Restringing The Guitar

When changing strings on your guitar it is important to follow a few simple guidelines to ensure that your guitar holds it's tune and is ready to play as quickly as possible. Tools to use which make the job easier are a set of pliers or sidecutters and a pegwinder.

First, make sure you have the same gauge replacement strings as those on the guitar. Guitars, especially acoustic guitars, are delicate instruments and are sensitive to variation in string tension. Ideally you should change strings one at a time, leaving each old string on until you change it. This will maintain the string tension on the instrument.

Release the tension on the old string and remove it from the tuning peg. Lever the tail peg (on acoustic guitars) with the pegwinder or pliers and remove. Insert the tail of the new string into the bridge plate and insert the tail peg. Watch that the ball on the end of the string does not get caught as in diagram one.

Pull the string up to it's tuning peg and measure beyond the peg set distances (see table) and place a right angle bend in the string. This will ensure maximum string wind on the peg and thus less slippage. You can use the distance between tuning pegs on the headstock as a guide.

6th string measure 3/4 the distance to 5th peg.
5th string measure to the 4th peg.
4th string measure 2/3 the distance between pegs 6 & 4.
3rd string measure 3/4 the distance between pegs 1 & 3.
2nd string measure the full distance between pegs 1 & 3.
1st string measure to the 3rd string's peg.

After placing a right angle bend in the string(s) thread it through the tuning peg and begin to wind the string on making sure to hold the string taught with your hand to ensure an even wind. Wind the first turn of the string over the top of the tail of the string and each subsequent turn underneath the tail as in Diagram 2. For the wound strings place a right angle bend on the tail before cutting. This prevents internal slipping of the string core. Tune each string before replacing the next.
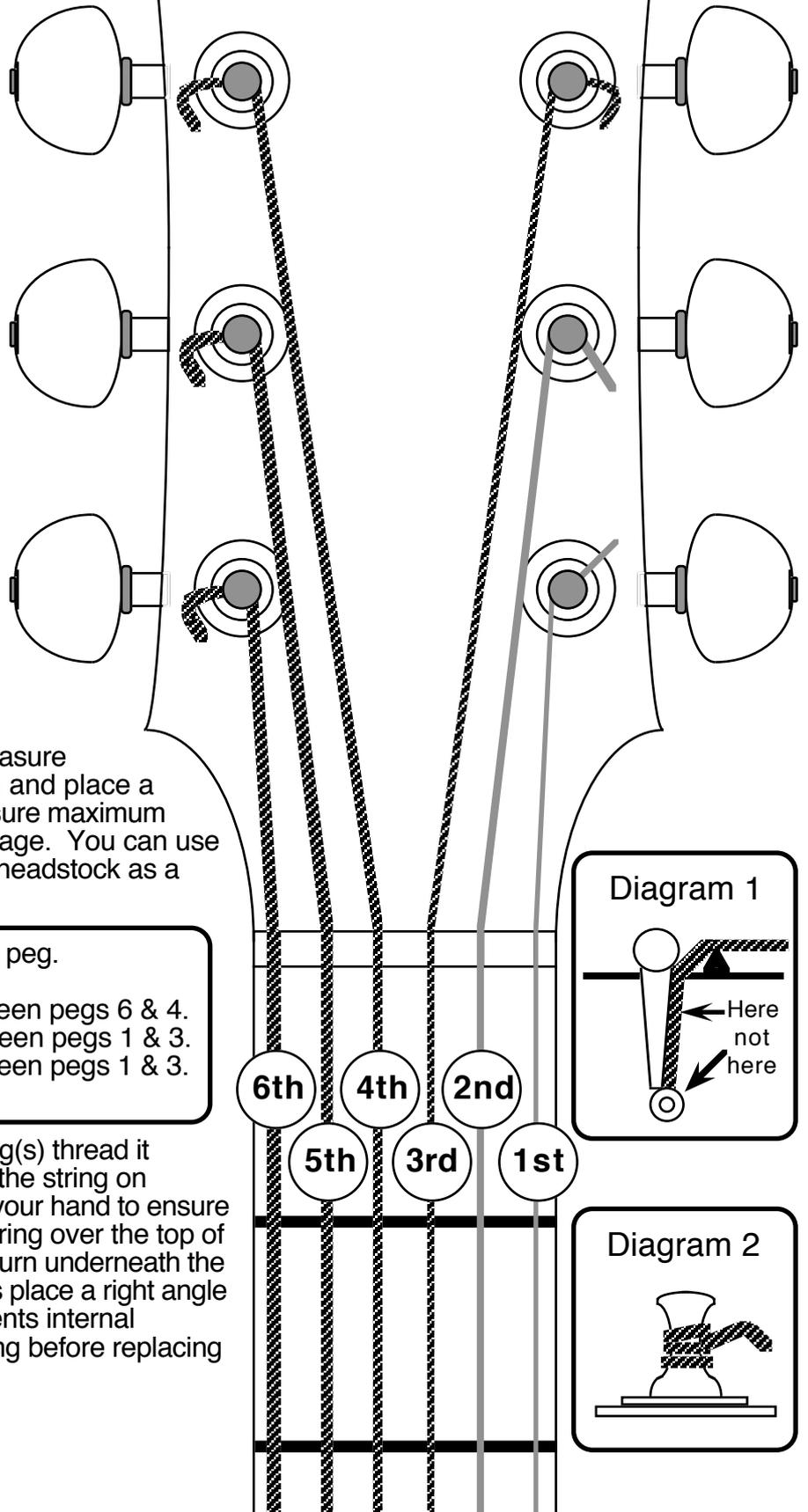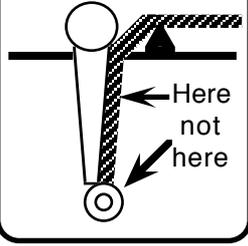
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6th **4th** **2nd**
5th **3rd** **1st**

Diagram 1
←Here not here

Diagram 2