In our minds the simplest procedure is the most practical: wind the string once, twice, three times around the peg, and snip!

It makes no difference whether you have mechanical or friction peg tuners—the process is the same for both. When stringing an instrument, you might find needle-nose pliers useful. Remember also that when you are finished stringing you will probably have to readjust your bridge if it is moveable.

Take the string out of the package and carefully uncurl it. Watch out for little knots or binds. Just loosen the curl and straighten it out to its full length. Start with the first unison string, then the bass, then the second unison, and finally the middle. If you remove one string at a time and replace it, you will minimize the chances of your bridge falling off or moving out of adjustment.

Okay. Insert the plain end of the string through the eye of the tuning peg and pull some of the string length through. Then attach the loop end to the tailpiece. If you have ball-end strings, pull the string through the eye of the peg until the ball end jams up against the tailpiece.

Keep the string loose, and gauge how much slack you will need to wind the string at least three times around the shaft of the tuning peg. Try to keep as much of a straight-line pull on the string as possible. Be careful not to crease it.

The best way to avoid this is to maintain an upward pull with your free hand, letting the string pass over the back of your hand and across the thumb and