ADJUSTING THE STRING HEIGHT ON A GRETSCH LOCKDOWN™ WRAPAROUND BRIDGE WITH LOCKING POSTS

Tools & Safety Notes

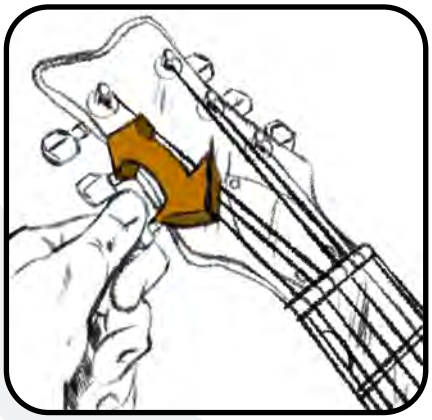
- 2.5MM Allen key (for the post lock screws on top of posts)
- Large flat-head screwdriver or stop tailpiece wrench (for height adjustment slot on top of posts)
- String winder / tuner tool
- Electronic tuner
- A soft cloth or padding under the guitar
- **Be careful not to overtighten screws**
- Work slowly and in small increments

Note: *Your instrument has been setup for optimal playability from the factory, but changes in setup are sometimes desired for either personal preference or the impact of seasonal shifts in climate and humidity. The string height at the bridge is an important factor in achieving optimal playability, but it is equally important to ensure that the truss rod is adjusted optimally for accurate relief in the neck and that the nut slots are at an optimal height. Your Gretsch® guitar comes equipped with a precision cut nut and a high-quality dual-action truss rod for optimal playability and ease of adjustment. Please refer to your owner's manual for a more comprehensive guide to both the adjustment of your instrument and the factory specification for setup. If you do not feel comfortable making these adjustments to your new guitar, we recommend that you return the instrument to your Gretsch® Dealer or to an Authorized Fender® Service Center within 90 days of the purchase, for an inspection and truss rod adjustment if needed*

Summary Checklist

- Loosen strings to remove string tension.
- Unlock both post locking screws.
- Adjust bridge height via flathead on each post (CW = down, CCW = up)
- Lock the posts with Allen key
- Retune to pitch
- Check string height & intonation

Repeat steps 1-6 if further adjustment is required.

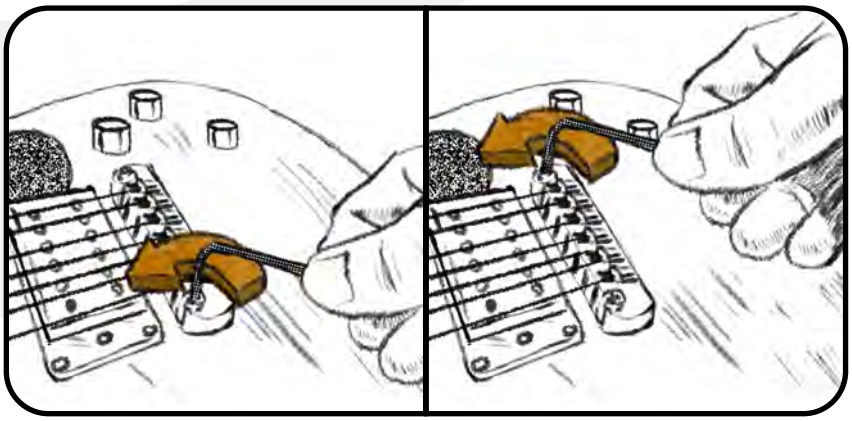


Step 1: Loosen the Strings

- Before adjusting the bridge, first turn the tuning machines to loosen strings and remove string tension (clockwise on bass side, and counterclockwise for treble strings).
- Do **not** remove all strings — just slacken them so you can unlock the bridge posts and then turn the posts without string tension. This will allow for optimal operation of the locking mechanism and also reduce wear and tear on your instrument.

Step 2: Unlock the Locking Posts

- Each post has a small Allen key screw (centered, at the top of the post) that locks the bridge in place.
- With strings slacked and string tension removed, insert the 2.5MM Allen key and **turn counterclockwise (loosen)** just enough to free the post for adjustment. ¼ - ½ turn of the Allen key should be sufficient.
- Do this on **both** posts before you attempt any height changes.



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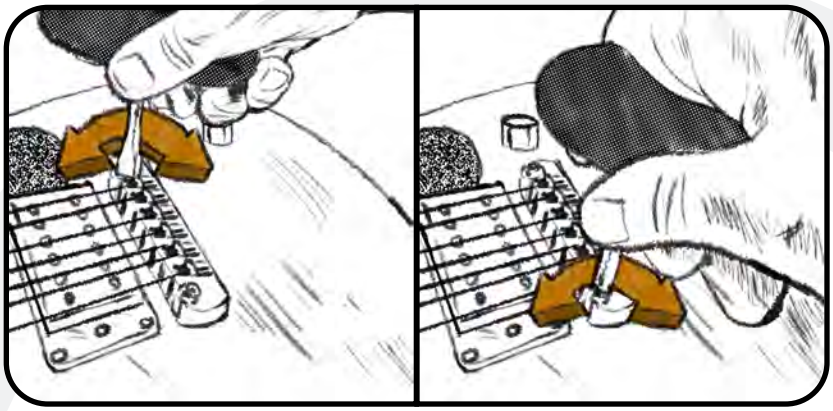
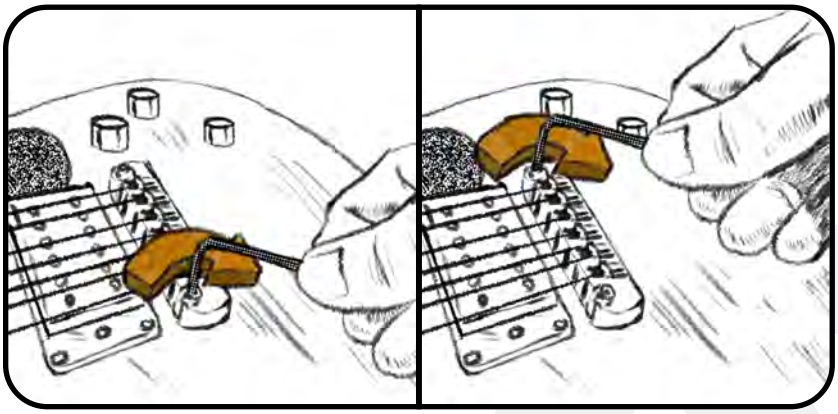
Step 3: Adjust Bridge Post Height with Flat-Head Screwdriver

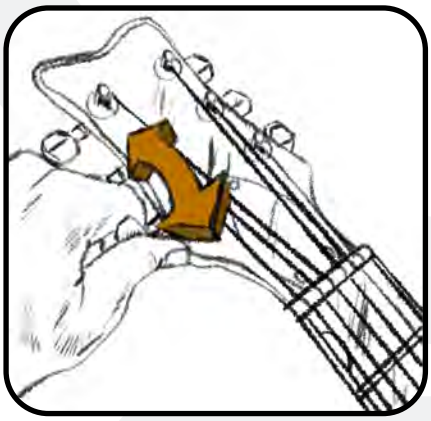


- On the **top of each post** is a slotted screw. Use your flathead screwdriver to rotate:
  - **Clockwise** to lower the bridge (reduces bridge height for lower action)
  - **Counterclockwise** to raise the bridge (increases bridge height for higher action)
- Make small, equal adjustments on both sides so the bridge remains level.
- After setting your desired post height, press the bridge forward gently to ensure that the contact with the posts remains solid.

Step 4: Re-Lock the Posts

- Now that you have the desired height, reinsert the Allen key into each post's locking screw.
- **Turn clockwise** to tighten (lock down) — this will tighten the top and bottom segments of each post, locking the bridge firmly in place. Be sure not to overtighten.
- Confirm that the bridge does not wiggle or shift under slight hand pressure.
- *Note: Overtightening the posts can put undue stress on the locking mechanism and also has the potential of rotating the post clockwise and reducing the post height further than desired. Please take care not to overtighten the locking posts.*





Step 5: Retune the Strings

- Use your tuner to bring each string back up to pitch.
- As you tension strings, the bridge may settle or shift very slightly.
- If height has shifted, you may need a tiny re-adjustment (loosen, unlock, tweak, lock, retune).

Step 6: Verify Playability and Intonation

- Check string action at the 12th fret (measure from top of fret to bottom of string).
- If the action is now too high/low, repeat the process in small increments.
- Re-check intonation (12th fret harmonic vs fretted 12th fret) to ensure no pitch discrepancy, adjust intonation if needed by moving individual bridge saddles forward or backward as needed.
- *Please take care not to overtighten the locking posts.*

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