

* One important thing to know about the guitar, especially if you have played another instrument. Music for the guitar sounds an octave lower than where it is written. If you try and tune the guitar to the piano thinking that they are exactly the same, you will break all of your strings. You would be trying to tune the guitar an octave higher than where it should be.

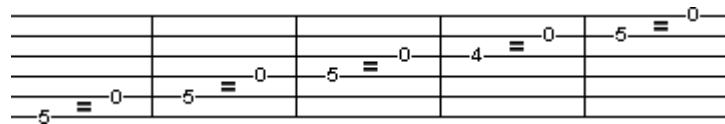
Middle C on the piano is written like this



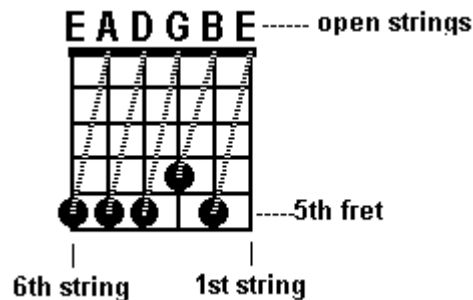
Middle C on the guitar is written like this



Tablature of the basic relative tuning method



Basic relative tuning in chord chart format



Harmonics

Some advanced guitarists prefer to tune using string harmonics, which cut out some of the string overtones, leaving a clear, easy-to-hear pitch. This is a little tricky to learn, but it gives a very accurate, resonant, pure-interval-based tuning.

Harmonics are played by touching the string very lightly at the fret, rather than holding it down just below the fret. You must be comfortable with playing harmonics to use this tuning method; it is not recommended for beginners.

Tuning Using Harmonics

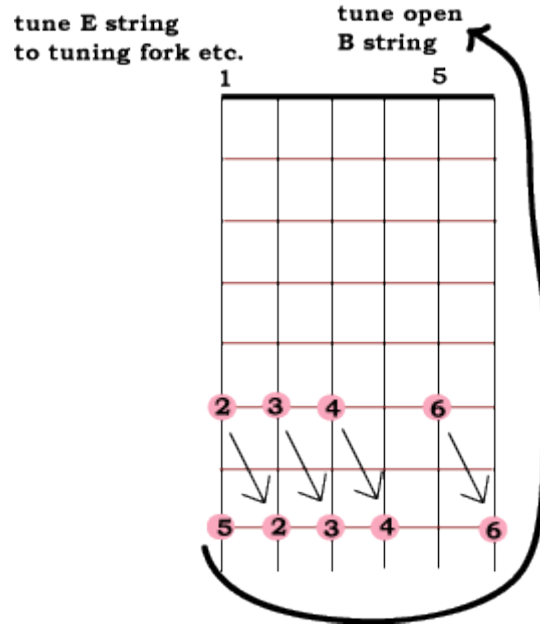


Figure 4
Tuning Using Harmonics

1. Tune the low E string using a tuning fork, keyboard, etc.
2. Tune the A string by matching the harmonic at the fifth fret of the 6th string to the harmonic at the 7th fret of the 5th string.
3. Tune the D string to the A string and the G string to the D string using the same procedure (matching the 7th fret harmonic of the higher string to the 5th fret harmonic of the lower string).
4. Tune the B string by matching the *open B string* to the harmonic at the 7th fret of the 6th string.
5. Tune the top E string to the B string using the 5th fret/7th fret harmonics.
6. Check the tuning using an E's and B's only chord (see [above](#), and adjust as necessary).