

Got a parlour guitar or a prewar flat-top?  
These UK-made strings could be the answer

# Newtonone

## Heritage strings

**M**alcolm Newton believes that traditional 'silk and steel' strings don't do justice to vintage and lightly-braced instruments, and that's why he developed his low-tension Heritage series. He's also mindful that players with tendonitis and arthritis might need lighter gauges, but they still want great tone.

Newtonones have round rather than hexagonal cores, so don't cut them until

they're tuned to pitch: if you trim them first, they'll sound dead. It's no great inconvenience, but it can be fiddly if you play a slot head.

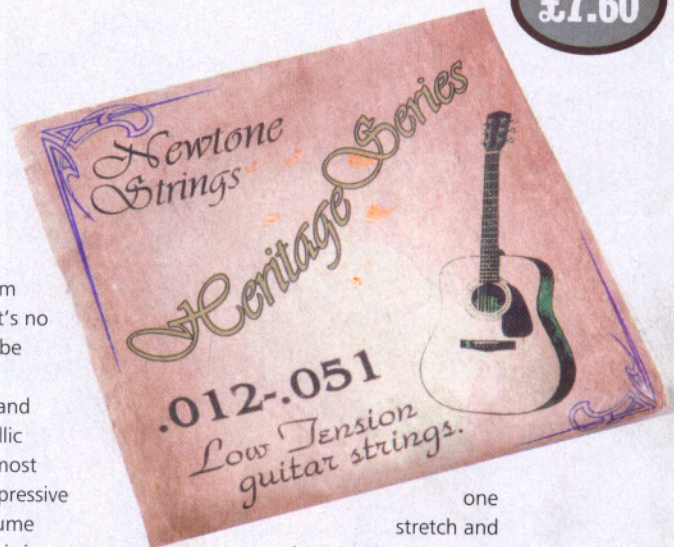
Our set sounded bright, airy and chimey, without the usual metallic brightness of new strings. The most striking aspect of the tone is impressive natural sustain and an even volume balance across all the strings. This is attributable to the matched string tensions: each string has a pull of 19lbs when tuned to concert pitch (except the 20lb A string) so the total is only 114lbs. Balanced sets are of greatest benefit if you play a 'balanced' guitar like an 000 or an OM. Most acoustic sets have a lower tension low E which actually suits inherently boomy dreadnoughts.

### VERDICT

The Newtonones settled down quickly. After bringing them up to pitch, we gave them

one stretch and they simply stayed in tune. Our test guitar actually felt far easier to play, giving effortless barre chords and electric-style bending. Newtonone strings are a little wider than regular equivalents so you might need to widen your nut slots, but it's worth it because ours are still sounding great after a month – and we'll be using them from now on. Heritage sets come in three gauges – 10-43, 11-47 and 12-51.

RRP:  
**£7.60**



### FINAL SCORE

Build Quality .....	20/20
Playability .....	20/20
Sound .....	20/20
Value for money .....	18/20
Vibe .....	18/20
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>96%</b>

**Good for...** lightly-built fingerpicking guitars

**Look elsewhere...** for out-and-out volume or bass-heavy bluegrass-style playing

**Contact:** Strings Direct ☎ 01773 714 409

**Web:** [www.stringsdirect.co.uk](http://www.stringsdirect.co.uk)