

audible beats as the two strings (the one that you are tuning and the centre one used for reference) will sound as two completely different tones.

Now grasp again the tuning hammer and turn it clockwise (just in the opposite direction than before) very slowly till the beats become audible again.

As we turn the hammer clockwise the beats will progressively slow down till they become inaudible. Then the two strings, the one that we are tuning and the one we are using as a reference will be at exactly the same pitch and therefore “in tune”. However, if at that point you release the push on the lever the note will flatten and will go slightly out of tune again.

The way to overcome this nuisance is this: when you get the string “beatless” just give the string a bit of extra pull (clock wise) until it is just a bit above beatless, so you will hear very slow beats again (one per second approximately), then as you relax your pull the pin will settle back in tune. The idea is to correct that slight “spring back” and get the pin properly set in its new place.

Putting this in words I think its harder than doing it. I am confident that with some practicing in a short time you will be able to calculate accurately the amount of extra pull needed for each string that you are tuning.

In the next recording you can perfectly appreciate how to tune the unisons. Just listen carefully and notice how the beats slow down and then speed up to slow again till the unisons become beatless and the two strings sound as a single one.

