

The Pure & Simple™ Cigar Box Guitar Kit

by C. B. Gitty

Assembly Instructions



Product #: 36-005-01

Gitty Kits™
by C. B. Gitty Crafter Supply

View this guide in full color online:

www.CBGitty.com/PureAndSimple

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WWW.CBGITTY.COM

SAFETY WARNING: This kit contains some small parts that could be choking hazards for young children. Always supervise children when building this kit, and follow all safety recommendations for any tools or supplies you will be using. Be careful of splinters and sharp edges on wooden pieces. Keep bags and other plastic packaging materials away from children, as they could be choking hazards. Read instructions fully before beginning.

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.

You're about to 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 will build your very own cigar box guitar. The only thing you need to begin creating music is the screwdriver from the back of your junk drawer, a little time, and the desire to experience the gratification of building 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 cigar box guitar kit are:

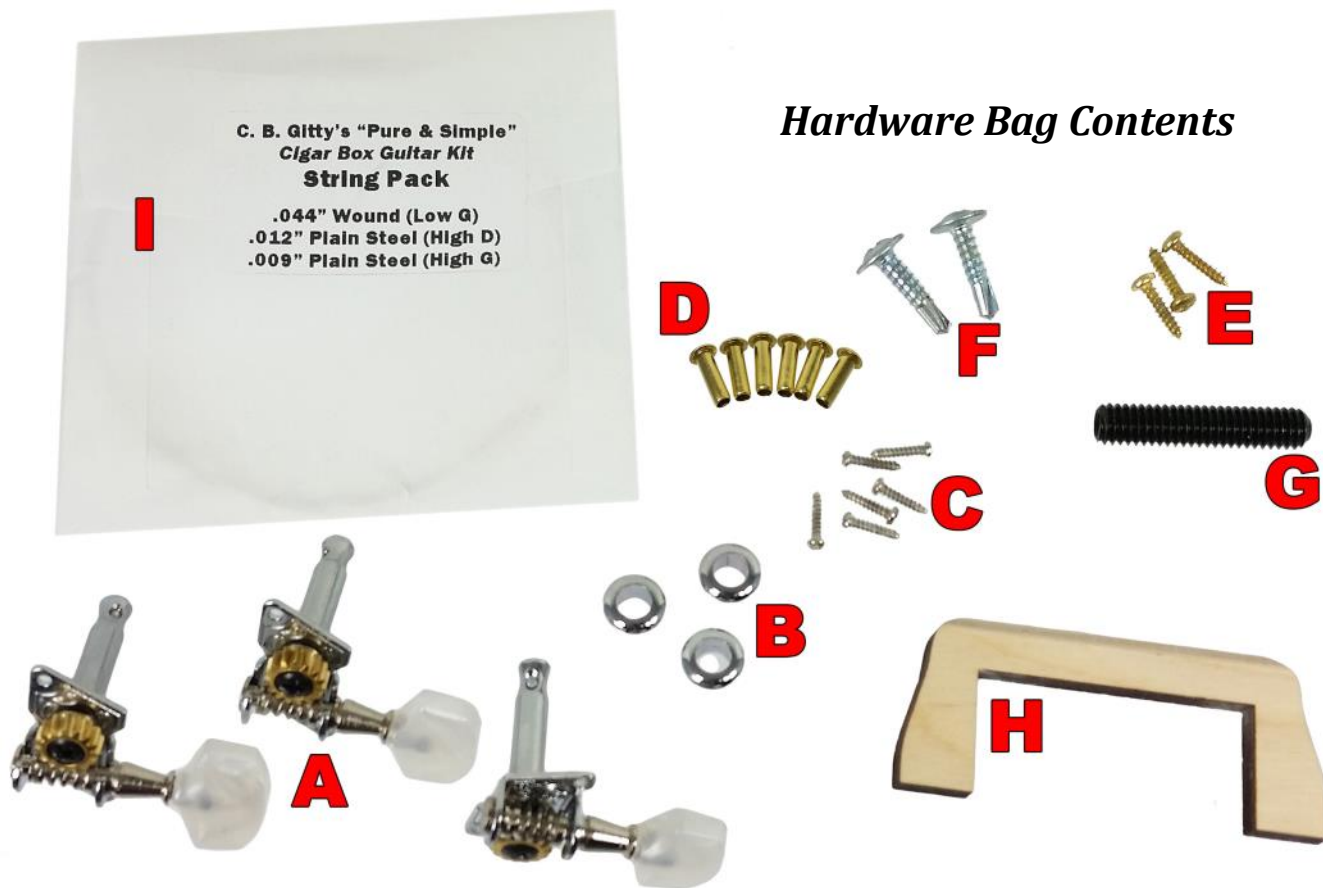
- One hardwood neck pre-drilled, marked and prepped with all the necessary holes
- One cigar box drilled with mounting holes and sound holes (please note, exact style of cigar box may vary slightly from these pictures, but assembly steps will be the same)
- One guitar slide (not shown), used for playing this cigar box guitar once finished

- One bag of parts and hardware (see below)

Spread out the contents of the bag of parts that came with your kit. Careful now! Some of those smaller items could roll away from you if you aren't careful. Refer to the photo 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.

Please Note: the exact appearance (style, color, etc.) of the parts may vary a little from those shown here. Usage of the parts remains the same!

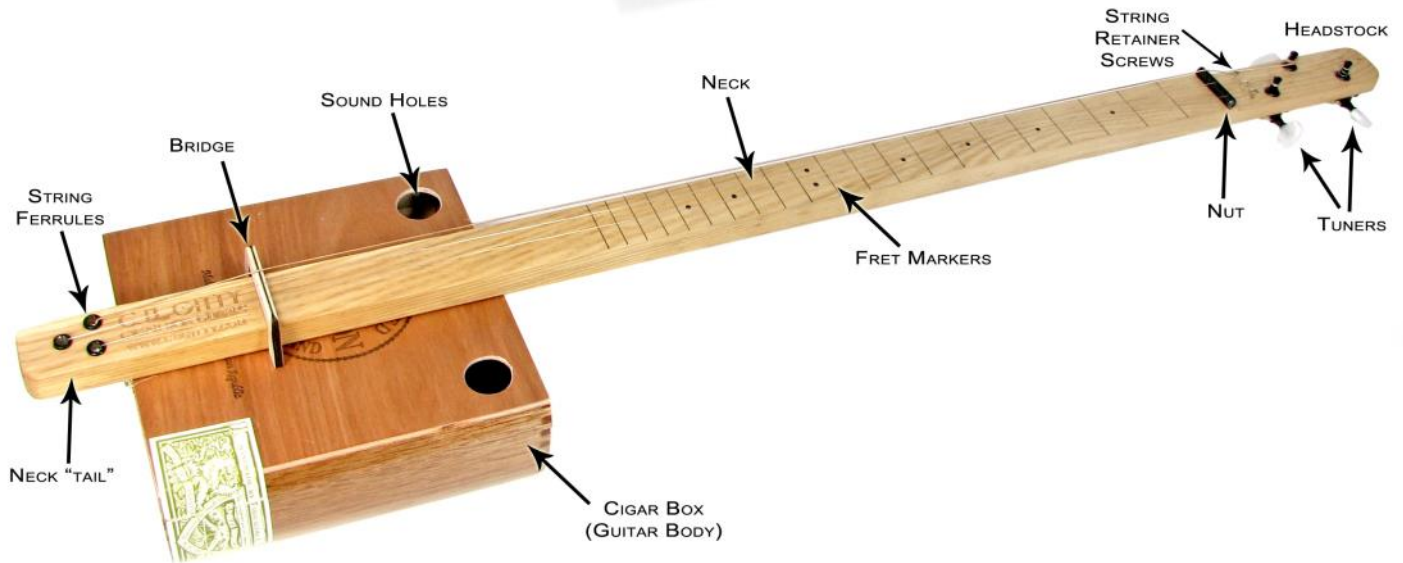


Hardware Bag Contents

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

- A. Three (3) open-gear tuners
- B. Three (3) tuner bushings
- C. Six (6) small (#1 x 5/16") Phillips-head tuner mounting screws
- D. Six (6) brass eyelet string ferrules
- E. Three (3) #4 x 1/2" brass Phillips-head string retainer screws
- F. Two (2) 3/4" washer-head lath screws for box mounting
- G. One (1) 1 1/2" threaded rod cigar box guitar nut
- H. One (1) "Flying Bridge" cigar box guitar bridge
- I. Three (3) guitar strings that you'll have singing in no time: *String sizes: .042" Bronze Wound, .012" Plain Steel, .009" Plain Steel*

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. Simply locate the end of the neck that has only three holes you can fit a pencil through and is just below the engraved C. B. Gitty logo—refer to the photo above if you need to.

Now take your brass string ferrules (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 ferrule is to the surface of the neck.

Once you have the top three in place, flip the neck over and tap the remaining string ferrules into the other side of the holes. The photo on the next page shows this step in process.



These brass string 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.

The ferrules should fit snugly into the holes, but if they are a little loose you can use a dab of glue to hold them in.



Push the six string ferrules into the holes in the tail end of the neck—3 in the front side and 3 in the back. They should press in fairly easily, but use your screwdriver handle to tap them into place if need be.

Now turn your attention to the other end of the neck, which in guitar terms is known as 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 branding 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.

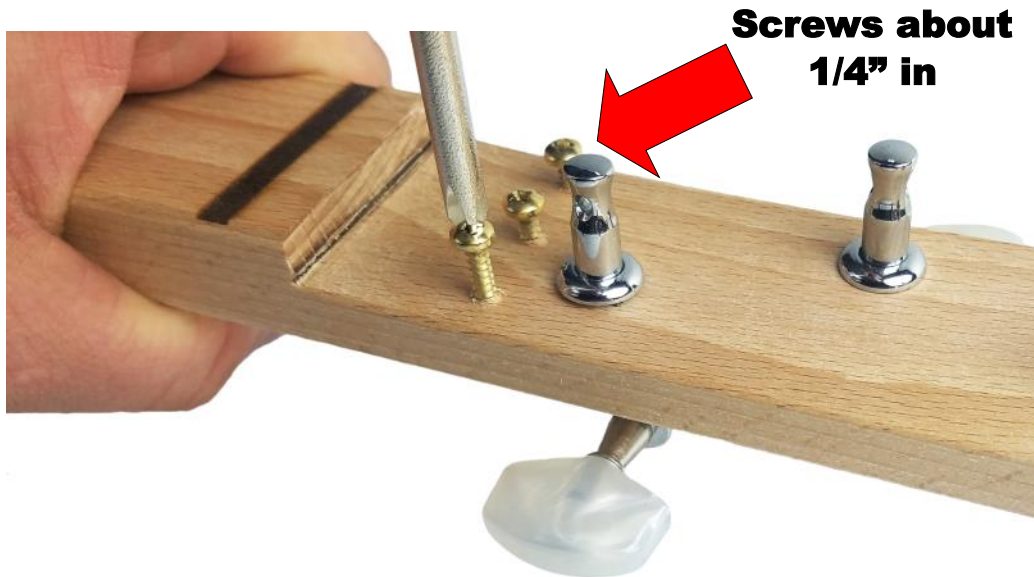
Gently push each of them into the holes until you have them snug to the surface of the headstock. Keep in mind that these bushings are made out of plastic, so don't get too carried away with bashing them in. Use your screwdriver handle to help tap if need be. The photo below shows this step in process. Please note that the bushings in your kit may have a different finish than the ones shown here.

String Retainer Screw Holes

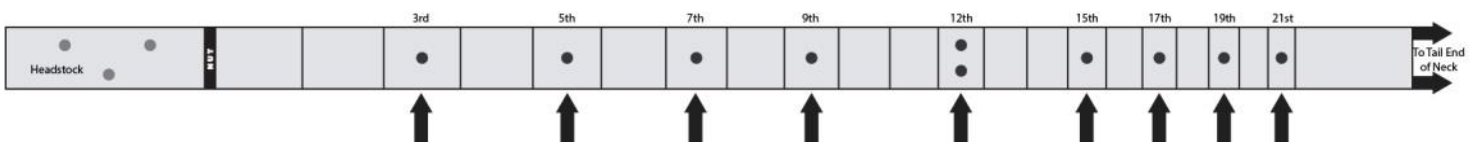


While you have the neck facing up, insert your three brass string retainer screws (**Part “E”**), one at a time, into the three holes that are in a line with one another on the headstock. They are located between the tuner bushings you just installed and groove that has been notched out for the nut.

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.



Add Fret Location Markers (optional)—this is a good time to add fret location marker dots to your neck. While optional, adding these dots can make it a lot easier to find the correct fret when playing slide. You can use a black permanent marker, wood burner or any other creative means to make marks in the positions shown in the diagram below—they don't even have to be circles!



The arrows beneath the diagram indicate where side fret location markers can also be added... this mimics where they would be on a conventional guitar.

Install the Tuners—now it's time to install the three open-gear tuners that came with your kit (**Part “A”**). The look of those exposed gears really adds a nice rustic touch to your “Pure and Simple” cigar box guitar.

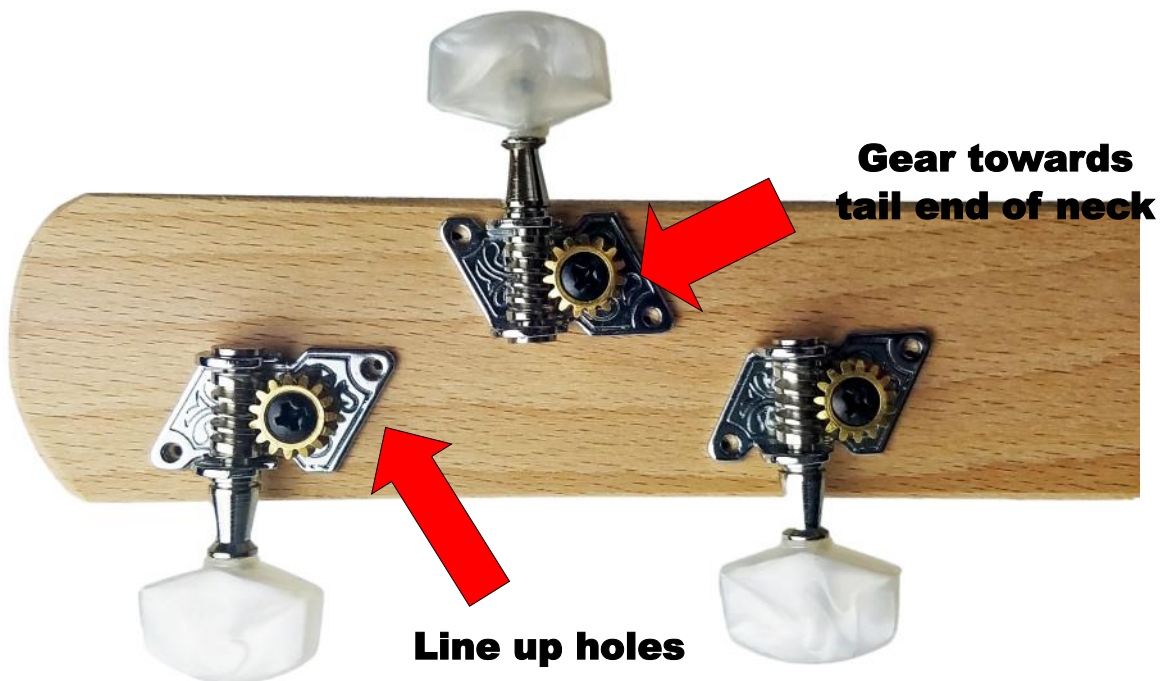
Flip the neck over so that the back side is facing upwards—you should be able to see three larger holes (about $\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter) each flanked by two smaller ones (about $\frac{1}{16}$ " diameter). The larger hole is for the tuner shaft, and the smaller ones are for the mounting screws.

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 because the tuner shaft is longer than the neck is deep.

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

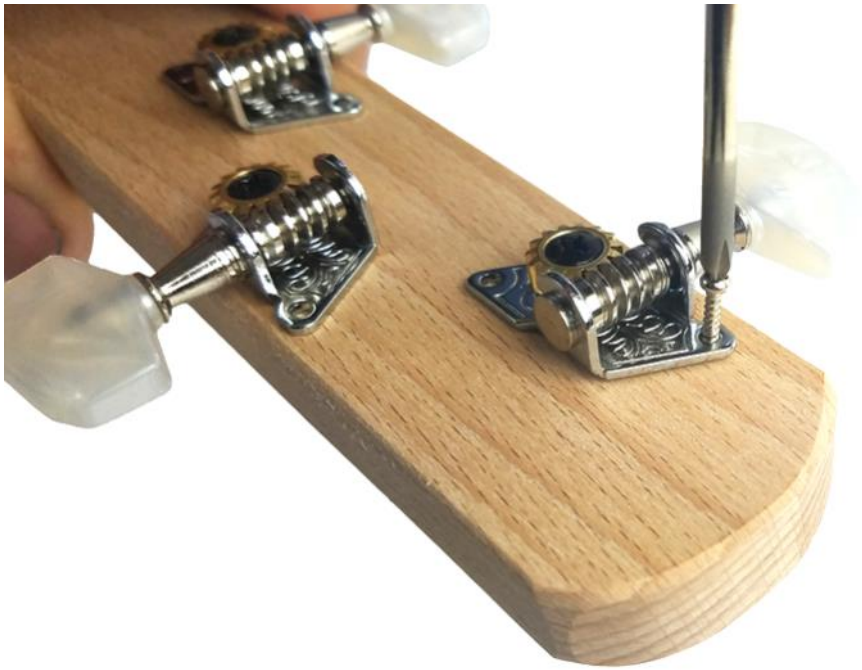


With the neck propped up, push your tuners through the holes making certain that the gear is on the "bottom" side of the tuner, aligned towards the tail-end of the neck, not the top. You've got one tuner hole on one side of the headstock and two on the other. So you'll have one tuner with a gear that is facing the tail end and two tuners doing the same on the other side. See what we 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. You may need to adjust the holes a little to get everything to fit.

Carefully twist in each one of the six small screws (**Part "C"**), two per tuner, snugging each one up at the end. Take special care not to over-tighten them, as this can cause the heads to twist off. Once done, what you have in front of you is a nearly complete cigar box guitar. You're almost there!



Attach the Neck to the Box—On the back (unbranded) 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. See the photo below to see these holes being indicated on the parts.



Open up your box and with the hinge side 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ " washer-head lath screws (**Part "F"**) into place.

Your box should now firmly secured against the neck. If there is a gap or it seems loose, loosen the screws and try again – you want a nice tight join.



Close the box and the box latch (if your cigar box has one) 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 busy stringing up your new cigar box guitar! Getting the strings on there correctly is probably the trickiest part of the whole process, but don't worry about it—the photos below show how everything is supposed to go!

Grab the guitar strings (Part "I"). 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) unwound steel guitar string, and the smallest one is a .009" (9-gauge) unwound steel guitar string.

Start with the thickest string, and insert the thinner end (the one without the brass nut/ball) into the string ferrule on the BACK side of the neck, and bring it up through the one on the top. For a right-handed player, this ferrule 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 before diving in

Already planning your next build?

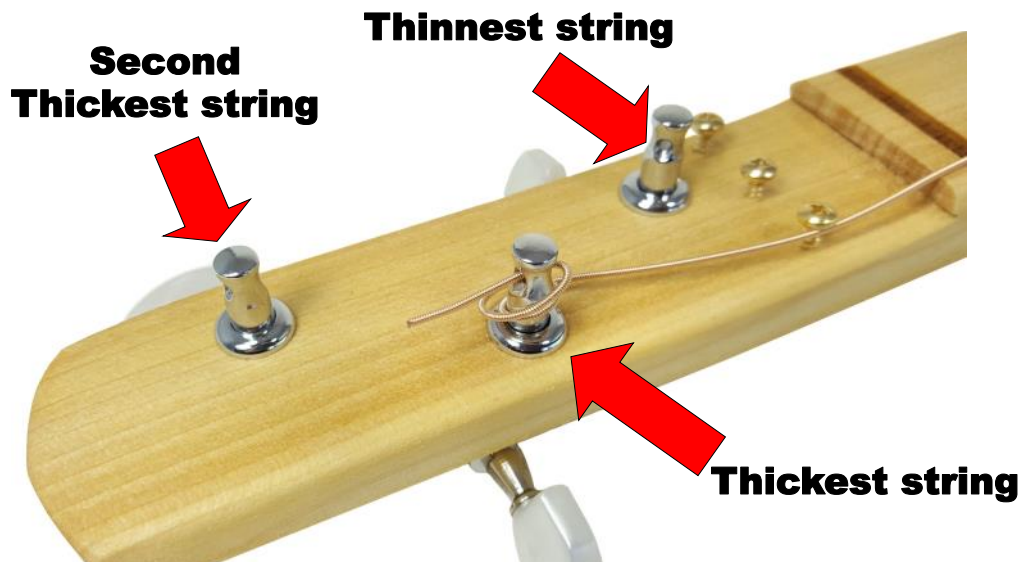
Be sure to check out www.CBGitty.com for our full line of cigar box guitars, amplifiers, kits, parts and much more!

**Insert strings
through ferrules
from the back**



Continue to insert each string through their respective string ferrules with the second thickest string in the middle and the thinnest string in the bottom one. While holding the guitar in playing position, you should 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 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 wound around the tuner closest to you on the bottom-side of the headstock.



Want to go Electric?

We have a wide range of pickup options at C. B. Gitty, which you can use to electrify your cigar box guitar (in other words, make it so you can plug it into an amplifier). See the best of them here: www.CBGitty.com/CBGPickups

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

Pull each string so that the ball-end of it is snugged up against its string ferrule down at the tail end of the neck. Wind your string around its respective tuner and insert the thin end through the hole, as shown above. 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 run across the top side of the brass screws that are in place for each string. The bottom string will go on the bottom side of its brass screw... but save that for just a bit later (see the photo on page 12 for an idea of what we're talking about).



Don't go rushing ahead at this point! Although you can see the finish line, 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 the bridge up onto your cigar box, taking care to match the top edge to the line marking on the neck that is 25 inches away from the groove you can see under the tuners. See the photo on the next page.

Now take the threaded rod (Part "G") that nearly rolled away from you earlier and slide it under the strings, so that it sits in the groove in the neck just below the headstock recess. This threaded rod serves as the "nut" for your cigar box guitar. See the photo on the next page for a visual reference of nut placement.

One at a time, tighten each string until they hold the Flying Bridge and nut firmly in place in their respective spots, bearing in mind which side of the brass screw each string is supposed to be on (see photos). 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" (two octaves higher, in fact).

A note about closing the box: Many cigar boxes have small clasps meant to hold them shut. If the box that came with your kit has a clasp, and it 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.

With many clasps, 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. If your box doesn't have a clasp, you will need to screw, glue or nail your box shut. The use of decorative box corners (many varieties available from www.CBGitty.com/BoxCorners) is also a good option.



Take Your Cigar Box Guitar to the Next Level!

- **Decorate the box**—you can paint, wood burn, decoupage or otherwise decorate your cigar box to make it truly your own.
- **Add Decorative Hardware**—there are all sorts of cool hardware options to add some bling to your new cigar box guitar. Check out www.CBGitty.com/BoxCorners for inspiration.
- **Electrification Options**— You can electrify your new cigar box guitar! The easiest way is with a pre-wired piezo pickup harness, such as this one: www.CBGitty.com/CapOTone
- **Sound Hole Inserts**—add some metal inserts to dress up those holes, such as these: www.CBGitty.com/BrassCandleCups

Note side of re-tainer screws strings run on



Strings wound from inside of tuner post

Step back for a moment and soak this in... You made this! This beautiful, primal instrument has been crafted with your own 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 slide that came with this 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.

Join the online home of the cigar box guitar revolution!

...

www.CigarBoxNation.com

Interested in learning more about cigar box guitars?

Check out the how-to section over at

www.CigarBoxGuitar.com

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



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