

Tips on changing strings:

Strings should be changed whenever they start to look or feel rusty , when they start breaking or when they lose their tone and sound and look dull. It is difficult to know how long strings will last as factors such as climate, how often [or not] you play your guitar and whether you are working in band or just playing at home. Generally when playing a full night with a band strings will usually only last 3 – 6 gigs and then you risk the embarrassment of snapping a string in your moment of glory solos.

When changing strings leave enough” slack” to ensure that there is going to be 3 – 5 turns of string around the tuning head. Do not use too many turns or wraps as this leads to tuning instability and constant string stretch. make sure you gently but firmly stretch the strings when they are new. While connected to your tuner keep pulling and stretching the string and re tune as necessary. nylon strings will always take a great deal of stretching to remain in tune .

Interesting products which assist in tuning stability and ease of changing are **spertzel** or **grover** locking machine heads which require no turns or wraps at all as they lock the string into the machine head.

A good idea on electric guitars with tremelo bridges such floyd rose types and also on gibson style ‘tune o matic’ bridges is to change the strings one a ta time. This stops the tremolo going compete out of adjustment and in the case of the tune o matic , from clean falling off the guitar and losing the whole set up.

Always keep your new strings as clean as possible by wiping them down after each period of playing and using string life products such as **fast fret** or **finger ease**, before And after each playing session. It make a HUGE difference to string life and length of good string tone!. You can greatly extend string life also by using strings brands such as **elixir** strings which add about 8 times to the life of strings.[they are about 3 times more expensive than normal strings.]

A essential tool to have is an all in one string crank/winder/ string cutter and bridge pin remover such as those made by **planet waves** or similar.