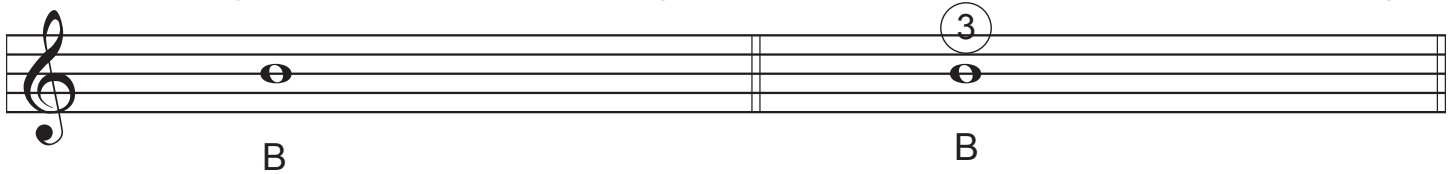


"Tuning the 3rd string"

can be played as the 2nd open string-----or as the 4th fret on the 3rd string.



The first step is to make sure that the 2nd string is in tune with the first string. (See Lesson 3c) Now proceed to the next step.

Press the 3rd string at the fourth fret. Any finger will do. This note must now be tuned to sound the same as the 2nd string open. Listen carefully and try to determine one of three things. Is the note on the 3rd string too low? Is the note on the 3rd string too high? Or perhaps the guitar is already in tune and the note on the third string sounds exactly the same as the 2nd string open. In the last case, you won't have to make any adjustments.

On an acoustic guitar, the third string is usually a "wound" string and the note "B" at the 4th fret will have a totally different "timbre" as compared to the second string open, which is a plain steel string. This difference in "timbre" can be confusing to the untrained ear. (timbre=tone quality)

Here is something that can help in tuning by ear. Play the note at the 4th fret of the third string and hum the note. Now play the 2nd string open and hum that note. If you seem to be humming the same note, the two strings are most likely in tune. This humming process of course depends on your ability to sing or hum accurately in pitch to what you are hearing.

Be patient! To learn to tune quickly and accurately by ear takes nearly as long as learning to play the guitar reasonably well. Some players are very gifted in the ear department and others, although not tone deaf, can struggle with the process for quite a while. Learning to distinguish between pitch (how high or low the note is) and timbre (the tone quality) can be infuriating to some beginner students.