

# How To Change Acoustic Guitar Strings

## **Purpose:**

The intended audience of these instructions are beginning to intermediate guitar players looking for instruction on changing acoustic guitar strings.

## **Safety:**

There is a great deal of tension on every guitar string. Please be careful. **Never clip a string that is still under tension.**

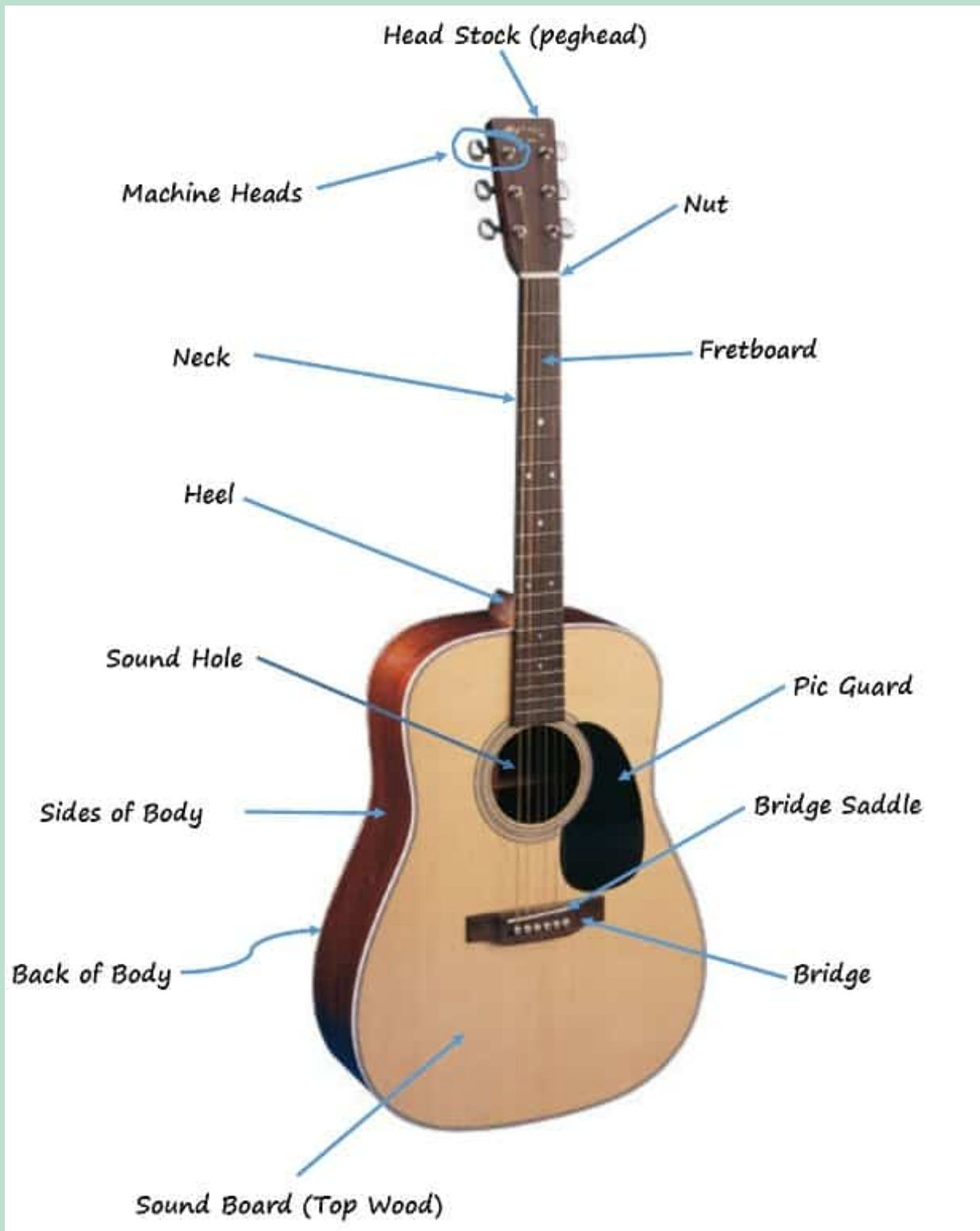
## **Required Items:**

1. Strings - 80/20 bronze acoustic guitar strings are the gold standard. However, these instructions apply to all acoustic guitar strings.
2. Wire clippers
3. String winder (optional) - While string winders make turning machine heads much easier, it can be done by hand.

## **Terminology:**

All terminology that is unclear should be able to be identified using the diagram below. The one exception to this is bridge pins. Bridge pins are the six pins under the bridge saddle on the bridge. Additionally, for our purposes, we will break what is labeled as machine heads into two terms. The silver knobs on the side of the headstock will be referred to as machine heads, and the posts on the headstock that hold the strings will be referred to as pegs.

**Diagram:**



## Instructions:

1. Change two strings at a time to keep tension on top of the guitar. This means take two old strings off, then put two new strings back on.
2. Start by loosening tension on E and A by turning the machine heads. If you're unfamiliar with the names of the strings, they are **EADGBE** in order of thickest to thinnest. If you're not sure if you are loosening or tightening, pluck the string and listen to the tone. Then turn the machine head and pluck the string again. If the tone is higher, you are tightening. If the tone is lower, you are loosening.
3. Use wire clippers to clip strings above sound hole.
4. Unwind strings from the peg.
5. Pry up bridge pin from bridge and remove strings.
6. Insert new E string into the bridge and firmly place the pin back over the string.
7. Repeat step 6 with new A string.
8. Hold string near the bridge pin of the E string in place with one hand. With the other hand, pull the other end of the string up to the headstock and clip the string one and a half machine heads length of space above the corresponding peg.
9. Insert string through peg from the middle of the headstock.
10. With one hand turn the machine head from top to bottom while placing a light amount of tension (press down with thumb) on string just above the nut.
11. Repeat steps 8-10 with the A string. Next, repeat all steps for the remaining four strings. D and G as the first pair, B and E as the second pair.