

1. Electronic Tuner.

This is the easiest way to keep your guitar in tune - the tuner does all the listening for you. It will tell you if you are flat or sharp, even when you are changing the string to bring it into tune. All you have to do is follow the needle or lights.

The other advantage of electronic tuners is that they are set to the world wide accepted pitches for notes. This is called concert pitch. So when you tune your guitar to concert pitch you will be in tune with every other musician in the world. Very handy when you want to play along with CD's.

Most tuners give you a choice of modes. Most will have the choices of guitar, bass and chromatic. Some may also have ukulele and violin.

Our advice is to always use chromatic. This is usually shown as "chro" or "C" on the tuner.

Sometimes your strings may be so far out of tune that they have the pitch of the next note higher or lower, or even two notes higher or lower.

Sometimes the next note may be a standard name e.g. A, D or G. Other times it might be an "accidental" name - these can be either a sharp name (shown as #) or a flat name (shown as b). So you might see A#, C#, Eb or Gb.

Some tuners only show these accidentals as sharps, others show them only as flats, and then some tuners will use a mixture of names. For example if your high string E is the next note higher it would show on your tuner as F. Or string 2 would become an A note if it's too low.

You will need to know the note names of the open strings for the guitar. When you play a string the tuner will recognize the note - so you have to know if your guitar is giving the right pitch.

To show the two different E notes a capital E is used for low E and a small e is used for high e.

Elephants And Donkeys Grow Big ears

E	A	D	G	B	e	String Names
6	5	4	3	2	1	String Numbers
			O			

Other times you could see string 3 as G# or Ab meaning the string is too high. You might see string 6 show as D# or Eb meaning it is too low.

In these cases you have to lower or raise the string until it shows as its correct name.

The full musical alphabet is shown below to help you.

Here's a quick reminder of the main steps in order -

1. Turn the tuner on.
2. Use the "chro" or "C" mode if possible.
3. Check the note name. Remember this could be one or two notes low or high.
4. Check needle and light.



