

Guitar Technical Services

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TUNING PAIRED STRINGS BY OCTAVES

Something for you to try out, maybe this could help your guitar sound a little sweeter especially when using open chords ! - Be careful not to press too hard !

I found that tuning the guitar using a tuner was a good starting point, apart from having the intonation correct. The next step was to tune guitar strings in octaves against each other as a comparison - or you could say in sympathy with each other. I devised the following system for myself that partly revolves around open chords but really I only pick out the octave strings in the chord. Some of the 'tuned notes' are slightly changed from the 'tuner start point' so, once the guitar is initially tuned, the E strings are the starting blocks for tuning by octaves, based on the E chord as follows:

Step 1

1st set of strings tuned EBased on open E chord.

Compare Strings

- 1st open ,
- tune 4th string @ 2nd fret
- 6th open

Step 2

2nd set of strings tuned DBased on open D chord using 4th string as correct

Compare Strings

- 4th string open
- tune 2nd string @ 3rd fret

Step 3

3rd set of strings tuned CBased on open C chord using 2nd string as correct

Compare Strings

- 2nd string @ 1st fret
- tune 5th string fretted @ 3rd fret

Step 4

4th set of strings tuned ABased on open A chord using 5th string as correct

Compare Strings

- 5th string open
- tune 3rd string @ 2nd fret

Final Step

CONFIRM Strings using G chordusing the 3rd string as correct

Compare strings

- 1st string @ the 3rd fret ,
- 3rd string open,
- 6th string @ the 3rd fret

Compare & CONFIRM Strings using SAME G chord

- 5th string @ the 2nd fret , (previously done)
- 2nd String open, (previously done)