String height ruler

For acoustic guitars · US Letter · owningafender.com

PRINT AT 100 PERCENT
TURN OFF "FIT TO PAGE"

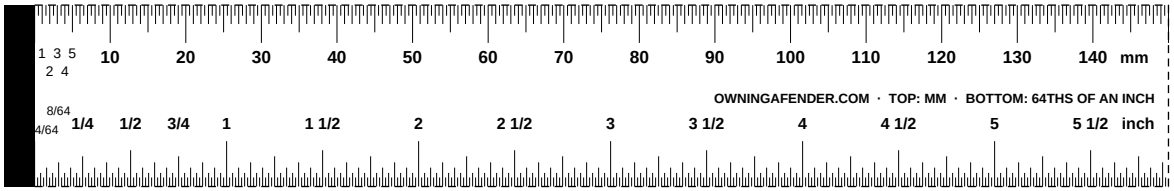
1 Check the print size



This bar is the width of a bank card: 85.6 mm.
Lay a card on it. If the ends don't line up, print again at 100 percent with "fit to page" turned off.

2 Cut out the ruler

Cut on the dashed line. Cut the left end exactly where the black band ends: that edge is zero.



Top edge: millimetres, a short tick every half millimetre. Bottom edge: inches, a short tick every 1/64 inch, so 4/64 is the fourth tick from zero. A paper ruler reads to about half a millimetre: close enough to see if a string is high or low.

3 Measure

Tune to pitch, no capo. Stand the zero end on the 12th fret and read to the underside of the open string without pushing it up. Do the low E, then the high E.

4 What to aim for

AT THE 12TH FRET	LOW E (BASS SIDE)	HIGH E (TREBLE SIDE)
Starting range	2.4 to 2.8 mm (6/64" to 7/64")	1.6 to 2.0 mm (4/64" to 5/64")

Our starting ranges for a six-string steel-string acoustic, for testing, not a maker's factory figure (Martin and Taylor publish no 12th-fret height). Not for nylon-string or 12-string guitars. A hard strummer may need more; a light fingerpicker may like less.

5 My measurements

DATE	LOW E	HIGH E	WHAT I CHANGED