

Replacing Hammered Dulcimer Strings

Firstly, make sure you have some eye protection, just in case. Some people may also want to wear gloves, the strings are very sharp. Be careful.

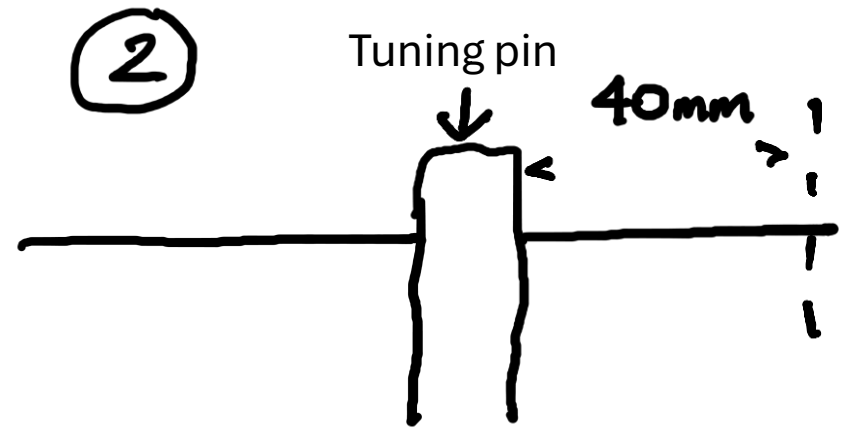
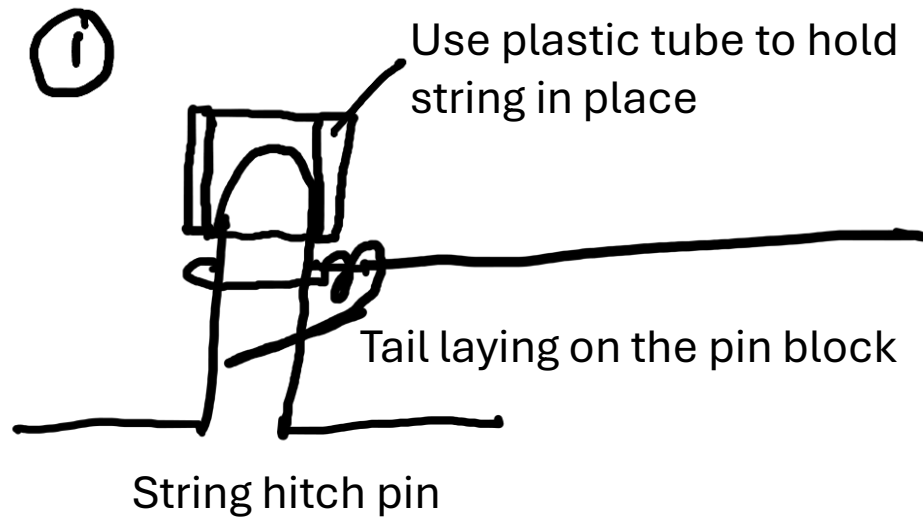
Get hold of the right string thickness and length. Go back to the instrument maker if you can or another maker for advice on this. Using the wrong gauge can end badly.

Remove the old string and see how it was threaded under dampers and through bridges. Make sure you follow the same path with your new strings.

Wind the tuning pins out by 3 full turns, that's how many turn you will use when you fit your new string and you want the tuning pin to finish up at the same height.

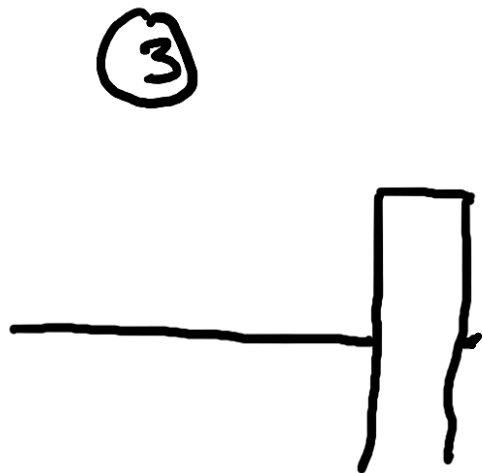
Stop if the string starts to get too close to the pin block and start again if necessary.

Caveat Actor – let the doer beware!

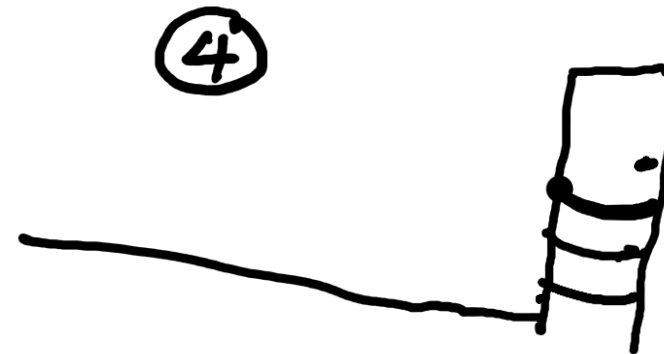


Wind the tuning pin out 3 turn before threading the string. Pull through until the slack it taken up then snip off at about 40mm

Normal steel string replacement



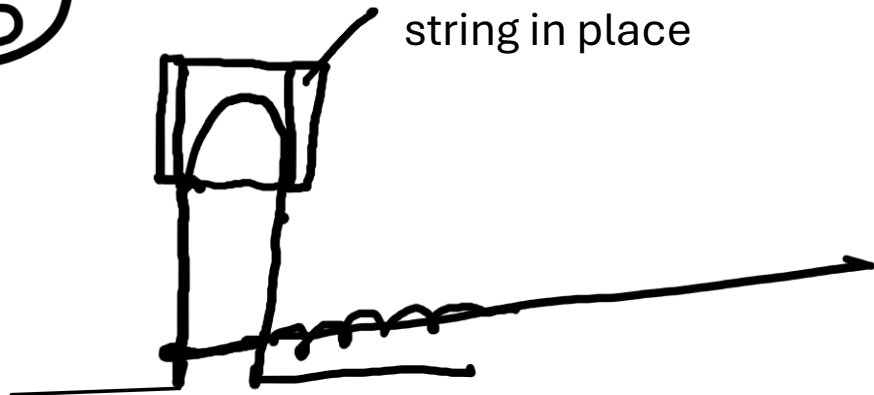
Pull the string back until the tip is just showing



Carefully wind the pin, coiling the string neatly around the pin. Don't allow the coils to cross each other or get wound down onto the pin block.

5

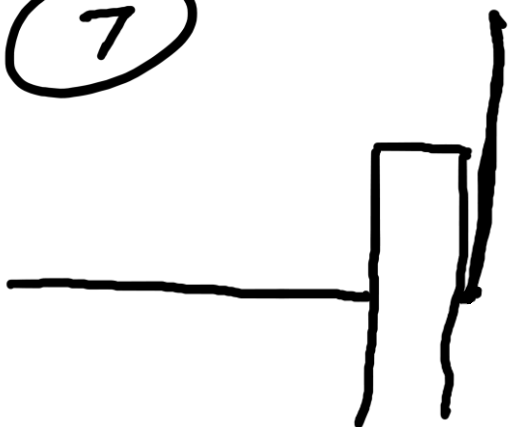
Use plastic tube to hold string in place



String hitch pin

Wound string replacement

7



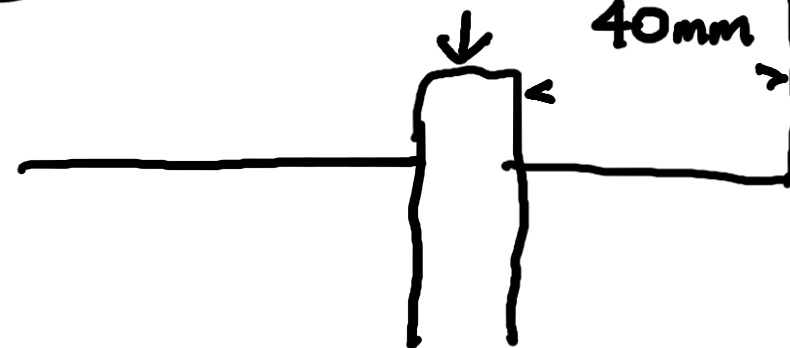
Pull back until the string is in contact with the pin. Do NOT snip off yet!

6

Tuning pin

40mm

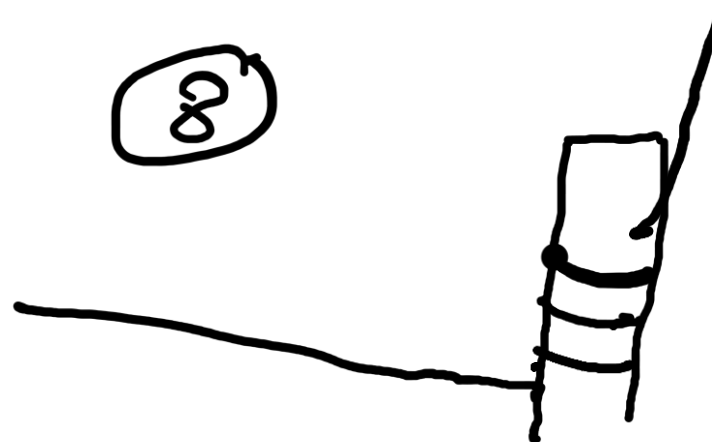
Bend String



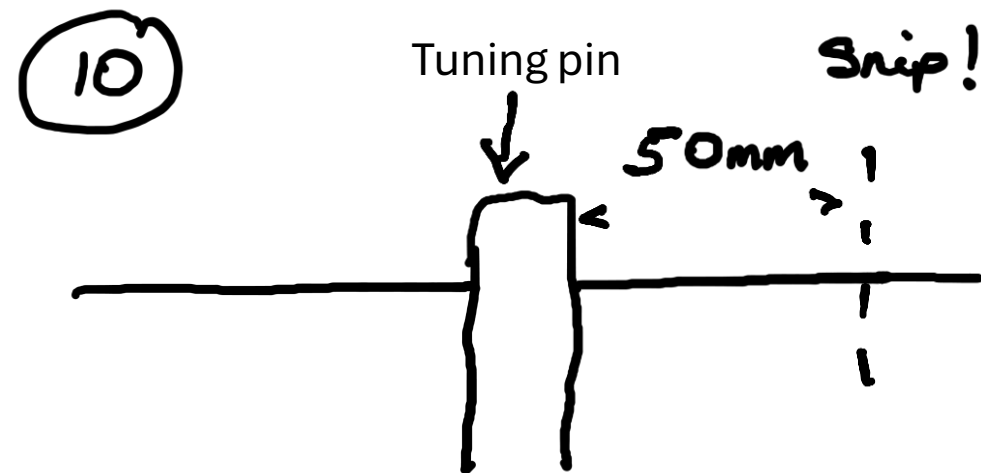
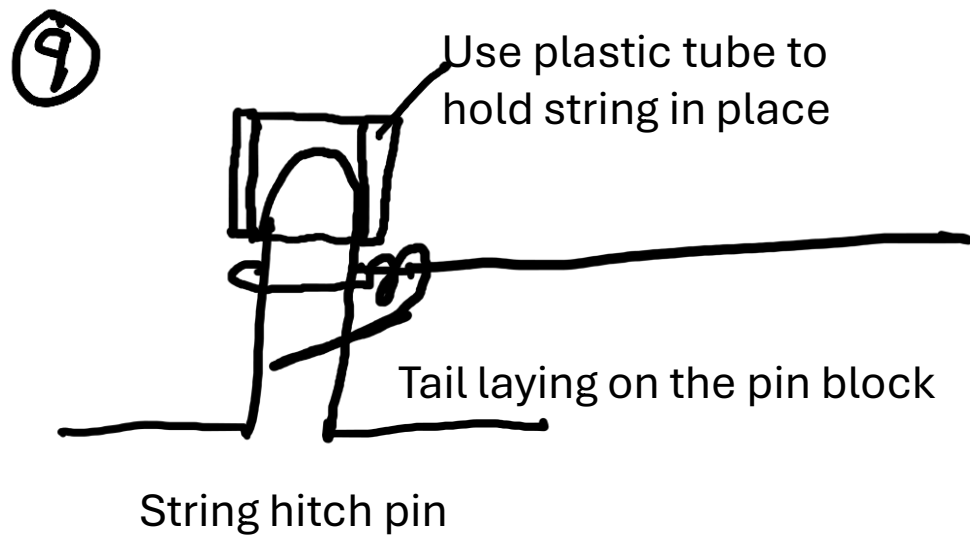
Wind the tuning pin out by 3 turns before threading the string. Pull through the slack then bend the string to 90 degrees at about 40mm from the pin.

8

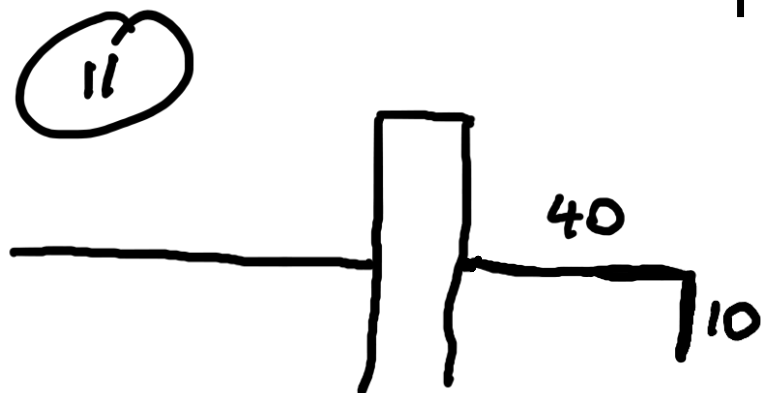
Carefully snip off when the string is under tension



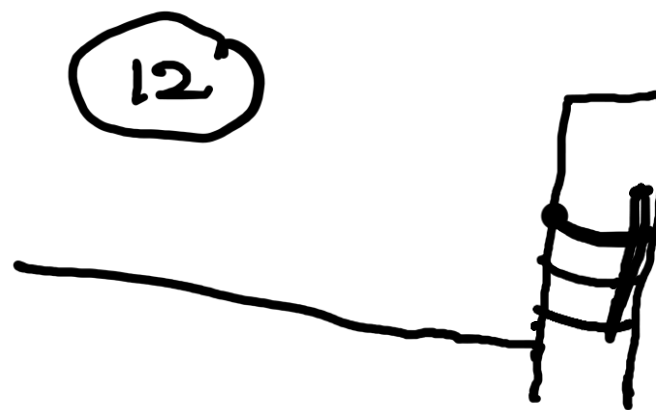
Carefully wind the pin, coiling the string neatly down the pin. Don't allow the coils to overlap each other or get wound down into the pin block.



Wind the tuning pin out 3 turns before treading the string. Pull through until the slack is taken up and snip off at about 50mm



Put a 90 degree bend into the string at about 10mm from the end. Pull the string back until the new tag just touches the pin.



Carefully wind the pin, coiling the string neatly over the tag, trapping it against the pin. Don't allow the coils to overlap each other or get wound down into the pin block

Thin string replacement