



Final Preparations Before Installing A Full Set of Arledge Optimized Strings

A companion video can be viewed from www.pianostrings.com/prep.htm

This is the third video of a series that demonstrates how to upgrade to a full set of Arledge optimized piano bass strings. In the previous videos we successfully ordered and have received the new strings. We also have on hand if needed, the other materials such as new tuning pins, string felts and string braid. Also if needed, the bridge and pin block and any other problems have already been repaired. The strings have been removed and the piano is ready for new the strings. The final preparations before actual installation depend on which of the following options apply.

OPTION ONE: demonstrates the procedure if reusing the original tuning pins.

OPTION TWO: describes using new tuning pins in the old pin block.

OPTION THREE: is the procedure for using new tuning pins in a new pin block.

OPTION ONE:

Reuse the Original Tuning Pins

- 1) With strings removed and pins turned out 3 plus turns, check that the tuning pins are the correct height of 1 1/8th inch above the plate. Also check that the becket holes are aligned with the string paths. While turning the tuning pins take note that the tightness is acceptable.
- 2) If there are a few loose tuning pins they should be removed and replaced with pins of the appropriate size at this time.
- 3) Clean the plate around the tuning pins and replace under string felts if needed.
- 4) For pianos that utilizes wooden plate bushings, seat the bushings flush with the plate if they have spun out or up while turning the tuning pin.
- 5) The tuning pins are ready. Go to www.pianostrings.com/install.htm for the next step. If using new tuning pins, continue with OPTION TWO or OPTION THREE.



OPTION TWO:

New Tuning Pins in the Old Pin Block

Before removing the old tuning pins use them as a convenient height reference for installing the new pins. The tops of the old tuning pins should be about 1 1/8th inch above the top of the plate. Double-check the diameter and length of the new tuning pins and test a sampling for correct pin tightness. Install new under string felts if needed. A jack can be inserted between the pin block and the keybed to provide additional support on grands.

- 1) Begin by using a star tuning tip socket mounted in a reversible power drill. Extract every other old tuning pin straight out of the hole as quickly as possible to prevent heat buildup.
- 2) If the piano uses wood tuning pin or plate bushings, seat the old ones flush with the top of the plate. Or if needed, remove and replace them with new ones.
- 3) Position each new tuning pin into the pin block while aligning the becket holes with the upper termination points. Use a claw hammer to gently tap each tuning pin into the pin block holes just enough to stabilize and align them.
- 4) Using a tuning pin punch, hammer the pins further into the pin block. Stop when the new pins are at the same height as the old pins.
- 5) Extract the final half of the old pins with the high speed drill.
- 6) Seat or replace the remainder of wood plate bushings and install the remaining tuning pins.
- 7) Using a tuning hammer, align the becket holes exactly to the path of each respective string. Check that all pins are level at 1 1/8th inch above the plate.
- 8) The tuning pins are ready. Go to www.pianostrings.com/install.htm for the next step. If using new tuning pins in a new pin block, continue to OPTION THREE.



Final Preparations

OPTION THREE:

New Pins in a New Pin Block

Use this procedure when a new pin block has been installed.

NOTE:

Double-check the diameter and length of the new tuning pins and test a sampling for correct pin tightness. 1/0 or 2/0 pins are typically used. Install new plate bushings when used. Install new under string felts. A support jack can be inserted between the pin block and the keybed to provide additional support on grands.

- 1) **Begin** installation by loosely inserting every other new tuning pin into the top of the pin block holes. Rotate the pins until the becket holes are pointing towards their respective upper termination points. Gently tap them in only enough that they are stable and aligned.
- 2) Then drive this half of the new tuning pins further into the pin block to a height of 1 1/8th inch off the plate.
- 3) Install the remaining half of the new tuning pins using the same technique.
- 4) Check that all tuning pin becket holes are pointing exactly towards the upper termination points and the pins are 1 1/8th inch off the plate.
- 5) The piano is now ready for the new strings. Go to the next video at: pianostrings.com/install for a demonstration on installing a full set of Arledge optimized piano bass strings.