

TUNING UP

HOW TO TUNE YOUR GUITAR

As annoying as it is being in tune is an essential thing when playing guitar, each string has it's own note and going from the thickest to the thinnest string it goes:

E (6th) A (5th) D (4th) G (3rd) B (2nd) e (1st)

Now it's a little bit odd that all the string's notes are written in capitals except the last but if you haven't guessed already it's because we already have one E so when explaining which string and to stop confusion we put it in lowercase.

There are a few methods you can use to tune your guitar but as a beginner there are only a couple I would recommend. First method is an electronic tuner, you can pick them up fairly cheap and they can normally be plugged straight into your guitar with a guitar lead but also normally have a microphone to be pick up an acoustic instrument and the note of the string should be shown on front of the tuner and you can tune accordingly. Second thing I would recommend is a pitch pipe, only downfall to a pitch pipe, although they are cheaper, is that you have to be able to hear if the notes are the same which can be tricky. Thirdly, I would use an online tuner, although you can get them free it can be annoying because you have to load up your PC and be connected to the internet but I find them a little bit more useful than a pitch pipe because they will normally play the note from a guitar rather than just hearing the note.

So you know what the note should be but how do you change the note? At the end of your guitar are things called tuning heads (displayed in the picture to the right) and these are normally made of metal but can be made of plastic. Tuning heads twist both left and right, now one way will make the note higher and one will make the note lower, to find out give it a go but be careful not to do it too much because there is a risk you may break a string. So when you are tuning you can take your tuning device, that we spoke about earlier, and then match the note accordingly by twisting the tuning head and make sure that you do it on all the strings because tuning one string will not tune all six.



At first, tuning can be an annoying, boring and difficult process but after a little while it becomes a second nature and you realise that unless your guitar is in tune then anything that you play just will not sound as good.