

TAYLOR TECH SHEET

SOME DO'S AND DON'TS ABOUT RE-STRINGING AND TUNING YOUR GUITAR

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REPLACING STRINGS

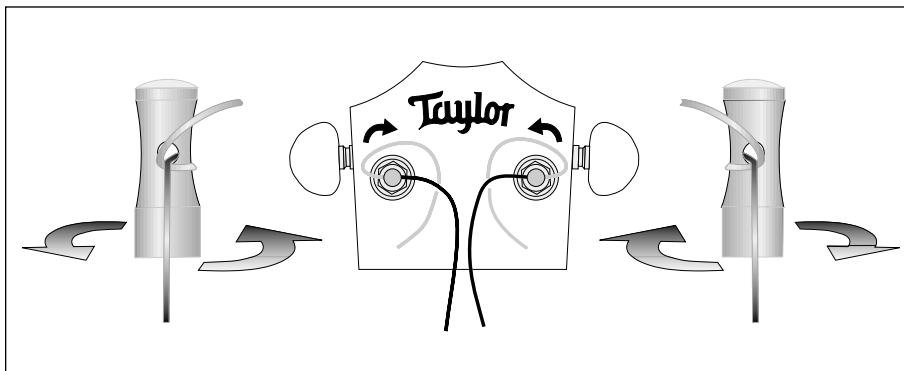
Many people consider it a simple thing to re-string and tune a guitar, but there is an "art" to it. When re-stringing a guitar, you can save yourself some later re-adjustments by changing only one or two strings at a time. This might take longer, but it can prevent some problems. If you remove all of your strings at once, the guitar neck will backbow (become convex), and might require a neck adjustment to

return it to its normal position after the new strings are in place.

Changing the strings in stages is especially important for players whose guitars have pickups. This is because the pickup's balance can be affected by changing all the strings at once, which tends to alter the strings' downward pressure on the bridge saddle. [This advice does not necessarily apply to experienced repairmen, who frequently change all the strings simultaneously. That's because it's easy and convenient for them to readjust the guitar after-

ward, should anything not be right.]

I am aware of numerous ways to install strings, but there really is only one method that will lock them in place and prevent them from slipping. Oddly, I don't see this technique used very often, even though it is described in many guitar-repair publications. I learned it from my guitar teacher years ago. Because this procedure is easier to perform than to explain, the following diagrams are provided to illustrate the sequence:



1. Face headstock and turn tuners until string holes are aligned left to right. (Fig. 1)
2. Insert string through hole and run string around post and under string (Fig. 2)
3. Pull string up and bend over to create a kink, which will lock the string in place. (Fig. 1. & Fig. 3)
4. Mirror this process on both sets of tuners and tighten in the direction shown. (Fig. 1 & Fig. 3)

TUNING

Some people have problems keeping their guitars in tune because they fail to remember one simple fact: The gears in any tuners – even those of the highest quality – have a bit of built-in slack that must be compensated for when fine-tuning a string. For example, if one of your strings sounds sharp, don't just back the tuner off until the

string is in tune, because the slack remaining in the tuning gear soon will cause the string to go flat. Instead, back the tuner off until the string sounds flat, then tune it back up to pitch, thus removing the slack. [It always helps to give the string a gentle tug *before* tuning it back up to pitch.]

According to one musty old guitar myth, strings must be in place on a guitar for a brief period before they

“stay in tune.” That's entirely false. When installing your strings, tune them all to pitch, then gently tug on each string, in turn, and re-tune it. Repeat this sequence until each string holds its pitch. Guitar techs who work for professional players are very familiar with this procedure, because they have to install brand new strings moments before the artist goes on stage.



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