

C. B. GITTY'S

PURE & SIMPLE

CIGAR BOX GUITAR KIT

When it takes a night class to learn how to use your smart phone...

When all you have for tools are the ones in your kitchen junk drawer...

When the only thing you can create with the children in your life is a generation gap (or two)...

There's nothing left to do but to take matters into your own hands.



Discover the fulfillment of building your own instrument and the joy of creating your own music. Keep it pure. Keep it simple. It's fun, it's easy, and YOU CAN DO IT!

With the greatest of ease you can build your very own cigar box guitar. The only requirements to begin creating music are the screwdriver and hammer from the back of that junk drawer and the desire to experience the gratification of your own handmade instrument.

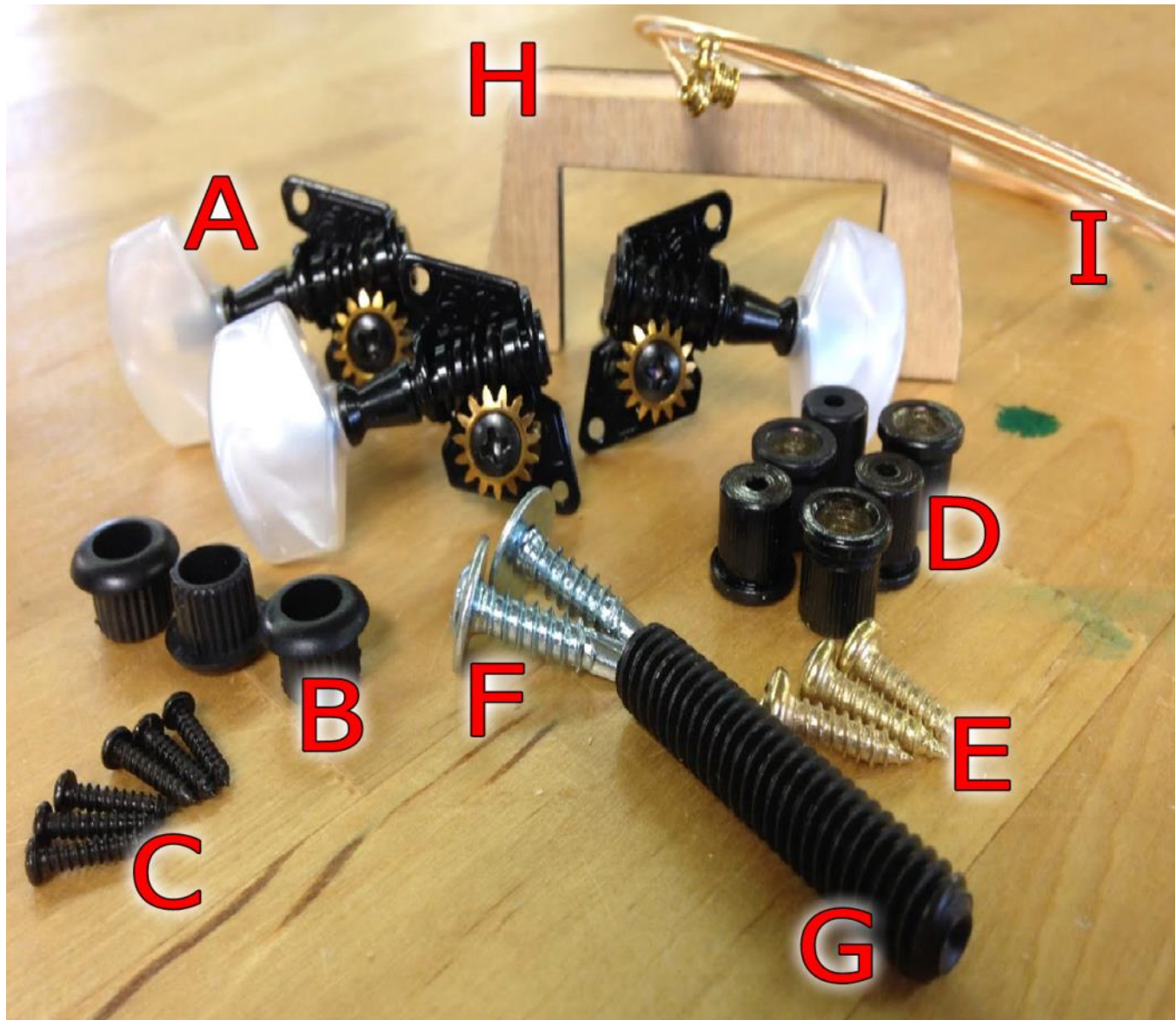
So jump on up and jump on in to the exciting handmade musical instrument movement. In just a few minutes you will have your very own C. B. Gitty Pure and Simple Cigar Box Guitar!

Step 1—Identify Your Parts

Included with your brand spankin' new kit are:

- one hardwood neck pre-drilled and prepped with all the necessary holes
- one cigar box drilled with mounting holes and soundholes
- one bag o' parts and hardware (see below)

Spread out the contents of the bag o' parts that came with your kit. Careful now! There isn't much in there to lose but a couple little buggers could roll away from you if you aren't careful. Refer to the photo on below, and lay out your parts as shown so that you can easily identify each one. We'll be referring to these quite a bit throughout these instructions, so it will help a lot if you know by sight what we're talking about.

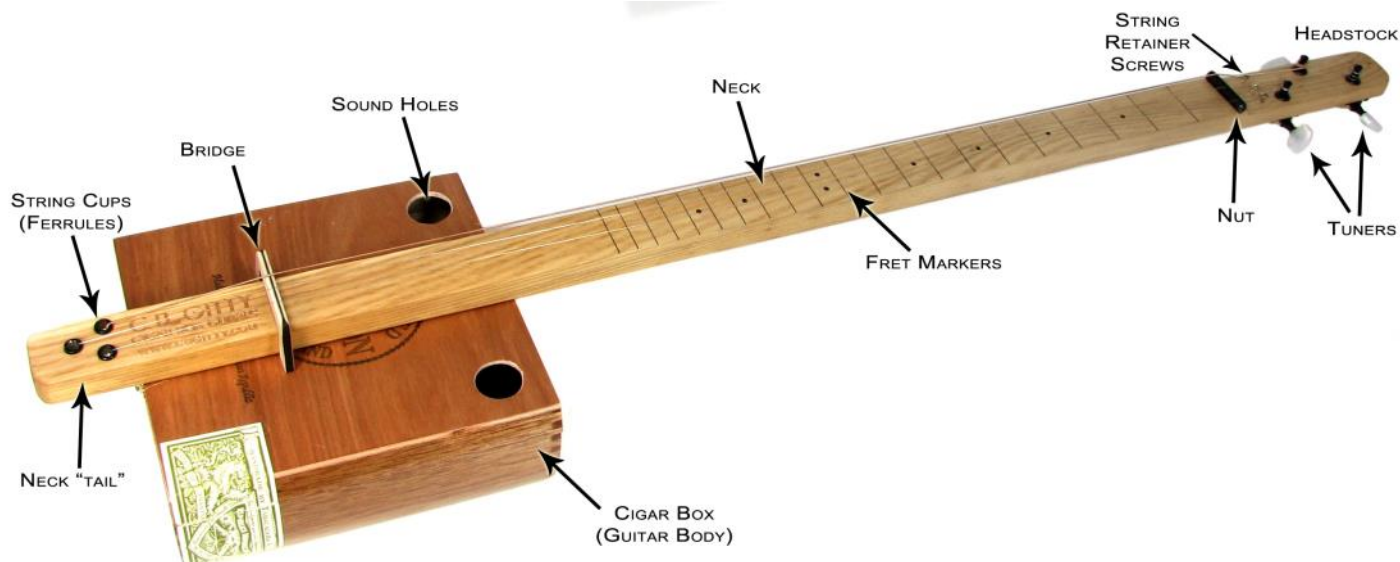


In your parts bag, you'll find the following (refer to the letters on the labeled photo above to identify each part):

- A. Three open-gear tuners
 - B. Three bushings
 - C. Six #1 x 5/16" black Phillips-head screws
 - D. Six string cups (ferrules)
 - E. Three #4 x 1/2" brass Phillips-head screws
 - F. Two 3/4" washer-head lath screws
 - G. One 1.5" threaded rod
 - H. One Flying Bridge
 - I. Three guitar strings that you're gonna have singing in no time
- String sizes: .042" Bronze Wound, .012" Plain Steel, .009" Plain Steel*

Exact
appearance
(style, color, etc)
of the parts may
vary a little from
kit to kit.

Step 2—Learn some Cigar Box Guitar Terminology

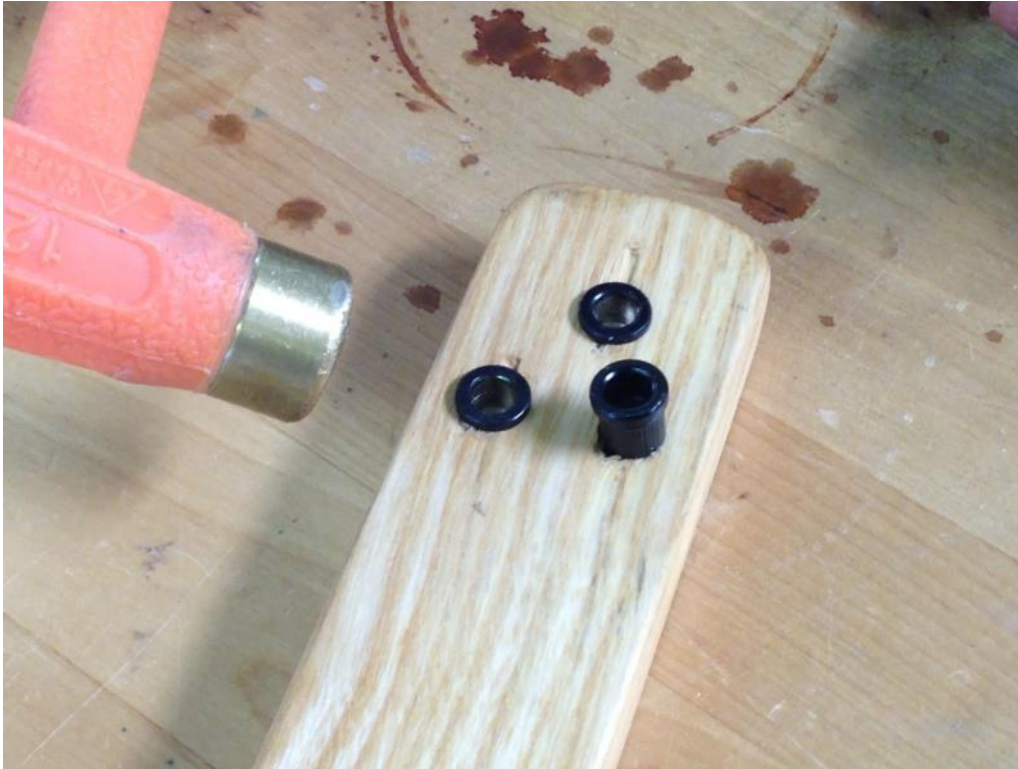


The photo above shows the various parts of a finished instrument built from this very kit. Referring to this photo as we move through the building process will help you be sure of what part we're talking about at any given time. Refer to it when in doubt!

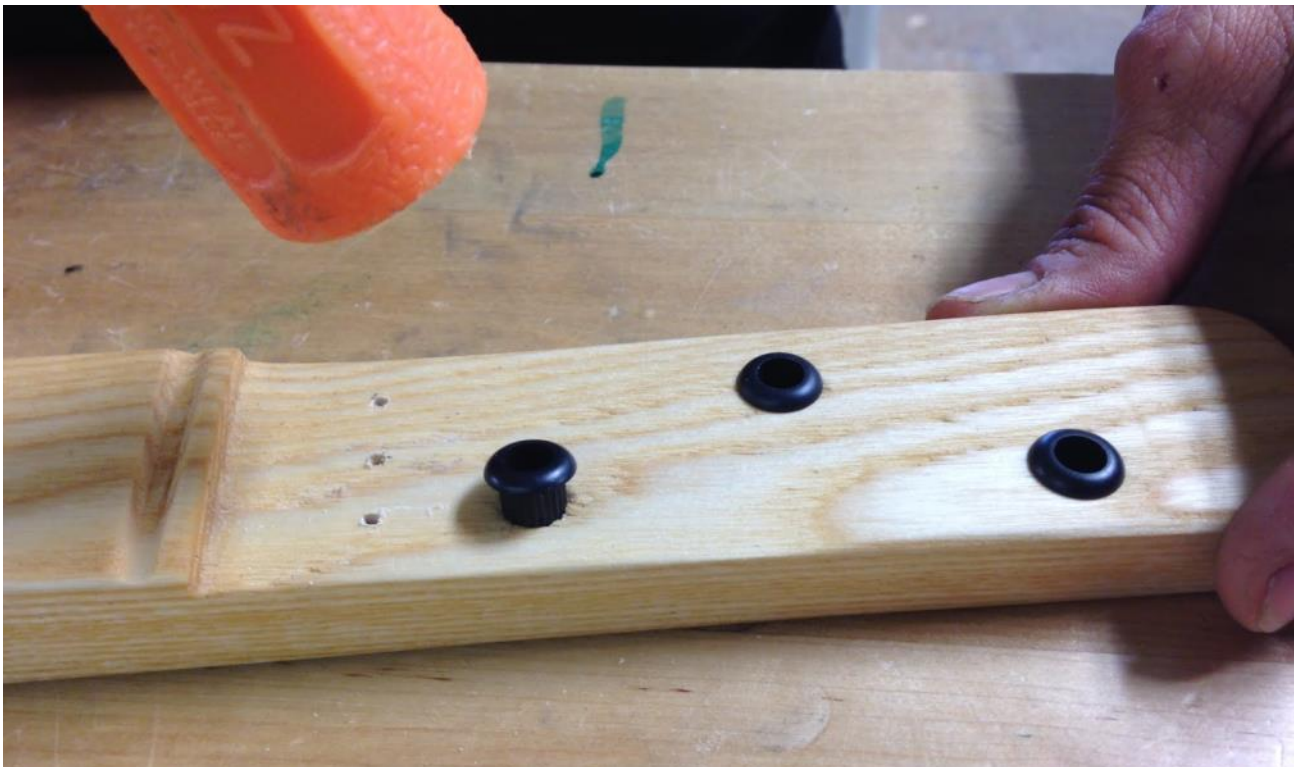
Step 3—Begin Building!

Start by finding the "tail" of the neck. Nothing to chase here. Simply locate the end of the neck that has only three holes you can fit a pencil through and is just south of the C. B. Gitty logo. Now take your string cups (**Part "D"** from the parts photo above), one at a time, and gently tap three of them into the holes until the lip of the cup is snuggin' up to the neck. Once you have the top three in place, flip your cigar box guitar neck over and tap the remaining string cups into the other side of the holes. The photo on the next page shows this step in process.

These string cups (also known as ferrules) help keep the ball end of the strings secure, and also keep the string from biting into the neck wood once you get around to tuning them up.



Now head on up to the other end of that beautiful piece of hardwood—the headstock. Make certain to have the top side of the headstock facing you (the neck should be face up with the C. B. Gitty carving visible at the other end). The three largest holes that go all of the way through the neck are for the bushings (**Part 'B'**) so go ahead and gather them together. Gently tap each of them into a hole until you have them snuggin' up to the headstock. Keep in mind that these bushings are made out of plastic, so don't get too carried away with bashing them in. The photo below shows this step in process.



While you have the neck facing up, insert your three brass screws (**Part ‘E’**), one at a time, into the three holes that are in a line with one another at the base of the headstock. They are located under the bushings you just installed and just above the groove that has been filed out for the nut, and are visible to the left of the bushings in the photo above.

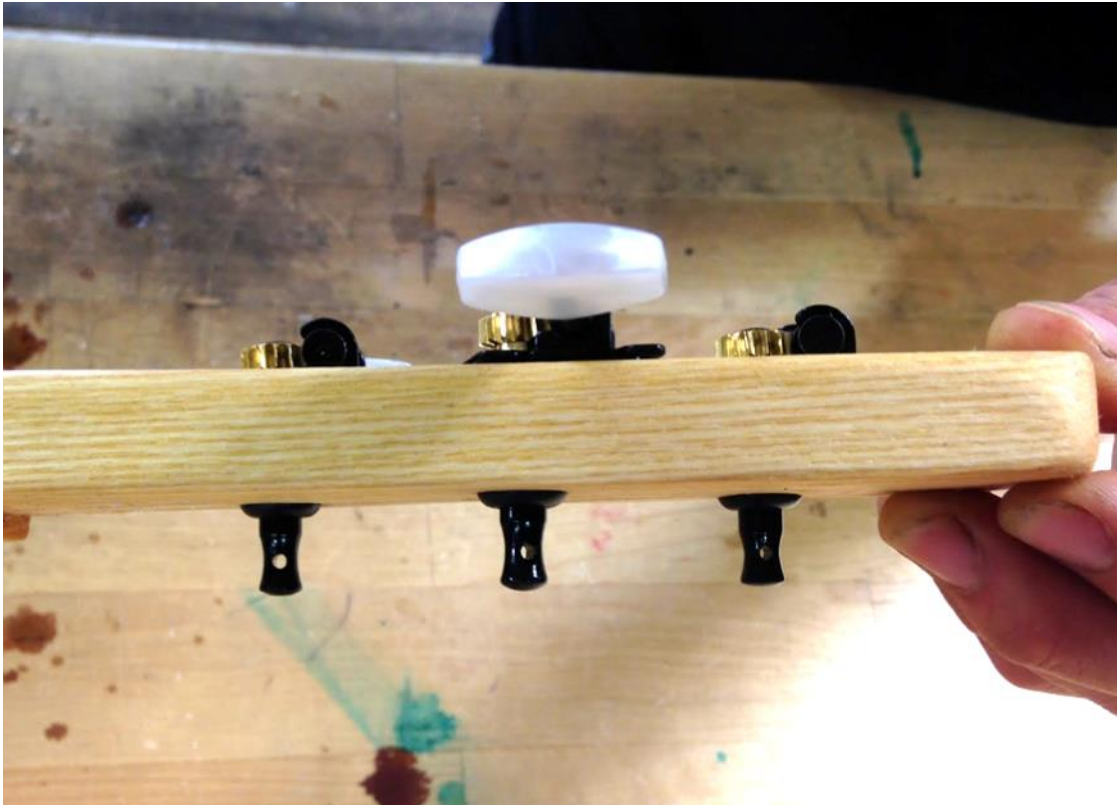
Each of the three brass screws are $\frac{1}{2}$ " long. Don't screw these all the way into the wood—instead, twist each one in so that only half of it is in the headstock. You'll have about $\frac{1}{4}$ " of screw left visible by the time you are done. These screws will help keep the strings in line once you start stringing it up in a little bit. The photo below shows you how far they should be inserted.



Now it's time to install your sweet-looking tuners (**Part ‘A’**). The look of those exposed gears really adds a cool, rustic touch to your “Pure and Simple” cigar box guitar (while their pureness could be argued, their simplicity is beyond reproach!) Flip the neck over so that the back side is facing upwards—you should be able to see three big holes and six wee ones.

At this point it's a good idea to prop your neck up with a piece of wood, a book, or whatever is handy. You can even hang the headstock over the edge of your table. Here's why this will help: when you poke those tuners into their holes, they won't fit up flush to the neck without propping it up 'cause the tuner shaft is longer than the neck is deep.

Go ahead, give it a shot and see what I mean.



With your neck propped up, push your tuners through the holes making certain that the gear is on the "bottom" side of the tuner, aligned towards the tail-end of the neck, not the top. You've got one hole on one side of the headstock and two holes on the other. So you'll have one tuner with a gear that is facing the tail end and two tuners doing the same on the other side. See what I mean in the photo below? When you have them in the right holes, the pre-drilled screw holes should match up with the holes on the tuners.



Carefully twist in each one of the six small black screws (**Part "C"**), two per tuner, snuggin' each one up at the end. Careful not to over-tighten them—twisting a screw head off by turning too hard can be a real downer. Once done, what you have in front of you is a guitar that is nearly built. Crazy, huh?



Now, on that same side of the neck you'll see two holes down by the tail-end that do not go all the way through the neck. If you take a look at the lid of your cigar box you'll notice two holes of the same size that are the same distance apart as those that you have just spotted on the neck.



Open up your box and with the box hinges facing the headstock and your newly installed tuners, line up the holes in the box lid to the holes on the neck. Wielding your trusty Phillips head screwdriver twist those two $\frac{3}{4}$ " lath screws (**Part "F"**) into place. Your box is now firmly secured against your neck.



Close the box and the box latch and turn it over so that the tuners are pointing up and saluting the new cigar box guitar builder before them!

Step 4—Stringing the Guitar

Now it's time to get to stringin' it up! Getting the strings on there correctly is probably the trickiest part of the whole process, but don't worry about it—the photos show how everything is supposed to go!

Grab the guitar strings (**Part '1'**). For reference, the biggest brass-colored string is a .042" (42-gauge) bronze wound acoustic guitar string. The middle-sized string is a .012" (12-gauge) plain steel guitar string, and the smallest one is a .009" (9-gauge) plain steel guitar string.

Start with the thickest string, and insert the thinner end (the one without the brass nut/ball) into the string ferule cup on the BACK side of the neck, and bring it up through the one on the top. For a right-handed player, this cup will be the one on the top-side of the neck when the C. B. Gitty logo is facing up and forward.

If this all sounds confusing, take a look at the photos on the following pages.

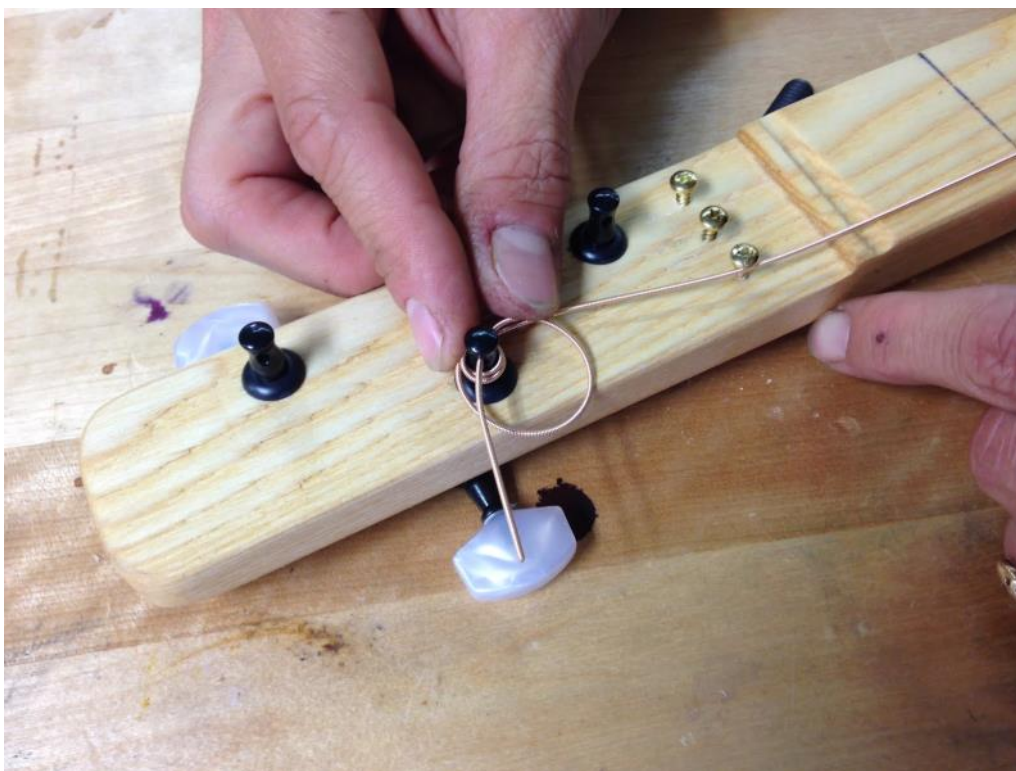
Already planning your next one?

Be sure to check out www.CBGitty.com for our full line of cigar box guitars, amplifiers, kits, parts and much more!



Continue to insert each string into their respective string cups with the second thickest string in the middle cup and the thinnest string in the bottom cup. While the guitar is facing up and forward when playing, you'll have:

- The thickest string wound around the tuner that is closest to you on the top-side of the headstock (the only tuner on the top of the headstock).
- The second thickest string will be wound around the tuner farthest from you (closest to the top of the headstock). That tuner will be on the side of the headstock opposite of the first tuner.
- The thinnest string will be wound around the tuner closest to you on the bottom-side of the headstock.





If the string placement is confusing, check out the photo on page 12 that shows the finished & strung

Pull each string so that the ball-end of it is snugged up inside of its string cup. Wind your string around its respective tuner and insert that thin end into the hole, tugging it right through. It may be a little loose at this point but that's OK.

When you do get to tightening the strings, the top and middle strings will be on the top side of the brass screws that are in place for each string. The bottom string will go on the bottom side of the brass screw... but save that for just a bit later.



Don't go rushing ahead! I know you can see the finish line but a couple moments of patience and you're going to be done with your newest, latest, greatest creation!

You don't want to tighten those strings too much just yet. Now it's time to take the specially designed Flying Bridge (**Part "H"**), and slip it under the strings with the feet of the bridge on either side of the neck. Slide that bad boy up onto your cigar box, taking care to match the feet to the pencil line marking on the neck that is 25 inches away from the groove you can see under the tuners.

Get that threaded rod (**Part "G"**) that nearly rolled away from you earlier and slide it under the strings and sit it into that groove you have seen under the tuners. This little guy is going to be the "nut" for your guitar.

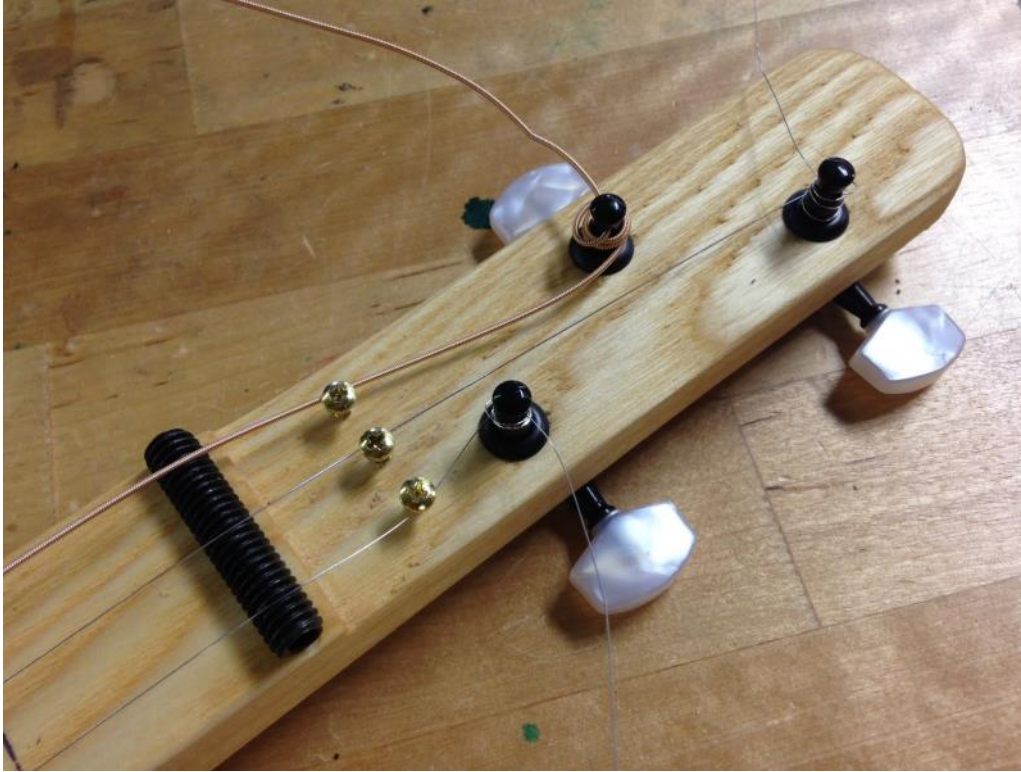
One at a time, tighten each string until they are holding the Flying Bridge and nut firmly into place in their respective spots bearing in mind the side of the brass screw that each string is supposed to be on. With a little help from your digital tuner, tune that thick string to the lowest note, "G". The second string gets tuned to "D" and the third, or thinnest string gets tuned to high "G" - you can tell the note is much higher than the low "G" (one octave higher, in fact).

A note about closing the box: if the clasp on the cigar box doesn't keep the box closed as well as you would like, consider gluing the box shut, or putting a small screw through the clasp to help seal it closed. You can use a pair of pliers to pull the lower part of the clasp (the one with the raised nub) off, and easily put a small screw through the hole in the upper part of the clasp into the wood. In a pinch, you could also glue the clasp closed or use some tape.



Interested in learning more
about cigar box guitars?
Check out the how-to
section over at
www.CigarBoxGuitar.com

Join the online home of the
cigar box guitar revolution!
...
www.CigarBoxNation.com



Step back for a moment and soak this in... You made this! This beautiful, primal instrument has been made with your hands, with next to nothing for tools and it took less time than it takes to cook and clean up after dinner.

With your trusty copper slide side-kick that came with your cigar box guitar kit, begin finding the wonder and joy of creating your own music with your very own handmade cigar box guitar!

For some how-to-play lessons, be sure to check out the “How to Play” page at www.CigarBoxNation.com—the video series by “King of the Cigar Box Guitar” Shane Speal on YouTube is especially recommended.

Cigar Box Nation is the online home of the entire cigar box guitar and homemade/handmade music movement, so be sure to become a member and post photos of your creations, join in with the discussions and enjoy the other content.

Congratulations on your success, and welcome to the Cigar Box Guitar Revolution!



This guide written by Glenn Watt for C. B. Gitty Crafter Supply. Check out Glenn's unique take on the cigar box guitar movement at www.GlennWatt.com.