

Siminoff string slotting needle files are made of tempered steel and cut with 60° faces and sharp corners. They are the correct shape for preparing V-shaped notches in bridge saddles and pearl, bone, or abalone nut blanks.

It is our recommendation to use V-shaped slots rather than gauged slots (slots cut to the precise width of the strings). V-shaped slots ensure that the string is securely anchored between two points and will not buzz. By comparison the gauged-slot technique presents problems when changing to a different string gauge. In addition, the round-bottom slots made by gauged files do not securely anchor the string and are prone to causing buzzes.

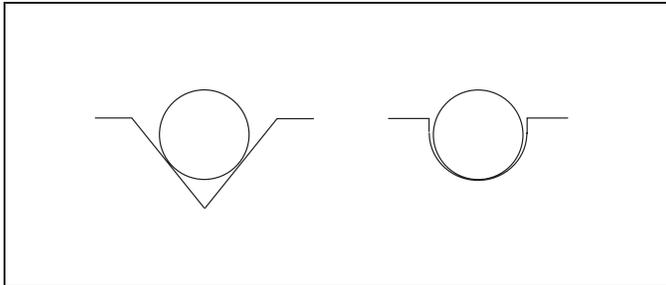


Fig. 1

The V-shaped string slot (left) ensures that the string is anchored securely at two contact points. Gauged slots (i.e., using files that are intended to make slots the same size as the strings) cause problems if changing to either a larger or smaller gauge. And, they allow the string to roll around in the bottom of the slot and cause buzzing.

Instructions - SADDLE:

- 1) Use a pencil to mark the locations of the slots on the saddle. Double-check that the distance between strings or string pairs is the same string-to-string.
- 2) Use leather cauls on either side of the bridge saddle and place the saddle in a vise. File the string notches into the saddle. Hold the file at an angle (similar to Fig. 2) so that the slots are angled back towards the tailpiece.
- 3) Make smooth deliberate strokes. Only very small notches are needed in the nut to keep the strings from moving sideways.



Fig. 2

Instructions - NUT:

- 1) Use a pencil to mark the locations of the slots on the nut. Double-check that the distance between strings or string pairs is the same string-to-string.
- 2) String up the instrument, making the strings snug, but not tuned up to pitch. Allow the strings to rest on the nut.
- 3) Begin to cut a small notch for each string. Place each string in its slot and check the location of the strings as they relate to the edge of the nut and distance string-to-string. If an adjustment is needed force file sideways as you widen the V to the left or right.
- 4) Pull one string out of its small slot and pull it to the side. Hold the file as shown in Fig. 2 - at an angle that is halfway between the angle of the fretboard and the angle of the peghead. Make smooth deliberate strokes. Be aware that small changes in the size of the V-slot will set the string lower quickly.
- 5) As you get closer to the final "action" (distance between string and first fret), tighten the corresponding string so that it is almost up to pitch, but tight enough to get an accurate setting of the string into the nut.
- 6) The correct action: the distance between the string and the 1st fret should be the same as the distance between that string and the 2nd fret when the string is fretted at the first fret.