

FAQs about Restringing the Autoharp

Q *Why should I restring my autoharp?*

A The sound of every autoharp can benefit substantially when its strings are changed on a regular basis with high-quality autoharp strings — and this applies even to new autoharps fresh from the factory.

Over time, and depending on how much an autoharp is played, strings become unresponsive and “dead” sounding. There is no long-term solution to this problem short of restringing.

Q *When should I restring my autoharp?*

A When to restring depends on how much you play. However, if you’ve just picked up an old black box Oscar Schmidt at a yard sale, you’ll want to restring that bargain right away. In general, the bass wound strings deteriorate much more rapidly than non-wound strings. Average players should replace bass wound strings every two years and replace all string every four years. Changing bass strings every two years is less work and less money than a total restringing and makes a total restringing less frequent. An exception is for those autoharps which are played heavily, even on a daily basis. These autoharps should have their strings changed on an annual basis.

Remember that every autoharp — from a yard sale find to the finest custom model — can benefit substantially from regularly-scheduled restringing.

Q *How do I restring my autoharp?*

A Instructions on how to restring your autoharp appear in *The Autoharp Owner’s Manual*, edited by

Mary Lou Orthey and available from *Autoharp Quarterly*® magazine. Instructions also appear in *Autoharp Quarterly*®, Volume V, Number 3 in an article by George Orthey entitled, *String Along With Me*.



High-Quality String Sets Made to Fit Your Autoharp

Code Black – 37 Strings
Code Black – Bass Wound Strings Only
For most handmade autoharps including those by Paul Cram, Pete Daigle, Mark Fackeldey, Tom Fladmark, John Hollandsworth, and George Orthey

Code Red – 36 Strings
Code Red – Bass Wound Strings Only
For Oscar Schmidt Model B autoharps

Code Green – 36 Strings
Code Green – Bass Wound Strings Only
For ChromAharp® and Oscar Schmidt 1930s Reissue Model Black Box

Code Blue – 36 Strings with #1 to #12 Wound
Code Blue – Bass Wound Strings Only
For vintage genuine old black box autoharps

Color code refers to the color of the string packaging.

Complete Set	Single orders can be mixed with more than one color code in the order. Ask for pricing on wholesale orders (10 or more sets). Autoharp luthiers; ask for large order prices.	Bass Wound Set
\$50		\$35
per set plus \$5 packaging and shipping		per set plus \$5 packaging and shipping

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