

How to replace a string on a chord zither

Tools you will need:

A tuning hammer, a pair of long nose pliers, a wire cutter and a lump of sticky tack (walnut sized).



Stringing up a chord zither

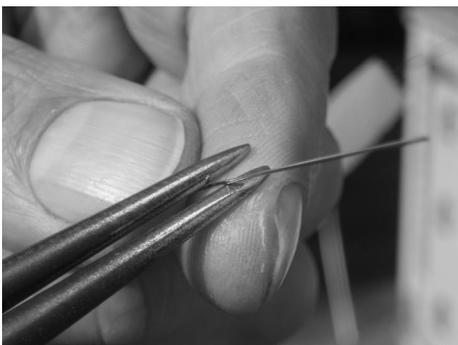
Getting started

- 1) *Remove the armrest.*
- 2) *Remove the old string*
- 3) *Unwind the tuning pin 5 turns from its original strung position.*
- 4) *Align the pinhole with the direction of the strings.*

Making a loop

If you use continuous wire (eg: piano wire), you need to make a loop to attach the string to the hitch pin. Guitar strings already have a loop but need to have the brass ball cut off; this you can do using the wire cutter. Try not to cut the loop as well!

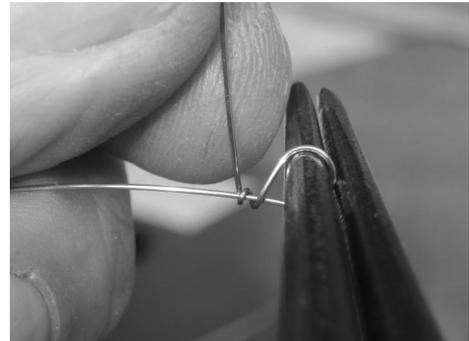
- 1) *Hold the end of the string with the long nose pliers. Give yourself a good inch of string to work with.*



- 2) *Twist the wire 270° anticlockwise.*



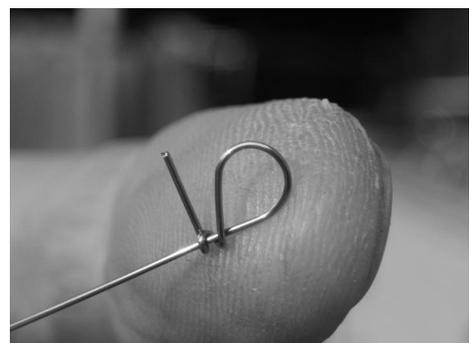
- 3) *Wind the end of the wire around the main part of the wire 1 ½ turns for thick gauge, 2 ½ turns or more for thinner gauge. Leave the end at right angle to the string.*



- 4) *Cut off the end of the wire level with the loop.*

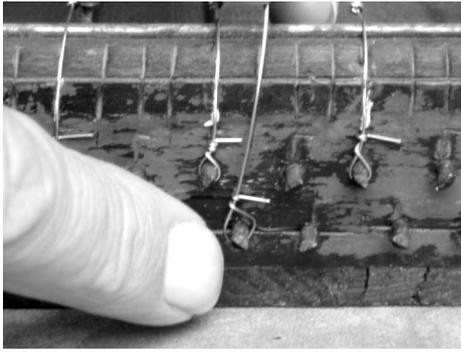


- 5) *Here is what your loop should look like:*

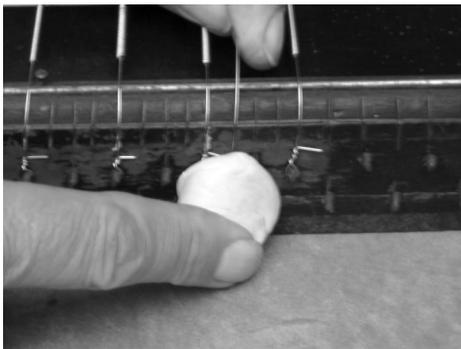


Attaching the loop end of the string:

- 1) *Place the loop around the hitch pin, the short end of the string resting against the wood.*

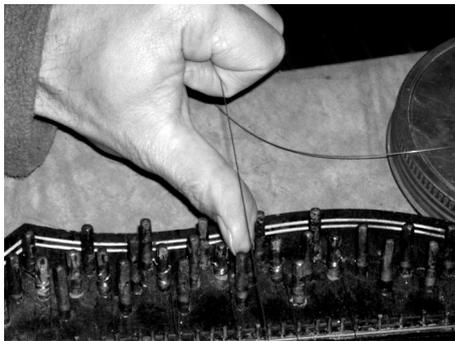


- 2) *Push the lump of sticky tack against the loop to hold it into place.*

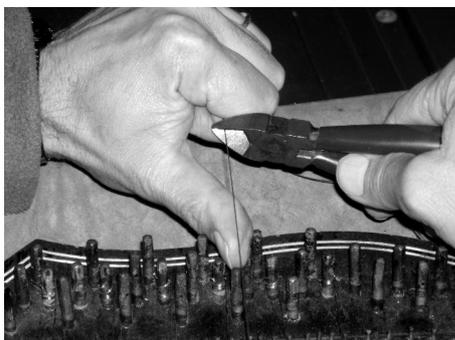


Cutting the string to length: The “rule of the thumb”

- 1) *Pull the string alongside the tuning pin and rest the tip of your thumb against it.*

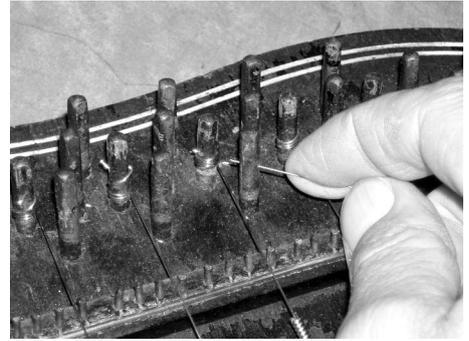


- 2) *Cut the string at one thumb's length (approximately 80mm).*

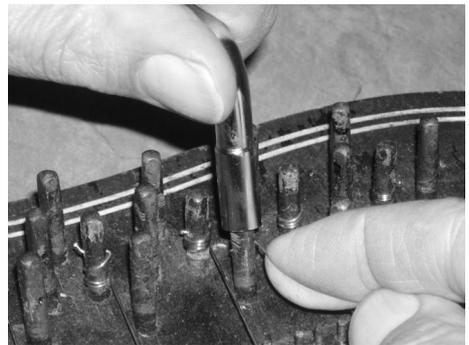


Attaching the top end of the string:

- 1) *Insert the string through the pinhole allowing 1 or 2 mm to stick out.*



- 2) *Start turning the pin using the tuning hammer. This zither has left-turning pins, so we turn anticlockwise. As you begin turning, push the string against the pin to create an elbow.*



- 3) *Keep turning pulling the string tight in order to obtain a neat coil around the pin.*



- 4) *Make sure the string is in place and parallel to the other strings then tune up.*

