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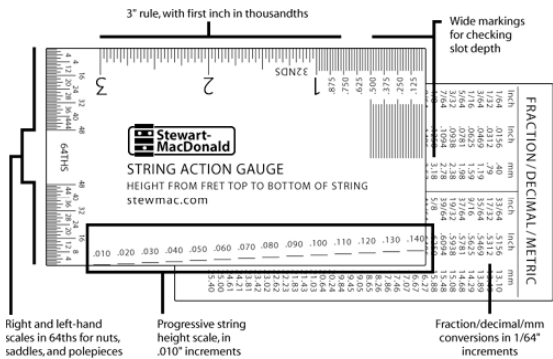
String Action Gauge

How to determine string action with the String Action Gauge.

I-0670

Measure string action (the height of the string above the fret) at any point by placing the gauge behind the string. The string height markings are at increments of .010" (ten thousandths of an inch). When the bottom of a mark aligns with the bottom of the string, that measurement is the string height at that point.

The markings themselves are .005" thick, so referring to the top of a mark instead of the bottom adds .005" to the measurement. In this way the progressive string height scale measures in .005" increments.



String action specs

The suggested measurements listed here refer to the string height at the 1st fret and also at a higher fret. Measured for the outermost bass and treble strings.

Relief

Lay a straightedge across the frets and measure the clearance at the 8th. (Or put a capo at the 1st fret and press a string down at the highest fret — the string becomes the straightedge.)

Suggested action settings

Steel-string acoustic guitar	Bass E	Treble E
Action at the 1st fret	.023"	.013"
Action at the 12th fret	.090"	.070"
Relief: .002" at the 8th fret		

Nylon-string acoustic guitar	Bass E	Treble E
Action at the 1st fret	.030"	.024"
Action at the 12th fret	.156"	.125"
Relief: .002" at the 8th fret		

Electric guitar	Bass E	Treble E
Action at the 1st fret	.024"	.010"
Action at the 12th fret	.078"	.063"
Relief: .001" at the 8th fret		

Bass	Bass E	Treble G
Action at the 1st fret	.022"	.020"
Action at the 17th fret	.105"	.094"
Relief: .014" at the 7th fret		

Mandolin	Bass G	Treble E
Action at the 1st fret	.030"	.020"
Action at the 17th fret	.075"	.065"
Relief: .005" at the 6th fret		

Banjo	Bass D	Treble D
Action at the 1st fret	.037"	.035"
Action at the 12th fret	.090"	.090"
Relief: .008" at the 8th fret		

Soprano and Tenor Ukulele	Bass G	Treble A
Action at the 1st fret	.015"	.015"
Action at the 12th fret	.090"	.090"
Relief: .002" at the 12th fret		

For more information on setups, including setup preferences of famous players, see Dan Erlewine's [Guitar Player Repair Guide](#) and [How To Make Your Electric Guitar Play Great!](#)

Related Items



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