

“Sweet Sue”

Guitars by Joe Caruso



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Specification for model - Sweet Sue 2017-1

- Cherry neck, maple fretboard, 620 mm scale length
- Scarf joint headstock with book matched mahogany veneer
- Brass closed tuners
- Single Piezo pickup with volume control; brass control knob
- Nut (polystyrene)
- Floating bridge - oak (not glued onto the guitar)
- Monte Cristo Habana Cigar Box 27cm long x 17cm wide x 5 high with brass corner trim and ‘f’ style sound holes; brass tail piece
- Three string - GDG Open Tuning (strings are .044w, .034w, .026w)

Tuning Your Guitar

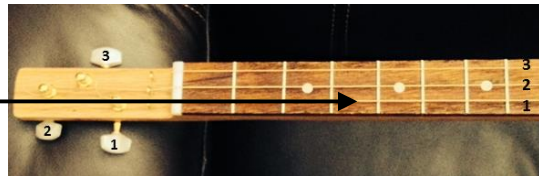
Always loosen the string a bit before you start tuning. Turn the tuning knob a quarter turn at a time as you are tuning and plucking.

The method below tunes the first string to G, then the second string relative to the first, and the third relative to the second.

You can also use a digital tuner, a YouTube tuning video (the link is below), or another musical instrument.

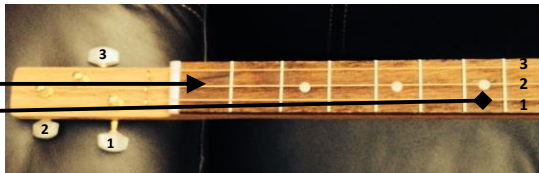
String 1 - G

Tune string 1 using a digital tuner, Youtube video or other musical instrument, to G



String 2 - D

To tune string 2, loosen it
Then press string 1 here
Pluck and tune string 2



String 3 - G

To tune string 3, loosen it
Then press string 2 here
Pluck and tune string 3



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Please note, unless you are playing in a band, if the strings are not tuned exactly to GDG, it doesn't matter and nobody will notice.

See also https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGsSGVs_jfQ

“Tune your 3 string cigar box guitar GDg”

Replacing the Guitar Strings

Replace a single broken string with an acoustic wound string of the same gauge. String gauges are listed in the model description.

If you are replacing all three strings, it is recommended to replace one string at a time, so the nut and bridge do not lose their position.

Please watch the following video by the master Dan Erlewine on replacing guitar strings. The stuff you need starts at the 3:00 minute mark of the video. Either of the first 2 methods of winding strings will work for you. And your fingers will work as well as the fancy tool he has.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qqem25TYyUQ>

“Changing Acoustic Guitar Strings Dan Erlewine”

To replace all three strings:

- Purchase a set of light acoustic guitar strings (recommend Long and McQuade). DO NOT USE the two thinnest (B, E) and the thickest string (E). The remaining three (A, D, G) are a close enough approximation to the strings initially installed to tune them to GDG. Alternatively, purchase 3 single strings with gauges close to those listed above.
- If you remove all three strings at once, the bridge which is floating will drop off. This is not catastrophic. Position the bridge to scale length position – it is marked on the surface.
- Install first the thickest string at the top (string 1). Be sure to pull on the string to ensure it is snug at the tail. Do not tighten to full note yet – just tighten so the slack is taken out. Then the next thickest in the middle (string 2), thinnest as the bottom (string 3). After replacing strings, it will take 3-5 days for the strings to stabilize. This

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is normal. Playing the guitar during this period will settle them in quicker. Playing the guitar regularly will loosen up the strings and make it easier to play.

Learning to Play – Perfect Practice Makes Perfect Playing

The best advice I ever got from my music teacher:

- First – get it right – play it slow enough to get it right.
- Then – gradually pick up the pace to how the song is to be played.

Playing Your Guitar

There are many YouTube instructional videos on playing the CBG. Recommended videos are those from:

- Glen Watt if you are just getting started – some 1 finger cigar box guitar lesson
 - Bad Moon Rising
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydfH69uqJ9Q>
 - Hotel California
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H39pDOIhho0>
 - Take Me Home, Country Roads
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SIIWzPwXF4>
- Shane Speal – Shane provides more advanced instruction and tips and techniques, but he also has some videos that provide simple guidance to some great strumming.
 - The Classic Chuck Berry Blues Riff -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7R06ym-6MxA>

To satisfy your addiction to things CBG and join the worldwide community of CBG builders and players, visit www.cigarboxnation.com

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CBG Music Sheets

There are also many song sheets available. One is provided on the next page. The links to a few more are provided below. Due to copyright law, the song sheets below cannot be included in this booklet.

“Yellow Submarine”

<http://www.cigarboxguitar.com/knowledge-base/category/cigar-box-guitar-tablature/filter:y/>

“Blowin' in the Wind”

<http://www.cigarboxguitar.com/knowledge-base/category/cigar-box-guitar-tablature/filter:b/>

“Somewhere Over the Rainbow”

<http://www.cigarboxguitar.com/knowledge-base/category/cigar-box-guitar-tablature/filter:s/>

Care of your CBG

The neck and fingerboard are finished with an oil based stain which requires no maintenance. The cigar box is protected with several light coats of polyurethane spray. Craft boxes are finished with an oil based stain and then protected with several light coats of polyurethane spray.

Your CBG will benefit from occasional light dusting. Do not leave or store your guitar in excess heat, cold or sunlight.

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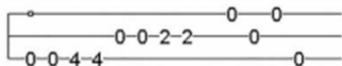
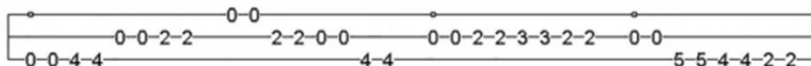
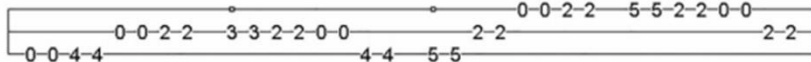
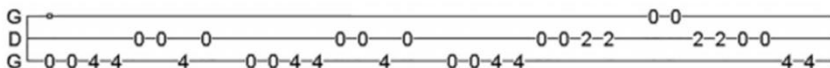
CIGAR BOX GUITAR TABLATURE

Presented by [C. B. Gitty](#) and [The Southbound String Company](#)

Boogie in G

Arranged for 3-string fretted cigar box guitar tuned to Open G GDG... but it will work on any “151” open tuning like DAD, EBE, AEA, etc.

This melody and rhythm are one of the basic building blocks of the blues, and an awful lot of songs have been recorded using it or variations of it. Feel free to make up your own words, and have fun with it!



For more information about the Open G GDG tuning, [check out this article](#) in the cigar box guitar knowledgebase at CigarBoxGuitar.com. We also have a video by Glenn Watt on how to read and play 3-string tablature like this – [you can view it here on CigarBoxGuitar.com](#).

Note: ‘0’ means play an open string, do not press on the string. ‘4’ means press this string on the 4th fret.

See also <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMNlITg5V6Y> “How to Read Cigar Box Guitar Tablature”

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FOLK PRACTICE #1981

SO G

0 0 4 | 0

You can strum the other 2 strings while playing the single notes for this Folk Practice.

ONE STRING BLUES

G
D
G

1-4-5 CHORD PROGRESSION

Many rock songs are based on the 1-4-5 progression (La Bamba, Jailhouse Rock, Down Around The Corner)

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Joe Caruso spent many years in the project management field. The addiction to building cigar box guitars (CBGs) started in 2012 after building one using a craft box, unable to find a cigar box. The sound from this odd instrument was amazing, and more CBGs followed. Joe is now using his organizational skills after leaving the corporate world to build CBGs as efficiently and as cost effective as possible.

Joe produced an award-winning Vision TV video explaining the history and the building of cigar box guitars. It is available on YouTube “My Unique Hobby - building guitars from cigar boxes - CBG's”; the link is

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_lbdeNvHcE

Softcopy of this document is available from joe_caruso@hotmail.com