



Dope As Fuck Setup Guide

A “Dope As Fuck” Guitar Setup

**A setup guide by
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First and foremost

I must congratulate you on having curiosity and the courage to try and learn the sacred art of becoming a guitar-tech or as I like to call us “Tone Warriors”. We are here to grant uninterrupted inspiration from the muse to the musician. We are the slayers of string buzz and the keepers of one of the greatest musical tools ever created. Behind every guitar legend stands a Tone Warrior, without us there would be no Clapton, no Hendrix, no Stevie Ray and for sure no Slash. We are artists my friends, we are guitar techs and we are Tone Warriors. Welcome, You are one of us now XXX



What the Fuck is a
Guitar Setup



Required Weapons
aka- Tool List

Tool List

I cannot emphasize the importance of buying good quality tools! Cheap tools will ruin your instrument! Most stuff is available at your local hardware store but some you should get from an online luthier supply store, I'll add an "*" to those

1. Side Cutters (wire cutters)
2. Digital Tuner
3. String Winder *
4. Capo*
5. Screw Driver set and small set
6. Small Crescent Wrench
7. Allen Wrench Set w/ Ball Ends
 - a. Metric
 - b. USA
8. Nut Driver Socket set & ESP Tool
 - a. Metric
 - b. USA
9. Razor Blade or X-Acto Knife
10. Polishing Cloth or Shop towels
11. Cleaners like Naphtha or mineral spirits
 - a. Silicone Free Polish
12. Feeler gauges
13. Radius Gauges *
14. Machinist Ruler Or String Action Ruler*

The Setup Check List:

- ✓ Tune and play the guitar
- ✓ Write down current setup specs before we move anything and make any needed notes
- ✓ Remove Old Strings
- ✓ Clean the fuck out of the guitar
- ✓ Install Fresh Strings
- ✓ Sight The neck or use capo trick
- ✓ Truss rod adjustment
- ✓ Set action/ string height
- ✓ Play guitar and reassess
- ✓ Check Nut height
- ✓ Check Pickup Height
- ✓ Set Intonation
- ✓ Clean and reward yourself with beer

Write down your specs!

1. Neck Relief-
2. String height-
3. Nut action-
4. Pickup Height-



The Setup Check List:



Hello my name is "Truss Rod"

Hello My Name is Truss Rod

A good setup requires a good understanding of what the truss rod does.

Truss Rod- is the steel rod that runs inside the neck of the guitar. It stabilizes the lengthwise forward curvature of the neck according to the string tension.

Layman's terms- truss rod keeps the wooden neck at a specific angle by countering the pull of strings and natural tendencies in the wood. Why? Because a neck made of wood is prone to bending due to climate, changing to a different gauge of guitar strings or pissing off your girlfriend.

Things to keep in mind...

Up until recently, most truss rods were only adjustable by tightening or loosening the nut. Some modern guitars now have a duo-adjusting truss rod, meaning they are adjustable in both directions.

Step #1

Hey bro, sight your neck

Before you adjust you can "sight" the neck to get a good idea of how much adjustment will be needed. You can do this by placing the body on a table and comparing the angle of the neck to the thickest string. An in-tune string makes for a great "straight edge".

A lot of times by doing this you'll notice you only need a small "tweak" of the truss rod. If so I usually just do the "tweak" without having to use a feeler gauge or the "capo trick".

In this picture, the neck has too much "relief" (its too loose) it needs to be tighten.



Step #1
Sight your neck



Step #2

Adjusting using the ole “The Capo Trick”

Unless you were born with 3 hands the “Capo trick” comes in handy when measuring the angle of the neck. It’s a great way to start and eventually you’ll become a badass and won’t need it anymore. It’s kinda like training wheels. Ok in order ...

1. Put a Capo on the first fret. Literally on the first fret.
2. Using your finger, press down on the fret where the neck meets the body.
3. Find the center point between the capo’d first fret and where the neck meets the body. On this SG it was on the 21 fret. Center point is 10th fret
4. Slip appropriate feeler gauge on top of fret. A very good universal number for guitars is .010
5. It should barely just pass between the top of the fret and the bottom of the string.

* We always adjust in small increments.

- If there is a gap between the gauge and the string, the truss-rod needs to be tighten
- If the gauge bumps into the string, the truss-rod needs to be loosened.

Step #3

Set the string height at the bridge-

**In playing position*

Place your ruler on top of the 12th fret across all strings. You should just be able to see the measurement mark 4/64th or whatever measurement you’ve picked. From experience, Most players like

Good place to start is

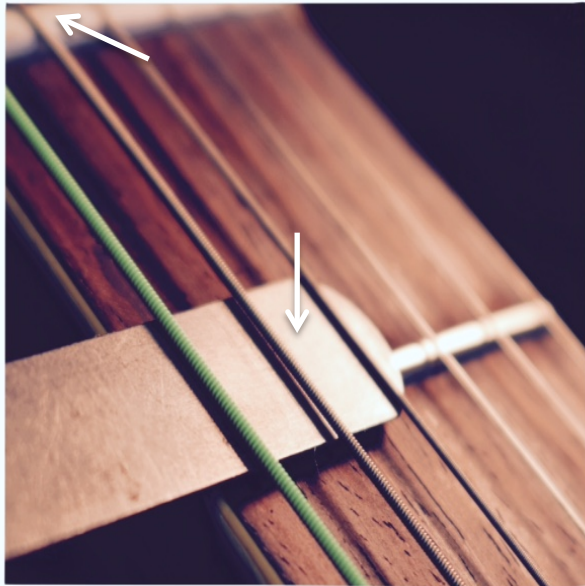
- Low E and A – 4/64th
- D-G-B and High E – 3/64th

Remember

- If the string is below the mark, raise the string
- If the string is above the mark lower the string

* Check Spec Chart at the end of guide





Step #4
Check dem Nuts

Step #4

Set the Action at the Nut

Ok so this step is a little tricky, it does require some good nut files and lots of practice. If its close like the picture its not the end of the world and will be fine. Some cheap guitars though will need lots of love on their nuts.

**In playing position*

1. Take the appropriate feeler gauge and place it on the first fret.
2. If the gauge hits the string, the nut is too low needs to either be shimmed or the slot raised using super glue and baking soda.
3. If there is a gap between the gauge and the bottom of the string, then the slot is too high and needs to be filed down

Remember- always use small cuts and follow the string path to guide your cuts. Patience is very important here.

Step #5

Set Pickup height-

Alright, Imma get shit for this one, (with respect) I really do think pickup height is subjective to the player but the manufacturer recommendations are a good place to start. In order to get an accurate measurement, pickup height is measured by pressing on the last fret and placing ruler on pole pieces themselves.

Remember

- Closer = more output
- But too close to strings and it will throw off intonation and get phasey sound
- Humbuckers- 3/32nd (good place to start)
- Single coil- 4/64th on bass 3/64th on treble side



Step #5
Adjust your Pickups



Step #6

Intonation is simple

Intonation is as simple as tuning a guitar,

**In playing position*

1. Tune the instrument using the 12th fret harmonic
2. Fret that same string at the 12th fret and compare
 - If the note is sharp, righty tighy the saddle (saddle moves away from the neck.)
 - If the note is flat, lefty loosey (saddle move towards the neck.)

Hey there, congratulations on purchasing this guide or maybe you stole it. Fuck it, point is I'm happy you have it and I hope it helped! Also, please feel free to share with your friends! If you have any questions please feel free to email me at luis@modern guitartech.com.

Super Awesome Measurement Spec Chart

Ok so these specs work pretty good and are a good place to start. You'll quickly find that you might not like any of these and start figuring it out as you grow. I say experiment; mess around till you find something you love. However, these numbers are a good start.

- **Truss rod Relief** measured on 9th fret (using capo trick)
- **String Action** measured on the 12 fret across all strings.
- **Nut Action** measured at 1st fret
- **Pickup Height** is measure by pressing the last fret and placing ruler on pole pieces

Manufacturer Specs	Relief	Strings	Nut
<u>Modern Guitar tech-</u>	.008"	3/64 th	.018"
<u>Fender Specs-</u>	.010"	4/64 th	.020"
<u>Gibson Specs-</u>	.010"	5/64 th	.018"

