

## Changing strings

Hi,

Here are some pictures detailing the two methods which can be used to restring the Lapstick. The model bridge on your Lapstick can use new strings with the ball end attached, or segments of strings with no ball ends. This means that you can use one set of strings twice, or reuse broken strings from a regular guitar. Once you get the knack changing strings on the Lapstick is faster than on a normal guitar. The main points are to remember to adjust the tuning knobs to a forward position and also get a feel for the correct tightness of the clamping screws. Overtightening can break the string, not tight enough and the string will slip.



We use a set of normal 0.10's



Here you can see the strings with ball ends have been strung through the tuning knobs.



The tuning knobs are adjusted as far forward as possible, until the string shoe touches the saddles or the knob runs out of thread.



The strings installed in the nut with no slack, but also no tension. Once the strings are clamped the instrument can be tuned. If a string slips then the screw can be tightened. This method of stringing is quite straightforward.



Here the strings are tuned to pitch and are not slipping so I can remove the excess length. This can be cut with string clippers but I prefer to bend the string repeatedly until it breaks. I do this because it breaks in the slot so that there are no sharp ends, and also this leaves maximum length to reuse.



Bend back and forth until the string breaks. Once all the strings are removed the string cap can be replaced and the instrument in ready to play.



Many, but not all sets can be used twice. These strings are long enough to reuse.





Here is a photo of the 6mm clamping screws which fit in the nut and the 4mm screws which fit into the string shoe in the bridge. The string shoe requires a shorter screw because it must slide into the bridge as the string is tightened. These were supplied with your instrument along with the 2.5 mm allen keys which tightens them.



Now we use the leftover length of string to restring a second Lapstick. The tuning mechanisms adjusted as forward as possible.



The strings being clamped in the string shoes.



And also in the nut.



All six strings clamped at nut and bridge.



After tuning the strings can be clipped and string cap replaced. The instrument is ready to be played.



It's a good idea to press the strings, particularly the bass strings down firmly just in front of the nut.



It is possible to use both methods at once. Here is photo of a bridge with five strings clamped and one threaded.

I hope this is useful. Let me know how you get along.

Regards,

Phil