

Banjo Bridge Placement

The 12th fret on the banjo should be the halfway point between the nut and the bridge. Follow these instructions to get your bridge in the proper location.

Step 1

Loosen the strings slightly, so that you won't scratch the head while you are moving the bridge around. Then, using a yard stick or ruler, measure from the nut to the middle of the 12th fret. If you don't have a yardstick handy, you can use a piece of wood and mark it at the 12th fret.



Step 2

Now measure that same distance from the 12th fret to the banjo head, and make a small pencil mark on the head at that distance, and place the bridge there. It's now in the general location.



Step 3

Tune the instrument to standard tuning, using your ear, or an electronic tuner.

Step 4

Now, it's time to fine tune the placement. Play each string open, and then fretted at the 12th fret. Using your ear, or an electronic tuner, determine if the fretted note is higher or lower than the open note. If the fretted note is higher, (sharp), the bridge is too close to the neck and needs to move toward the tailpiece. If the fretted note is lower, (flat), the bridge needs to be moved towards the neck. If you measured correctly in Step 2, these movements should be very slight. Possibly only 1/16 of an inch or so.