Fisher Harps

Tuning Pins

The tuning pins (or pegs) are tapered, go into a tapered hole and are held in place by a friction fit. They should be tight enough to prevent the string from unwinding, but not so tight as to make tuning a chore.

Troubleshooting

1. If the tuning pin is too loose, the string may begin to unwind, or slip. To tighten the pin, support the harp on the strings side with the flat of the left hand, and with the right hand holding the tuning key, push it in firmly while turning with the key. This just might just do the trick. If the pin still slips a bit, then take a hammer (a small hammer is better than a big hammer) and give it 4-5 medium 'love taps' to fully seat the pin in the hole. Another option to increase the friction of the tuning pin is to remove the pin and rub it with coarse sandpaper before putting it back into the tuning pin hole. This will increase the friction and help it hold better.
2. If the pin is slipping *and* protruding out too far on the lever side, then take off the string and with a hammer knock the pin on the string side till it's loose and take the pin out completely. Cut a paper 'shim' (a small rectangle or trapezoid piece of paper) and place in the tuning pin hole. I usually wrap the paper on the pin to form it into a cylinder and then re-insert the tuning pin and while turning and pushing with the tuning key, re-seat the pin. Re-install the string and bring it up to pitch, pushing on the tuning pin with the tuning key while you do this.
3. If the pin is too tight (or If you develop a 'sticky' or 'ratcheting' pin), tapping it from the strings side with a hammer will move it out a bit and make it easier to turn. If this fails, then remove the string from the pin, remove the pin from the neck and rub the pin a little bit with the side of a pencil, as the graphite will act as a 'dry lubricant'. You could also rub on a little bit of beeswax or bar soap for the same effect.

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