

## STOP New Strings Going Out Of Tune

**Q. How can I stop my guitar going out of tune when I fit new strings?**

A. Easy... don't pull on them or try to stretch them in any way. That's not the problem. Think about this instead... When you take the strings out of the packet and uncoil them... they spring out STRAIGHT. This is because most metals have a memory. They remember being straight when made.

OK, so the problem is this: When you FIRST put them on your guitar, they STILL want to be STRAIGHT. That means that, as they pass over the **bridge saddles** (both sides), the **nut** (both sides) and round the **tuning posts**, the strings naturally form an ARC at all five places. It is not until they've been on for some time that the string tension collapses the arc into an acute angle.

Sometimes, the strings are becoming dead before they reach the point of tuning stability. It is the slow and gradual collapsing of the arc which causes the strings to go out of tune frequently and especially when you bend notes - they always de-tune, as you must have noticed.

You can eliminate this as soon as you have put new strings on. There's quite a lot of 'slack' to get rid of, and you do it by lightly bending down the string immediately behind and in front of the bridge saddles (D), by pushing with the tip of your finger, or other tool, towards the body. You do the same at the nut - before and after (C) - and finally at the tuning peg (A). But here, push the string horizontally so that the string meets the peg at a right angle to it (A). If you look closely before doing this at the peg, you'll see a very slight curve just before the string goes round the peg. This action 'bends out' the arc and stops the problem almost completely! Hey presto! Tuning problems gone... until you change the strings again!

Like all skills, you'll get better at it with practise. I frequently put new strings on my guitars only an hour before playing at a gig and suffer only very minor detuning. Usually none after ten minutes of playing.

I hope you find this a useful tip.

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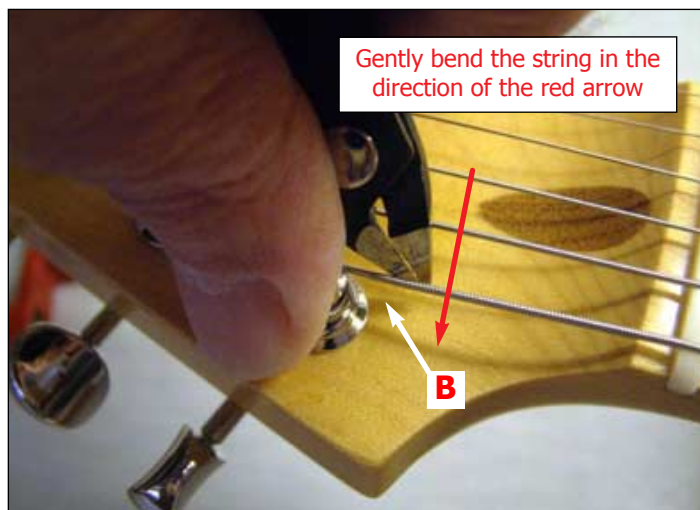
Look at point 'A' on the picture to the right.

You can plainly see the arc in the string as it begins to turn round the tuning post. This must be bent out until the string is at right angles to the post.

The dashed red line is just to help make the ARC more visible.

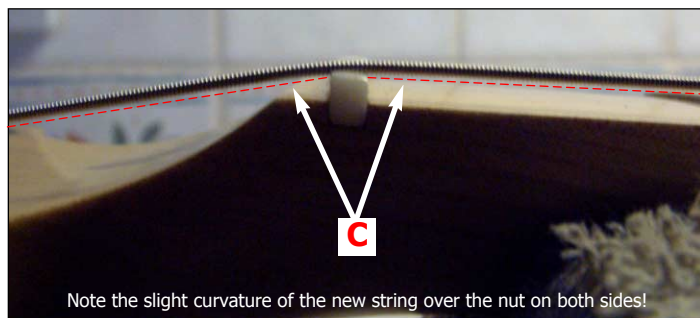


Here's me bending the string using a pair of cutters at point 'B'.



Gently bend the string in the direction of the red arrow

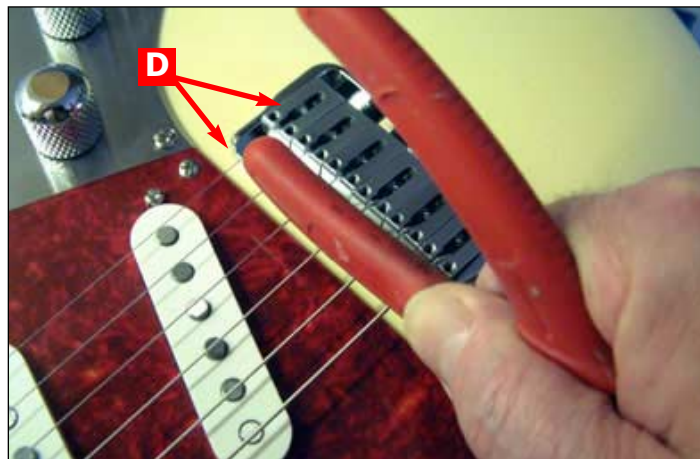
Don't forget to gently bend the strings down either side of the nut as well. Point 'C'



Note the slight curvature of the new string over the nut on both sides!

Finally, the bridge gets the same treatment too - point 'D'. On both sides if you can get to the anchor side of the string easily.

You must try or you will not completely cure the problem!



FINAL SCORE	
Build Quality	20/20
Playability	20/20
Sound	20/20
Value for money	20/20
Vibe	20/20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

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