

HOW TO TUNE THE GUITAR

Tuning the Guitar.

There are 4 ways of tuning the Guitar.

- 1 - By Ear**
- 2 - By Reference**
- 3 - With a piano or keyboard.**
- 4 - With an electronic tuner**

1 - By Ear.

You need to have a good ear, a lot of music experience, and a lot of practice. Great musicians that's how they do it. They just pick a Guitar and as they play the strings they can actually "hear" each note and they can tell if it's in tune or not.

This way is in another lesson.

2 - By Reference.

Similar to tuning the Guitar by ear. You need to hear at least one note, and then play other notes to match the one that you know. We can teach you how to tune the Guitar in this way, is not that difficult, but still you need to have a good ear.

This way is in another lesson.

3 - With a piano or keyboard.

By knowing the notes in the Guitar, you find the same notes in the Piano or Keyboard and they have to sound the same, you need to have good ear for this as well. And you need to have a Piano or Keyboard, so this way is not hear also.

Is in another lesson.

4 - With an electronic tuner.

This is probably the easiest way of tuning the Guitar. You need to have a tuner. If you do, I will show you how to tune the Guitar using an electronic tuner.

Electronic Tuners.

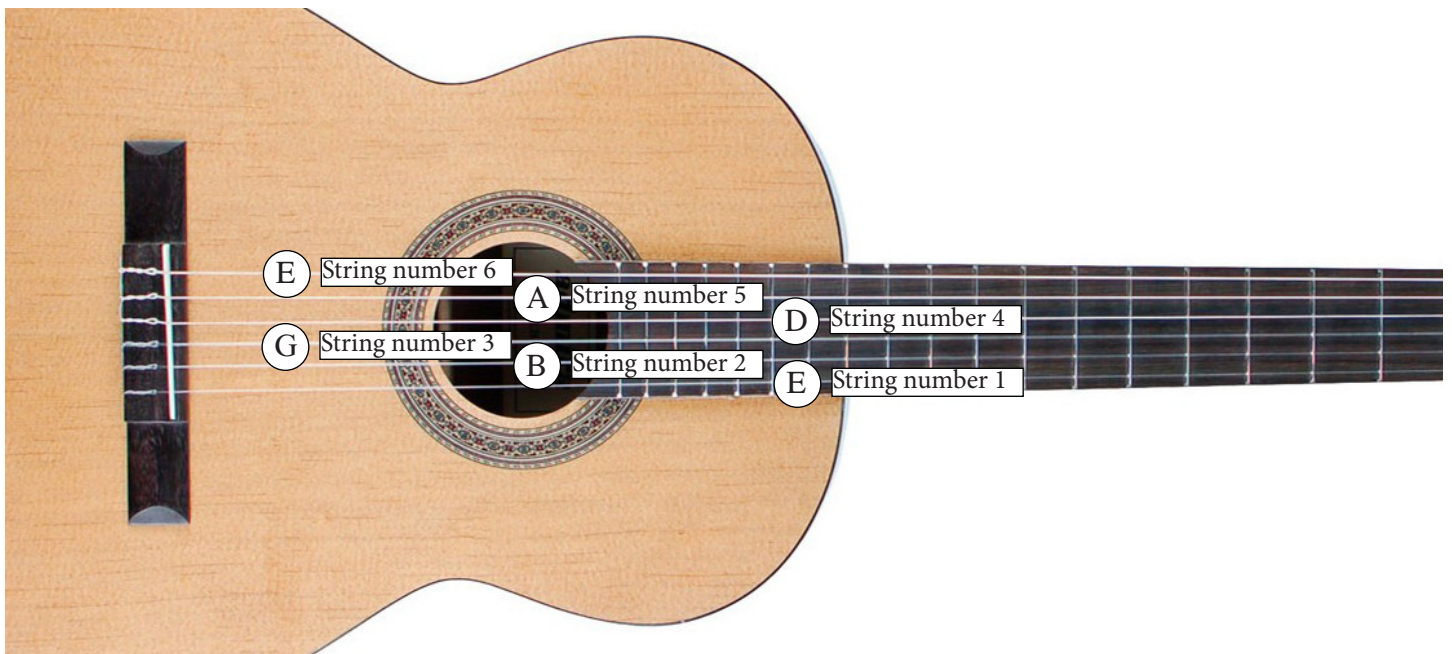
There are many tuners out there. Range from \$6.00 or \$7.00 dollars to \$20.00 or more. (in 2018)

You can get one just with the basic needs. Here are some example of how they look.



Any tuner is fine. They all do pretty much the same. They have a sensor that will listen to the sound of the string and detect the frequency, and display it. So if the string sounds like “E” the tuner will show “E” in the screen.

To tune the Guitar, you need to know the letters in each string.
All the strings have different letter, except for the first and sixth.



The string number 6 is E low.
The string number 5 is A.
The string number 4 is D.

The string number 3 is G.
The string number 2 is B.
The string number 1 is E high.

Place tuner.

Place the tuner close to the Guitar, so it can “pick” up the sound. Make sure it’s on.

If you have a clip on tuner, put it like this...



Lose the strings.

You have to make sure the strings are not too tight, if they are, they may break.

String number 6.

Always start with the lowest sounding string.
String number 6. because it’s really difficult to break.

Order of the notes.

The notes have the same order all the time. There are 12 notes.

C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

After those twelve sounds, you have another twelve like this...

C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

and so on...

As soon as you play an OPEN string, without pressing anything with your left hand, only play or strum the string number 6 with your right hand.

Look at the tuner, it must show a letter.

Is it F, or E or D# or any letter.

The tuning pegs.

Use the pegs to tight or lose the strings. The pegs look like this.



Make sure is the correct string.

Sometimes the strings are in the wrong order, or put in the wrong place. Make sure you turn the peg just a little bit to notice that you are tightinh the right string.

Higher.

If you tight the string the sound should go higher, the tighter the string the higher the sound. And the number should go up, changing the let-ters.

Peg 6.

Let's tune the string number 6.



C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1

Play the string, what letter is showing, if it's showing "A" then is number 10. Is wrong. Because string number 6 must be low "E"

Tuners don't have a number under the note, but some of them have a little needle or something telling you if you are going high or low. Most of them usually "Green" means is in tune, "Red" is NOT in tune.



This shows "A" the String Number 5. If it shows "A" and you are tuning the String number 5, then, the string is in tune.

CAREFUL!

Always be careful, if you feel the string is too tight, STOP! Lose the string and start again, go slowly and turn the pegs little by little every time

Tune each string!

Takes time, specially for new guitars. Tune each string one by one, from 6 to 5 to 4 to 3 to 2 to the last one, the thinnest string, string number 1.

String No. 6.

This should sound really low.



E

String No. 5.

Lower then E.



A

Imagine is number 5. Make sure the tuner shows E

5

This should be like 10, higher then 5.

10

String No. 4.

This is also a low sounding string.



D

Now we are going higher to 15

15

String No. 3.

Now we go to medium sound.



G

Then to 20, notice how it's the same distance from string to string.

20

String No. 2.

This should be high sound.



B

This is not the same distance, is only 4, so we are going to 24. Remember, the numbers are just so you have an idea. This are not musical numbers.

24

String No. 1.

This string is really high.



E

And finally the last string to tune, we are going to 29, that's really high.

29

If you play the strings from top to bottom, all of them, they should sound from low to high, Low is the top strings, and high is the bottom strings, is backwards, but it's okay.

The Guitar must be in tune all the time, other wise it sounds bad.

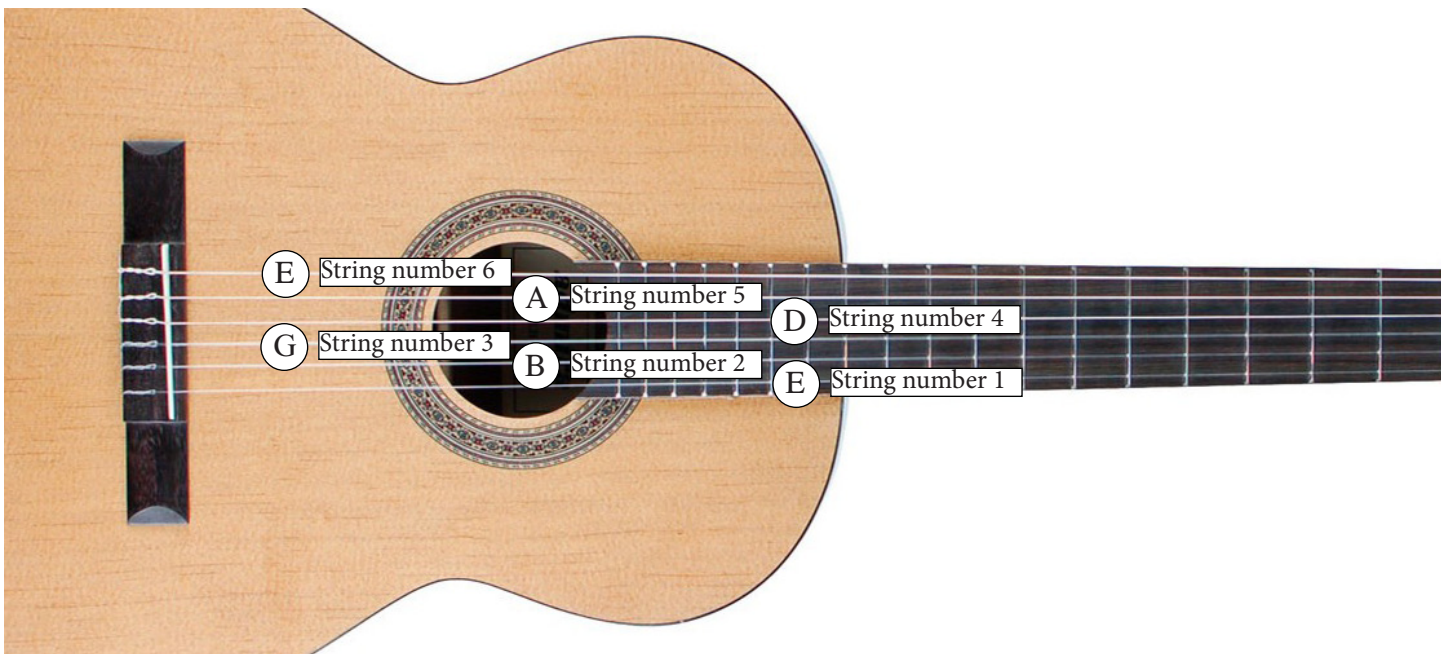
New Guitars or new Strings must be tune almost every day, for a month or so, until the Strings get the right tension.

After that they can stay in tune longer.

Always is a good idea see someone tune the Guitar at least once, to have a better idea. Use your ear, and be careful not to break the strings, specially the number 1.

Now double check each string, play it one by one and you should see the tuner showing the correct letters in the correct order.

E - A - D - G - B - E



I hope you can now tune your Guitar. Like everything in life, you need to practice a little and experiment, if you break a string, well... put another one and start all over again!

Don't give up, and practice, you should now be ready to play wonderful songs in your Guitar, in your tuned Guitar I should say.