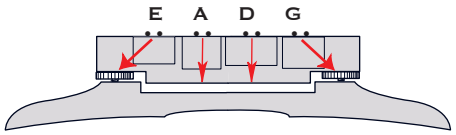
The secret to a balanced mandolin…

Mandolin luthiers and musicians have always strived to solve the problem of attaining that elusive balanced tone, from the thinnest *E* string to the thickest *G*. But now the quest is over.

Here's what we found: The heralded adjustable bridge patented by Gibson in 1921 solved the problem of adjustability, but left us with a bridge with the outer *E* and *G* string pairs positioned near the posts of the bridge and the inner *A* and *D* string pairs positioned in the center of the saddle. The result is an imperfect balance in tone, sustain, and clarity of the string pairs positioned near the posts compared to those sitting in the center of the bridge's saddle.

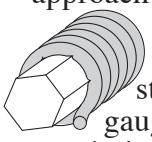


Strings positioned near the posts can't deliver the same energy to the soundboard as those strings positioned in the center of the saddle.

Where strings are anchored to a bridge, such as on an acoustic steel string guitar, balancing the *longitudinal tension* is critical for good string-to-string clarity, sustain, and tone. But where a movable bridge is concerned (such as on the mandolin), the soundboard is driven by the *lateral energy* that is transmitted down through the bridge's posts, and this presents a new range of considerations.

Stradivari knew this: One of the great developments in bridge design is attributed to Antonio Stradivari, who in the late 1600's, realized the importance of the strings' down pressure on the soundboard. As a result, he designed a violin bridge with strings positioned over openings such that no string's energy had a direct route to the soundboard. This design has endured the test of time and is seen on every member of the violin family today.

A solution for the mandolin: Since we knew we couldn't change every bridge, we took a straight up approach to this challenge and focused on how the strings' energy is driven through the bridge.



As a result we engineered a set of mandolin strings with a combination of plain and wound gauges whose relative down pressure loads and proximity to the bridge's posts are the primary focus.

We call them **Straight Up Strings** and we know you'll like them!

Straight Up Strings engineered with compensated down pressure for optimum balance.

…every note of every chord

Specifications:

Mandolin medium, #2500-M
- **Gauges:** *E* .0115″, *A* .016″, *D* .024″w, *G* .039″w
- **Down pressures:** *E* 5.5 lbs, *A* 4 lbs, *D* 4 lbs, *G* 6.5 lbs
- **Total down pressure at bridge base:** 40 lbs
- **Total longitudinal tension:** 179 lbs
- **Strings:** *E* and *A* plain, *D* and *G* wound, phosphor bronze

Mandolin heavy, #2500-H
- **Gauges:** *E* .0115″, *A* .017″, *D* .026″w, *G* .041″w
- **Down pressures:** *E* 5.5 lbs, *A* 5 lbs, *D* 5.2 lbs, *G* 7.4 lbs
- **Total down pressure at bridge base:** 46.2 lbs
- **Total longitudinal tension:** 193.6 lbs
- **Strings:** *E* and *A* plain, *D* and *G* wound, phosphor bronze

Notes:
*Down pressure measured: At 16° string break angle (the angle the strings make as they pass over the bridge). 16° is typical for mandolins with a 5.5° to 6° neck pitch.

Manufactured and packaged: U.S.A.

Price per set: Mandolin medium, #2500-M $8.95 set
Mandolin heavy, #2500-H, $8.95 set

Road packs: Tri-Pak: (3 sets) $22.95 - **Save $3.90!**
Six-Pak: (6 sets) $43.95 - **Save $9.75!**

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