

Cheat-A-Keys

US Patent #7,109,405

Thank you for purchasing the Cheat-A-Keys clamp on D-Tuner for your banjo!

Installation is easy, but you should READ these instructions before installing the unit.

1. Remove the knobs, the threaded “nuts”, and the clamp bar from the D-Tuner.
2. Check the fit of the tuner to your peghead, making sure that the tuner is wide enough able to be slipped over you peghead. Some styles of peghead, notably those which look more like a guitar than a banjo, are too wide for this unit. We make a special wider unit for these situations. The regular unit requires a head width of 1.8” or narrower. It will fit most traditional banjo pegheads, including Fiddle cut and Double cut.
3. On the D-Tuner, find the slider which moves the furthest per degree of knob twist. This is the side which should be mounted toward the 2nd string (B). It also has a small dot next to the moving string post, which will make it easier to identify.
4. Assuming the tuner will fit, loosen the 2nd and 3rd strings on your banjo, remove them from the grooves in the “nut”, and spread them apart sufficiently to allow the tuner to be slid onto the peghead. Position the D-Tuner approx. ½ way between the existing tuners and slide the clamp bar onto the back side. Holding the D-Tuner in place with pressure on the clamp, screw the retainer nuts on, just to the point of contact with the clamp. Be careful to keep the clamp flat against the back of the peghead, and to avoid screwing the nuts down enough to “cock” the clamping bar. It is important to avoid “cocking” the clamp bar, which could put a mark on the back of the peghead. Once the nuts are touching the clamp bar, with the clamp bar, flat against the peghead, and the D-Tuner in its proper position, you may tighten the nuts FINGER TIGHT. It is important that you DO NOT OVER-TIGHTEN the nuts. Tightening them as tight as you can make them WITH YOUR FINGERS is adequate, but if you use a wrench, we recommend that you tighten them NO MORE THAN 1/8 TURN from the position where they first contact the clamp bar.
5. Once the unit is mounted, replace the knobs, using the 4-40 screws to adjust the drag, and replace the two center strings into the grooves in the “nut”, with them routed from the nut, thru the inside of the protruding pins of the D-Tuner, and on upward to the normal tuners. The strings should be slid into the grooves in the upright pins. Tighten the strings just enough to keep them in place and make sure the D-Tuners are set to the inside position (knob rotated CCW as viewed from the back side) before tuning the 2 inside strings to their normal pitch (B and D). Now, adjust each tuning screw on the D-Tuner to limit the movement of the D-Tuner to the proper pitch (normally A and F#). The screws holding on the knobs can be used to adjust the drag of the D-Tuners. Adjust to your preference, but we recommend that they be tightened enough to avoid any tendency for the knob to “snap” to the lower position. These are very sensitive adjustments, so it may take a few tries to get them where you prefer them.
6. You will find that the unit will take a bit of breaking in, but that once they are broken in they will hold adjustment very well. They will require very small adjustment for the lower pitch, even when changing strings. Tuning the “normal” tuners will usually be all that is necessary.
7. Maintenance: The D-Tuners should require very little in the way of maintenance, but should be cleaned and lubricated on occasion. We recommend a normal brown grease, or Vaseline be applied to the internal cams anytime the unit is disassembled.

3656 S. Hopkins Ave.

Titusville, FL 32780

800-826-5482



How-To Instructional Video