

H TUNER

Studio Tuner for Guitar & Bass

User Guide



H-Tuner main interface

Mac OS Minimum Requirements

1 GHz Intel Dual Core Processor
8 GB of RAM
macOS X 10.13 or later
AAX, VST3, AU supporting DAW
Screen resolution: 1280 x 1024 or higher
64-bit DAW support only

Windows Minimum Requirements

1 GHz Intel Dual Core Processor
8 GB of RAM
Windows 7 or later
AAX, VST3 supporting DAW
Screen resolution: 1280 x 1024 or higher
64-bit DAW support only

Licensing: license for two computers.

HERTZ

INSTRUMENTS

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2. Introduction

Thank you for using H-Tuner.

H-Tuner is a studio tuner for guitar and bass created to make precise tuning fast, clear, and easy during recording, reamping, sound design, and everyday production work. Standing out as the first tuner on the market to feature dedicated Attack and Sustain tuning modes, H-Tuner solves a common studio problem: pitch drift caused by heavy playing dynamics, especially in lower tunings.

It gives you a readable pitch display, a classic flat/in-tune/sharp LED meter, measured frequency, cent deviation, instrument range selection, response modes, and reference pitch calibration (adjustable within a 432 Hz - 448 Hz range) in one compact plugin window.

Whether you are tuning a guitar specifically to a fast rock/metal riff before tracking, checking bass intonation, or keeping a session consistent with a custom reference pitch, H-Tuner provides the exact tools you need to stay perfectly in tune with your performance.

/Hertz Instruments Team

3. What is H-Tuner

H-Tuner is a straightforward pitch detection plugin designed for guitar and bass. Insert it on an audio track, feed it a clean single-note signal, and the plugin will detect the nearest musical note and show whether the instrument is flat, in tune, or sharp.

The plugin displays the detected note, measured frequency in Hz, and tuning offset in cents. It also includes a Guitar/Bass selector, three response modes, and a calibration section for changing the reference tuning frequency within a 432 Hz - 448 Hz range.

H-Tuner is intended as a utility plugin. It monitors the input signal and helps you tune the instrument; it is not a pitch correction or creative pitch processing effect.

4. Installation and First Launch

4.1 Installation

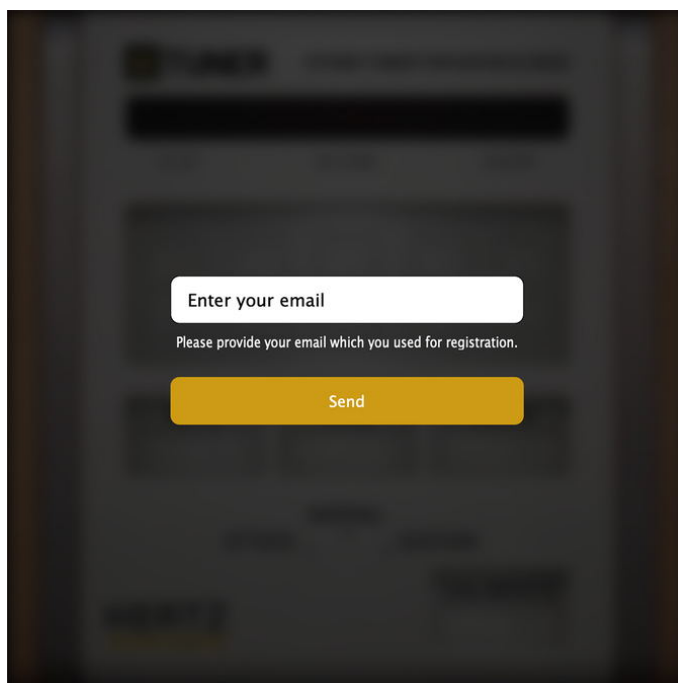
To install H-Tuner, please follow the steps below:

1. Log into your Hertz Instruments account: <https://hertzinstruments.com/my-account/>
2. Go to the Downloads tab and download H-Tuner. Select the installer version for your operating system.
3. Once the download is complete, extract all files from the ZIP archive if needed.
4. Make sure your DAW is closed before proceeding with installation.
5. Open the installation file: H-Tuner.exe on Windows or H-Tuner.pkg on macOS.
6. Complete the installation by following the instructions shown on the screen.

Important: If you run into any problems during installation, try temporarily disabling your antivirus or security software and run the installer again.

4.2 First Launch Instructions

1. Once the installation is complete, open your DAW.
2. Find H-Tuner in the plugin list and insert it on an audio track.
3. Upon first launch, H-Tuner will request the e-mail address used to purchase the product. Enter the e-mail address in the authorization window and click Send.
4. After authorization is complete, you can start using the plugin.



Pic. 1 Registration window

4.3 Deinstallation

To uninstall H-Tuner on macOS, remove the following files and folders:

- Settings folder: /Library/Application Support/Hertz Instruments/H-Tuner
- VST3 file or folder: /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/H-Tuner.vst3
- AU file: /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/H-Tuner.component
- AAX file: /Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins/H-Tuner.aaxplugin
- Standalone application: /Applications/H-Tuner.app

To uninstall H-Tuner on Windows, remove the following files and folders:

- Settings folder: C:\ProgramData\Hertz Instruments\H-Tuner
- VST3 folder: C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\Hertz Instruments\H-Tuner
- AAX file: C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins\H-Tuner.aaxplugin
- Standalone folder: C:\Program Files\Hertz Instruments\H-Tuner

5. Overview of H-Tuner



Pic. 2 H-Tuner Overview

01 - Tuning LED Meter: Shows whether the detected note is flat, in tune, or sharp.	02 - Main Note Display: Shows the currently detected note in a large central display.
03 - Note Indicator: Shows the detected note together with its octave.	04 - Frequency Indicator: Shows the measured frequency of the incoming signal in Hz.
05 - Cents Indicator: Shows how far the detected pitch is from the target note in cents.	06 - Guitar/Bass Selector: Switches the tuner between guitar and bass detection behavior.
07 - Response Mode Selector: Switches between Normal, Attack, and Sustain tuning response modes.	08 - Calibration Section: Sets the reference tuning frequency from 432 Hz to 448 Hz in 1 Hz steps.

5.1 Interface

01 - Tuning LED Meter: Shows whether the detected note is flat, in tune, or sharp. LEDs on the left indicate that the note is flat. The center green LED indicates that the note is in tune. LEDs on the right indicate that the note is sharp.

02 - Main Note Display: Shows the currently detected note in a large, easy-to-read display.

03 - Note Indicator: Shows the detected note with octave information, for example E4.

04 - Frequency Indicator: Shows the measured frequency of the incoming signal in Hz.

05 - Cents Indicator: Shows how far the detected pitch is from the target note in cents. Negative values mean the note is flat. Positive values mean the note is sharp.

06 - Guitar/Bass Selector: Selects the tuning behavior for guitar or bass. Bass instruments operate in a lower frequency range and require slightly different pitch detection logic for accurate tuning. Use Guitar for guitar signals and Bass for bass guitar signals so H-Tuner can track the selected instrument more precisely.

07 - Response Mode Selector: Selects how the tuner reacts to the incoming note. Normal provides balanced tracking, Attack focuses on the beginning of the note, and Sustain focuses on the stable part of the note after the attack.

08 - Calibration Section: Sets the reference pitch for tuning. The displayed value, such as 440 Hz, defines the reference frequency used by the tuner. Use the up and down arrows to raise or lower the calibration value from 432 Hz to 448 Hz in 1 Hz steps.

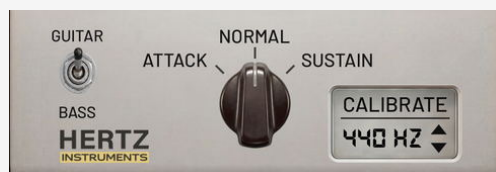
6. How to Use H-Tuner

To tune a guitar or bass with H-Tuner, follow the steps below:

1. Insert H-Tuner on the audio track that receives your guitar or bass signal.
2. For the cleanest pitch detection, place H-Tuner before amp simulators, distortion, modulation, delay, reverb, or other effects that can make pitch tracking less stable.
3. Select the correct instrument type using the Guitar/Bass selector. Use Guitar for guitar and Bass for bass, where H-Tuner applies tuning behavior optimized for the lower bass range.
4. Set the response mode: use Normal for everyday tuning, Attack when you want to check the pitch at the beginning of the played note, or Sustain when you want to tune from the stable sustained part of the note.
5. Set the calibration value. For standard tuning, use 440 Hz unless your session or production requires a different reference pitch within the 432 Hz - 448 Hz range.
6. Play one string at a time and let the note ring clearly.
7. Look at the main note display and confirm that the tuner is detecting the string you are tuning.
8. Use the LED meter and Cents display: left and negative cents means flat; center green and near 0 cents means in tune; right and positive cents means sharp.
9. Repeat the process for each string.

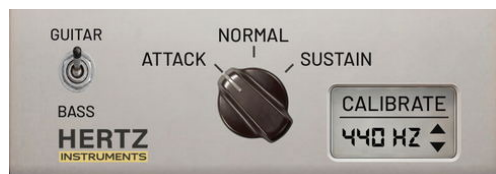
7. Tuning Modes

In professional studio environments, it is common practice to tune the guitar specifically to the riff being recorded. A typical issue, especially in heavy genres like rock or metal and with drop tunings, is that a strong pick attack causes the initial pitch to jump sharp before settling down. This means that depending on how fast you play, your actual perceived pitch changes. H-Tuner provides a definitive solution to this problem with its three response modes.



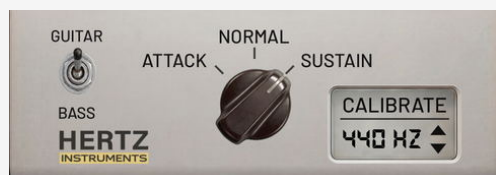
Normal

Normal mode is the default tuning mode and provides a balanced response. When plucking a string in this mode, especially lower notes, you will naturally see the tuner go slightly sharp upon the initial attack and then drop down as the note rings out. If you are playing and notice that your tuning feels unstable or "waves" up and down on the same note, you should tailor the tuning mode directly to the riff you are recording by choosing either Attack or Sustain.



Attack

Attack mode measures only the initial pick attack and ignores the subsequent sustain. This is essential when recording fast, dense, and intense riffs. When continuously playing fast notes, the guitar string does not have enough time to settle down after the initial strike, meaning your pitch stays consistently higher than the original resting tuning. To compensate for this, set the mode to Attack and tune your guitar accordingly by playing the notes with the exact same force and dynamics as you will in the recorded section. You will then notice that when playing fast riffs, your guitar remains perfectly in tune and not too sharp, as is usually the case with traditional tuning.



Sustain

Sustain mode does the exact opposite: it skips the initial attack spike and measures only the stable, sustained tail of the note. If you are recording slow riffs, letting long chords ring out, or playing atmospheric parts, the lingering pitch is what matters most. Set the tuner to Sustain to ensure that your long, held notes remain perfectly in tune as they decay.

8. Tips for Accurate Tuning

- Use a clean DI signal whenever possible.
- Mute the strings you are not tuning.
- Play one note at a time.
- Avoid heavy distortion, modulation, delay, or reverb before the tuner.
- Let the note ring long enough for the tuner to detect it.
- If the display jumps between notes, reduce background noise and mute unused strings.
- For guitar, tune each string from below the target pitch when possible. This helps the tuning machine settle more consistently.
- For bass, use Bass mode and let the note ring clearly so the tuner can track the fundamental.
- If the session uses a non-standard reference pitch, set the Calibration value within the 432 Hz - 448 Hz range before tuning.

Important: in case you run into any problems while setting up or using the plugin, please contact Hertz Instruments support: support@hertzinstruments.com