

Restringing Your Autoharp

Not sure what string type fits your model? There are two different types of Autoharp strings. Type A model strings are used on OS73B models, OS73C models and Autoharps that were made before 1967. These strings have a *loop* ending that slips over pins in the side of the Autoharp down by the bridge. The pins are covered with a plastic cover to prevent them from snagging on clothing. Type B model strings are the most common. They have a ball ending with a small hole in the ball. These are used on Autoharps with the bridge that is set in the body and Autoharps with Fine Tuning Systems. New OS73B and OS73C models come with strings with large-hole ball ending. Replacement strings have loop endings. You should not have to replace your strings often. A set should last for several years, depending on how often you play. They only need to be changed if they break, rust or just become “dead” and lose their sound or tone over time. When restringing your Autoharp, make sure that you have the correct strings.

Hint:

__If you are changing all of your strings at once, it is recommended to take the chord bars off. This will make it much easier to restring your Autoharp. If you leave the bars on, cut the old string in the middle. This will prevent the string from ripping and tearing off your felts.

__When removing the strings, unwind the tuning pin counter-clockwise about three turns. If you feel that the tuning pin is loose, only back it out between 2 and 2 ½ turns. If you still have factory-installed strings, you will note that the end coming through the tuning pin will have a sharp bend in it. Clip this off at the bend. This will make it easier to remove. It will also prevent the string from taking off and destroying the felt. Remove the remainder of the string. If the ball ending does not lift out easily, use a small screwdriver to press on the string.