

# Fair Access at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

## Guitar Maintenance with Tristan John



### Video Transcript: Changing Acoustic Guitar Strings

0:01 0:04 My name is Tristan John

0:04 0:07 I'm going to show you how to change the strings on an Acoustic Guitar

0:07 0:10 First take the snips on your string winder

0:10 0:13 Loosen the string with your left hand (if you play right handed)

0:17 0:21 Then snip the string somewhere on the neck, it doesn't really matter too much where about

0:23 0:26 Repeat this for all the strings

0:40 0:43 Next, unwind the strings from the tuning pegs

0:51 0:54 Coil these together and dispose of them

0:58 1:01 Next, the end of this string winder has a 'bridge pin puller' tool which is essentially a perfectly sized plier

1:04 1:07 By cupping the top of the pin, it can be pulled out easily and without scratching the wood

1:16 1:19 Again, repeat this step on all strings

1:23 1:26 Coil this half of the strings and dispose of

1:33 1:37 Now, we're ready for the new strings. For this guitar I'm using D'Addario EJ17's. A medium gauge of string.

1:38 1:43 The owner of this guitar enjoys these strings because they found they last the longest of ones they have used in the past

1:46 1:50 These particularly strings come coiled in two's.

1:55 1:59 Taking the thickest string - also colour co-ordinated on the packet for ease

1:59 2:03 I thread the end into the bridge, before pushing the bridge pin back into place

2:19 2:23 I then repeat this step for all the strings

2:31 2:33 Next, I cut the excess length off the string

2:34 2:37 in this case, to the next tuning peg. Approximately 2.5cm in length

2:46 2:49 I thread the string through the hole in the tuning peg

2:49 2:52 Where I can then tighten the string

2:53 2:58 Note on the first turn, I make sure the end of the string goes under the coiled part

3:04 3:09 and then over the top of the coiled part - this is to ensure it stays tight

3:14 3:18 Once I have enough tension, I keep my right hand on the saddle pin to make sure it doesn't pop out of place

3:19 3:22 Now I can repeat this step for the rest of the strings

3:39 3:43 About half way through I swap to a battery powered drill with a string winder drill bit for quickness

3:51 3:54 Now the strings are in place, I just need to tune them

3:55 3:59 Since this is an acoustic guitar, I can't use a tuner pedal like I would with an electric

3:59 4:03 Boss have a virtual version of their pedal available for smart phones

4:03 4:06 I find this works adequately, and its free!

4:10 4:14 and that's it. The guitar has new strings and is ready to play.