

Autoharp won't stay in tune because of slipping tuning pins? Here are four ways to make life better again.

Solution one- It usually takes care of the trouble without doing much, but should be considered a temporary approach:

Back off the tuning pin two turns. Now lift the loose string up over the pin to make the string one turn looser. Tune the string up again. The pin sinks into the hole one extra turn, and usually tightens up just fine.

Solution two- Another easy fix:

Buy an oversized tuning pin, available from d' Aigle Autoharps for \$3.50 each, and replace the old one. The oversized pin is large enough to sit tight in the hole, yet takes the same tuning wrench. Make sure it is about 15/16" high before winding it up with the string.

Solution three- When the trouble is more severe:

With a woodworker's hand plane, shave a piece of hardwood. The shaving is thin and curls naturally. Remove the tuning pin and wrap it with the shaving. Place it in the hole, taking care to work the shaving with the pin as it sinks into the hole. You can tap the pin with a hammer to sink it to about an inch and an eighth high. Now turn the pin in to about a 15/16" of an inch high, and re install the string.

Solution four- When all else fails:

Remove the pin. Fill the hole with a dowel of 3/16" diameter. Use a good yellow wood glue to glue it in place. (I use Franklin's Titebond II). If the hole is extremely elongated, you may need to use some plane shavings to help fill the space.

Now with a drill press, carefully re drill the hole with a 3/16" bit.