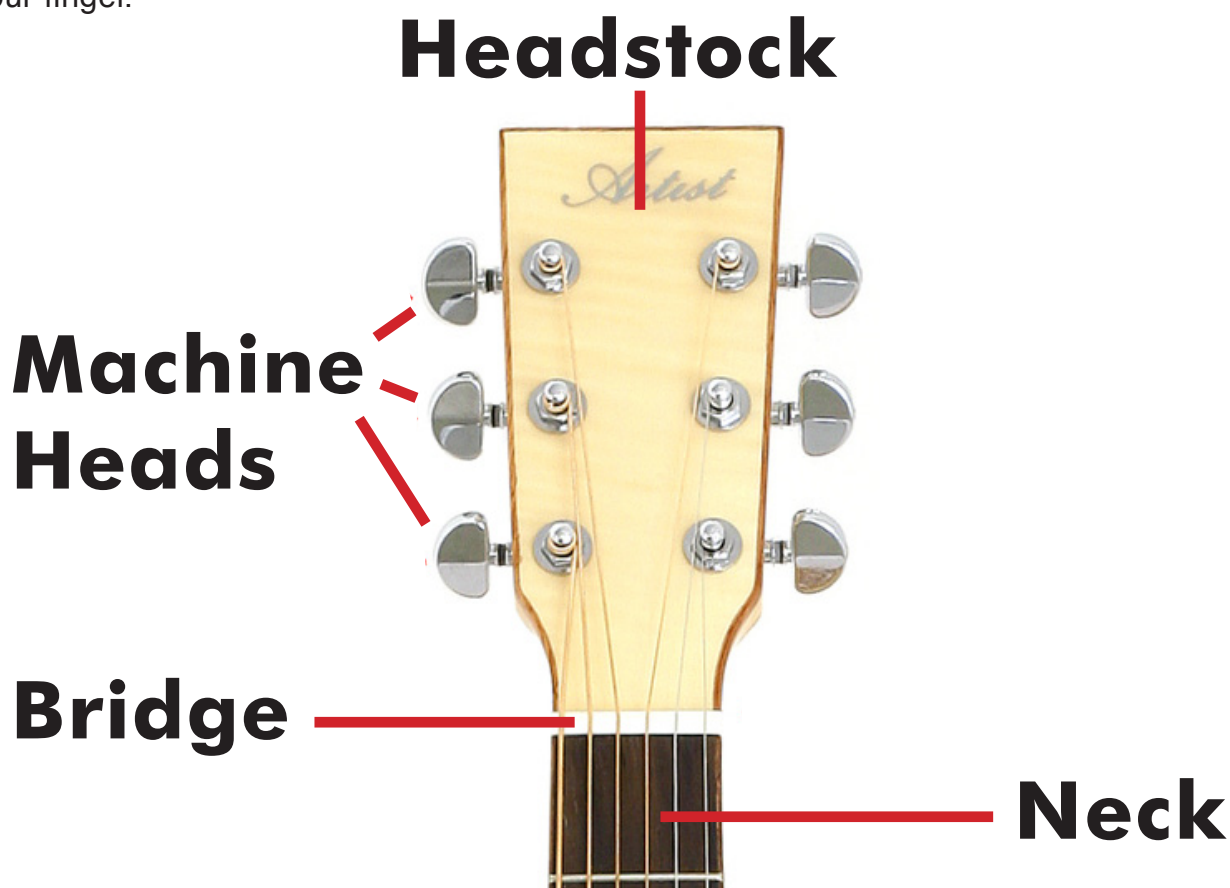
When changing all 6 strings, it's best to do it one at a time. So remove one string then thread the new string. This maintains the correct tension on the neck.

For a classic, fit the replacement string into the tailpiece of the guitar. Nylon strings pass through and over the bridge, and then looped.

Electric Guitar / Bass strings are attached to the tailpiece. There are many different types, but always feed the string through the hole on the bridge/ tailpiece of the guitar.

For a steel string acoustic guitar, you change the string by removing the bridge pin, remove the old string and feed the ball end of the new string into the hole. Replace the bridge pin back into the hole so that the ball end is hooked around the underside of the bridge.

Once the string is replaced, wind the string onto the machine head. The machine head has a hole to feed the string through. Feed the top of the string into the hole then turn the machine head about 1 full turn. Lift the string between 2 to 3cm and wind the string. The aim is to get the string wound roughly 3 times around the spool of the machine head so that the string will grip to itself. Next tune the guitar, as described below. Then, "snap" the string by curling your index finger around the string and pulling up, until you feel a reasonable amount of tension on your finger.



HOW TO TUNE YOUR GUITAR

This is the standard tuning for a six string guitar:



E A D G B E

This is the tuning for a four string Bass:



E A D G

The best way to tune is use an electronic tuner, or alternatively you could use a tuning fork or simply tune to a piano, organ or keyboard. To tune with a piano, simply play the note corresponding to the note you're trying to tune and adjust the pitch of the guitar string until they are the same. An electronic tuner is much easier to use because there is a gauge that tells you whether to tune up or down and gives you a green light when you hit the note.

If these items aren't available, tune your guitar by the following method:

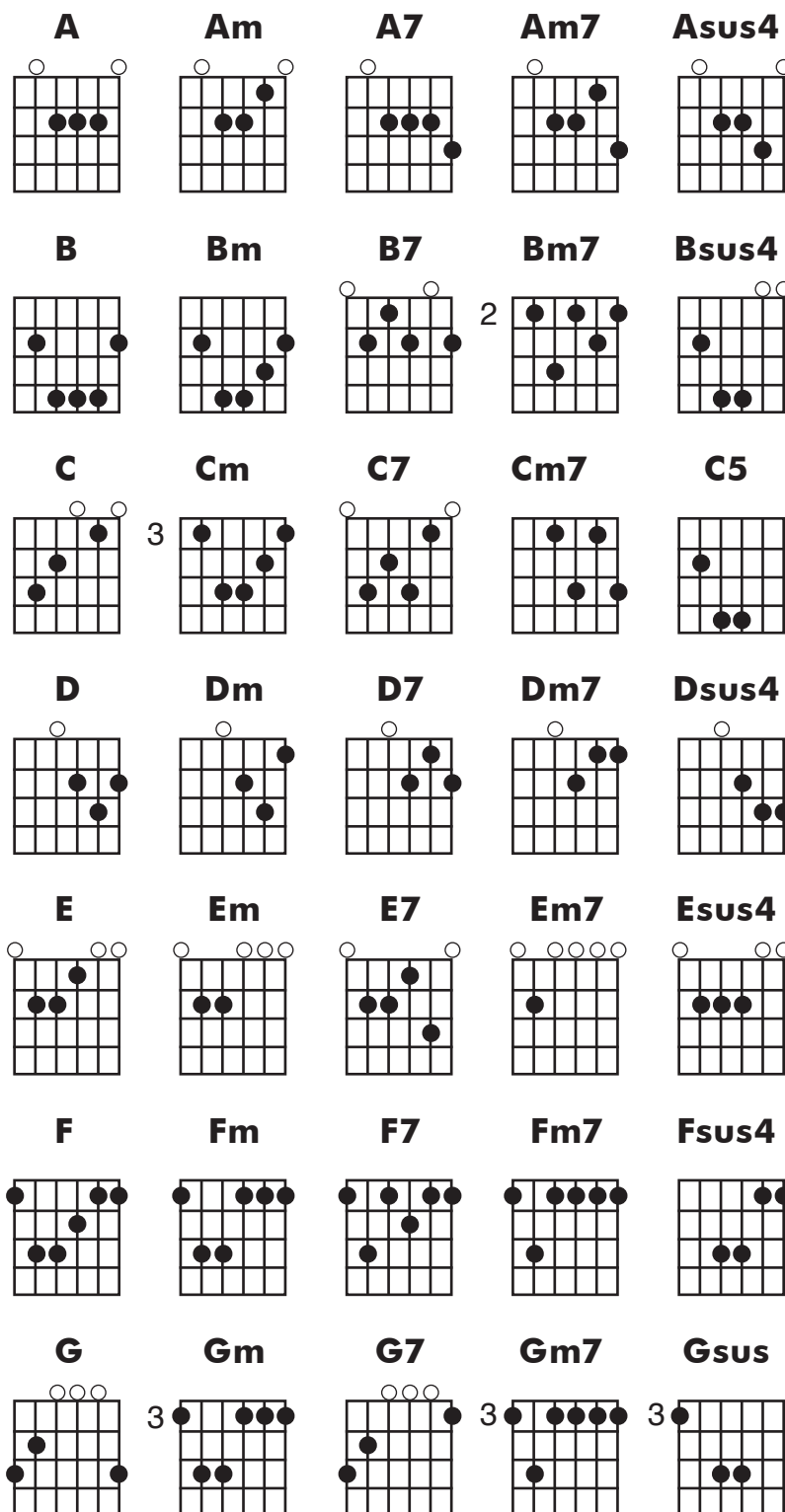
1. Tune the **Low E** to Pitch, as close as you can get it by ear
2. Tune the **A string** to the **5th fret** of the **Low E string** (adjust the tuning of the **A string** until it matches the pitch of the **Low E, 5th fret**).
3. Tune the **D string** to the **5th fret** of the **A string**.
4. Tune the **G string** to the **5th fret** of the **D string**.
5. Tune the **B string** to the **4th fret** of the **G string**.
6. Finally, tune the **E string** to the **5th fret** of the **B string**. The guitar should be in tune with itself.

Never over tighten guitar strings. This overstretches the strings, and can even result in string or guitar damage.

PLAYING THE GUITAR

Once the guitar is tuned, it's time to try a few simple chords. Here is a chord chart, and a few simple songs. The black dots on the chord chart represent where to place your finger on the fret board before strumming. Practice makes perfect, start out with simple chords, like a G or a C. Once you have mastered a few chords, try reading some easy guitar charts.

Chord Chart



SUPPORT

To find a qualified teacher near you, go to:

<http://www.artistguitars.com.au/view/guitarteachers>

If you would like more information, visit our support page:

www.artistguitars.com.au/support

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