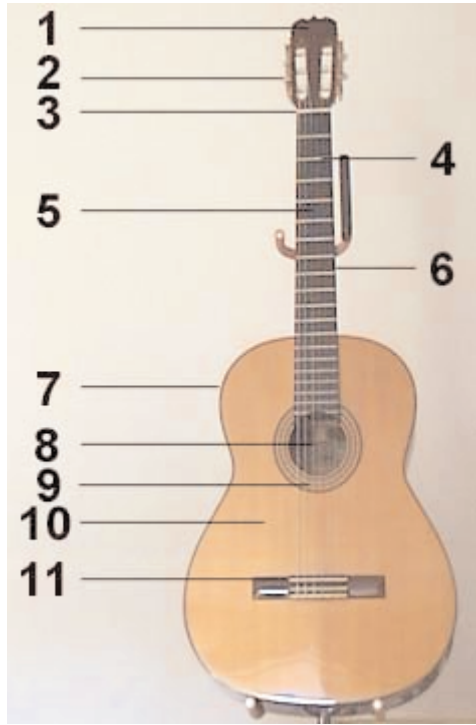


# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 1

## PARTS OF THE GUITAR



- 1- The **headstock**.
- 2- The **tuning pegs** or machine heads.
- 3- The **nut** (where the strings are supported at the top of the fingerboard).
- 4- The **frets** (the metal strips going across the fingerboard).
- 5- The **fingerboard** (the front of the neck where the fingertips press the strings).
- 6- The **neck**.
- 7- The **body**.
- 8- The **sound hole**.
- 9- The **strings**.
- 10- The **sound board** (at the front of the body).
- 11- The **bridge** (where the strings are attached near the bottom of the guitar).

## NAMING THE STRINGS

The strings are numbered from one through to six. The first string is the thinnest one at the bottom, next is the second string, third string etc. ending with the sixth string, the thickest one, at the top.

The strings are also given names from the alphabet. In music we use the first seven letters of the alphabet to name and describe notes. The notes for the strings are as follows:

1st string - **E** highest pitch

2nd string - **B**

3rd string - **G**

4th string - **D**

5th string - **A**

6th string - **E** lowest pitch

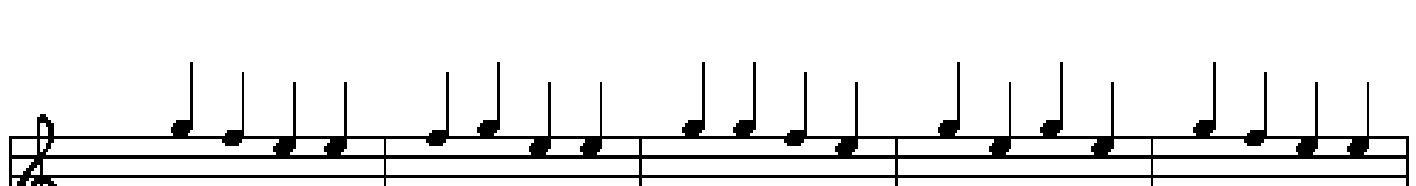
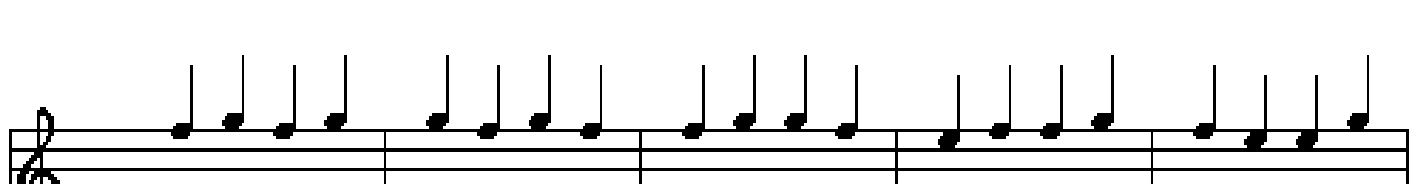
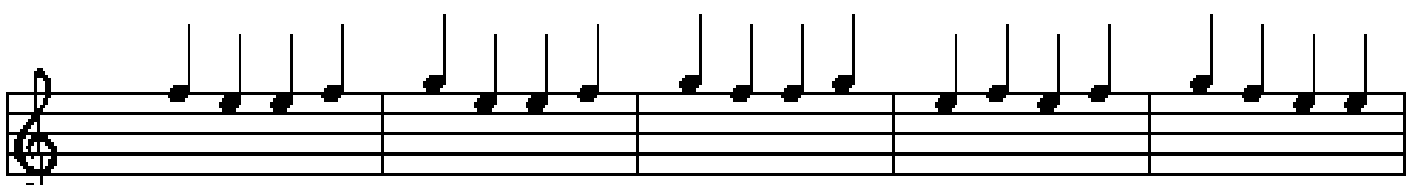
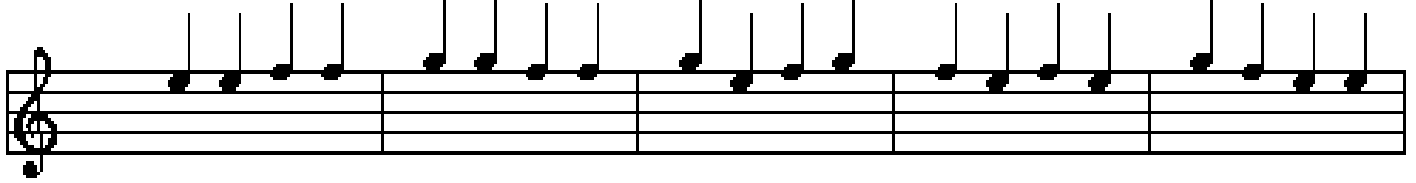
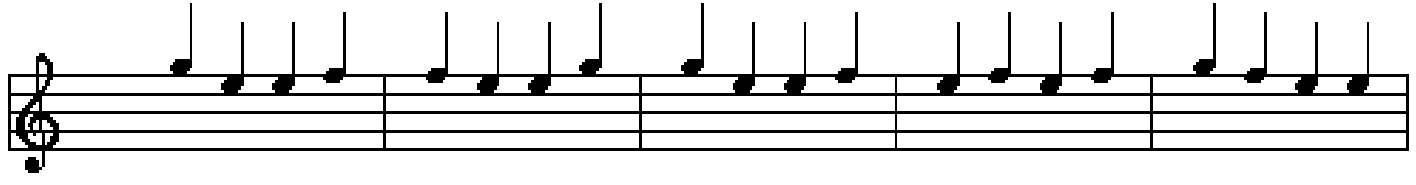
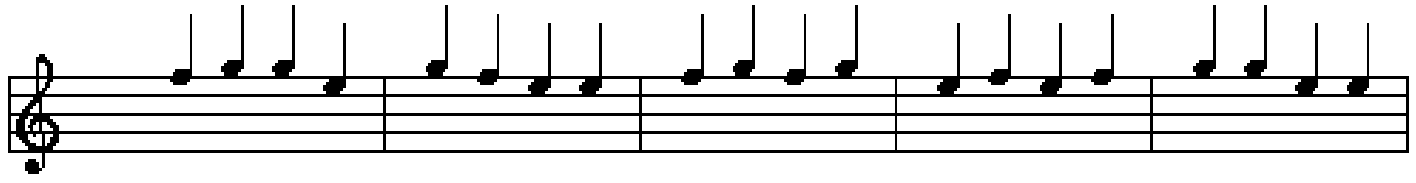
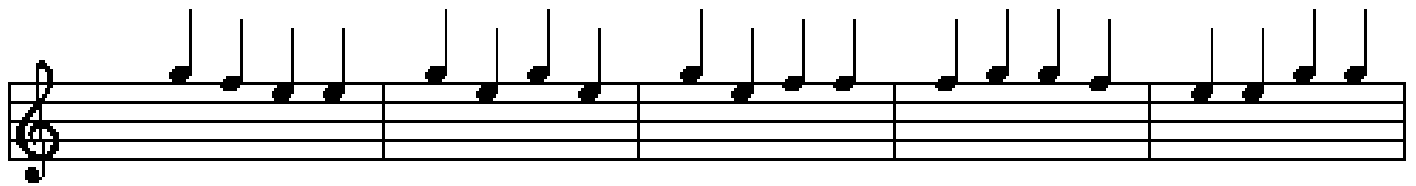
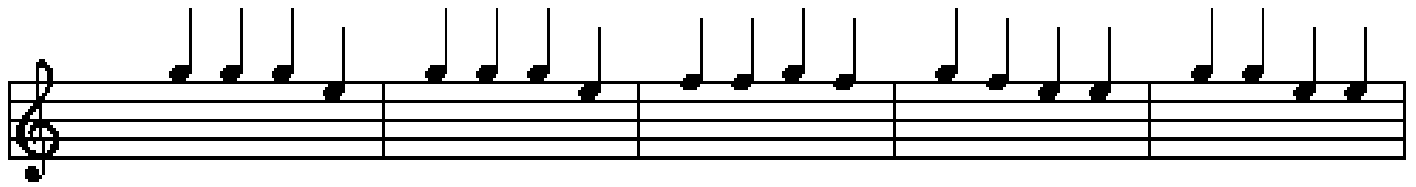
The first string is referred to as high E as opposed to the sixth string, which is low E. High or low is determined by pitch not by position i.e. not by which string is closer to the ground.

# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 1

## NOTES ON THE FIRST STRING

Playing E, F and G.

Practice reading and playing the three notes E, F and G on the first string.



# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 1B

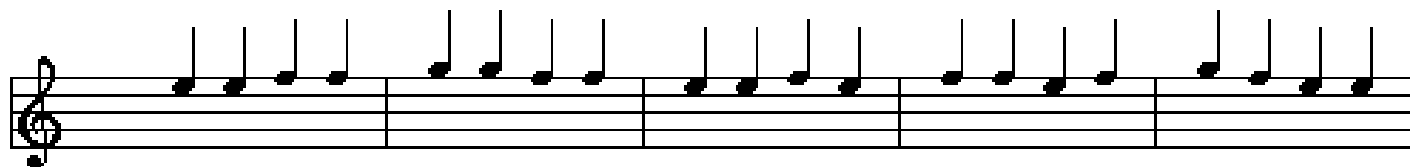
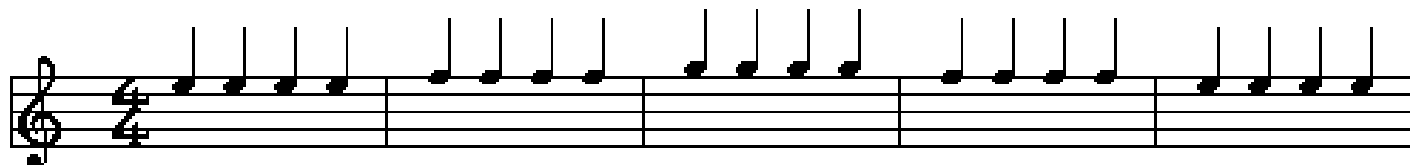
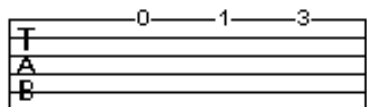
## NOTES ON THE FIRST STRING

Playing E, F and G.

Practice reading and playing the three notes E, F and G on the first string.



E F G



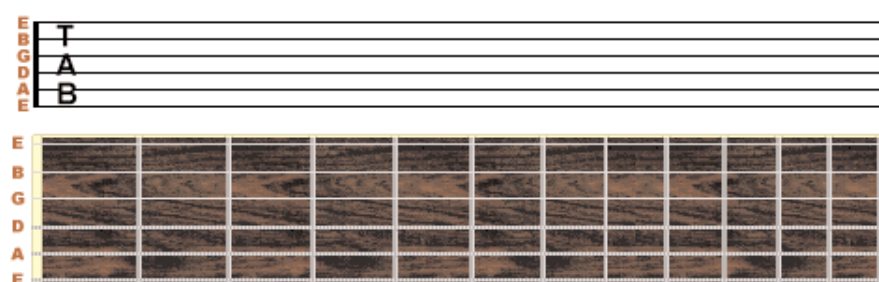
# READING TABLATURE BASICS

## BASIC TAB EXPLANATION

Tab is a system for writing down guitar notes using numbers rather than the standard music sheet style which makes it faster to read and play. Tab will tell you what strings to hit, whether to use hammer-ons, pull-offs, bends, slides, harmonics and vibrato. However tab will not tell you the rhythm of the song you play. It's up to you to figure that out by listen to the song. Tab won't tell you where to use up or downstrokes most the time or which fingers to fret with, those things are up to you.

Tab has six lines, which represent the strings of the guitar. The top line corresponds to the 1st string (the high E string) of your guitar; the next line corresponds to the B string, etc. The spaces between the lines don't have any musical significance.

If you were to place the guitar on your knee, then lay it flat so the strings are



facing you, the above is how the strings would look. The High E is the string on the first line, then B, and so on through Low E.

These numbers indicate which string and fret to press down to play the desired note. By playing the fret and string indicated you should be able to get something like the song you are trying to play - assuming that the person who wrote the tab was accurate! One of the shortcomings of tab is the difficulty in showing time values.

```
E -----  
B -----  
G -----  
D -----0-----  
A -----4-----4---0-----  
E -----
```

```
E ---2-----  
B ---3-----  
G ---2-----  
D ---0-----  
A -----  
E -----
```

A chord would look like this. This is a D chord, the zero on the D string means you strum the open string. Chords can also be in arpeggio form. That basically means that you pick each of the notes of the chord individually, rather than just strumming it. In tab, an arpeggio chord looks like:

```
E -----2-----  
B -----3-----  
G -----2-----  
D ---0-----  
A -----  
E -----
```

Now that you know how to read notes, there are a few more things to understand in order to get started. You will often see pieces in tablature that look similar to these: The 'h' between the numbers indicates a hammer-on.

```
E -----  
B -----  
G -----  
D -----  
A -----5h7-----5h7-----5h7-----  
E -----
```

Another often used technique is the pull-off. This technique looks like this on tab:

```
E -----  
B -----  
G -----  
D -----  
A -----7p5-----7p5-----7p5-----  
E -----
```

Here are several other letters and symbols used in tab:

- h - hammer on
- p - pull off
- b - bend string up
- r - release bend
- / - slide up
- \ - slide down
- v - vibrato (it's sometimes written as ~)
- t - right hand tap
- x - play 'note' with heavy damping

# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON B2

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## NOTES ON THE SECOND STRING

To play the notes on the second string move all of the right hand fingers from the second string onto the third string and rest the thumb on the sixth string. Maintain the same hand position we used for the first string, the three fingers now on the third string, wrist off the body of the guitar and the little finger NOT on the body of the guitar.

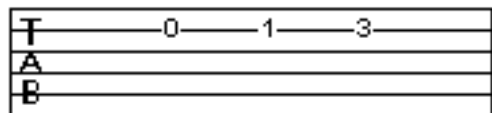
If you play the open second string, again using the first finger of the right hand to pluck the string, this note is called open B.

If you look at the left hand, the note at the first fret, using the first finger, is C. On the third fret, using the third finger, we have the note D. You may notice that these notes are at the same frets as F and G were on the first string.

These notes are shown below.



B C D



Once again without looking at the right hand, play the notes and say their names to yourself as you go. This will be a bit trickier this time, as the finger of your right hand might end up striking the first string. If this happens, avoid looking at your hand; you will be able to hear the mistake, just make the correction without looking and carry on.

Be careful you are not gripping the edge of the neck or pointing your fingers out when finished playing a note, just lift your fingertip off to sit in position over the fingerboard ready to play.

# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 2

## NOTES ON THE FIRST STRING

Playing B, C and D.

Practice reading and playing the three notes B, C and D on the second string.



# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON B2

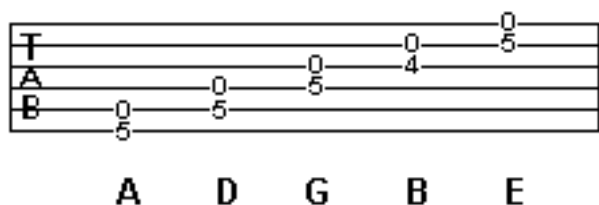
## TUNING THE GUITAR

There are several devices available to provide the correct pitch to tune to. The easiest is using an electronic tuner. The string is played and the tuner indicates whether the note is sharp (high), flat (low) or at the correct pitch. You can also use a pitch pipe, tuning fork or tune to a piano. It is best to play the low E and tune the other strings to it.

## RELATIVE TUNING

Recall that the open sixth string is an E. If you press the sixth string just behind the 5th fret it will produce the note A, which is the same as the open fifth string. Play one note then the other, beginning with the lower string, rather than both notes at the same time and adjust the tuning peg till the two strings are in tune.

This process can be repeated on all strings, as outlined below. Notice the comparison note is on the 5th fret for all but the third string, which uses the 4th fret to compare with the open second string.



## READING MUSIC

We are now going to learn how to read music. Don't panic - it is not really that hard to do in spite of what you may have heard. We will be covering the notes one string at a time but here is a quick overview:

Guitar music is written on a set of five lines and four spaces known as the staff. At the beginning of the staff is the treble clef. The lines and spaces represent points or positions where the notes can be fixed and these correspond to notes on the guitar. These positions are fixed.



E G B D F F A C E

Starting at the bottom, the lines represent the notes E, G, B, D and F. The spaces represent the notes F, A, C and E.

There is an easy way to memorize these, which you may recall. The notes in the spaces spell the word "face." This is handy if you get lost; go to the bottom and spell up to the space you are at to get the note name. Similarly for the lines you may remember the rhyme "every good boy deserves favor," again start at the bottom line and spell up to the line note in question.

You may well be wondering how to possibly get all the notes on the guitar in a series of five lines and four spaces. The answer is that you can't.

The notes that are higher in pitch than the note F, on the top line, need additional lines and spaces. These are termed ledger lines and are added as required.

The same works for the deep notes lower in pitch than the E at the bottom line. Additional ledger lines are added for the lower pitch notes of the guitar.

You may be wondering what the vertical lines between the groups of notes are called. These are commonly called bar lines and their purpose is to divide the staff into sections called measures. This divides the music into time, but we will deal with that later.

# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 3

In this lesson we will combine the notes we learned on the first string, E, F and G, with the notes on the second string, B, C and D. We will then learn our first song.

## NOTES ON THE FIRST AND SECOND STRINGS

Once again curl the fingers over and position them on the third string, ready to play notes on both the first and second strings. If you want to play a note on the first string, the right-hand fingers still sit on the third string; you do not need to jump them around.

Say you want to go from B to E. The first finger picks the open second string for B then reaches forward and plays the open first string for E. If you need to play another note on the second string the finger comes back again and picks the second string. Try to get a feel for where the strings are with your right hand without having to look.

We will begin with a short series of notes on the two strings as shown below. Usually a series of notes in alphabetical order are referred to as a scale, so this would be a short scale.

The diagram shows a musical staff with notes B, C, D, E, F, G. Below it is a guitar fretboard diagram with strings T, A, B. Fingerings are indicated as 0-1-3-0-1-3.

Let's now look at some common problems when playing on more than one string.

When going from D on the second string at the 3rd fret to open E on the first string, lift your third finger off D while you are hitting E. Otherwise you will get a blurring together of the two notes, which is not desirable. We want a nice legato effect between the notes.

The following can be quite confusing for beginners at this stage. They want to play a D, but because they are looking at the music, their finger winds up landing on the third fret of the third string rather than the third fret of the second string. They are picking the second string and an unpleasant muted sound is coming out of the guitar because the left-hand finger is partially muting the second string.

Another mistake is this: Let's say you are playing E and you want to go to D. Your finger lines up exactly where it should behind the fret on the D but the first finger of your right hand does not move over to play the second string and continues playing the first string E not producing the correct note D.

These are common mistakes to watch out for. Familiarize yourself with them and build in the corrections as you go.

Two musical staves showing common mistakes: one where the finger lands on the wrong string (3rd fret of 3rd string) and another where the right hand doesn't move to the second string.

## TIMING

We are now at the threshold of learning to read music properly and ready to get on with our very first tune.

So far we have seen how notes on the staff correspond to the guitar. For example, you look at a note on the staff and play it on the guitar. However, not all notes ring for the same length of time. To distinguish the different lengths of time a note rings for, the notes are drawn differently.

So far we have only been dealing with one kind of note, a quarter note. The following diagram illustrates the different types of notes and how long they ring for.

**Quarter notes      Half notes      Whole note**

Musical notation showing quarter notes (counted 1-2-3-4), half notes (counted 1-2-3-4), and a whole note (counted 1-2-3-4).

First we have a quarter note and it is worth the equivalent of one count. When playing the note it only lasts as long as it takes to say "one." Or, if it is the second note, it will last the time to say "two."

Next is the half note and it is worth two counts; that is, the time to count "one, two."

Finally we have the whole note which rings for four counts. Play the note and let it ring for the count "one, two, three, four."

If you look at the line of music above, you will notice that after the treble clef there are two numbers, in this case 4/4. This is the time signature or meter and indicates how many beats are in a bar as well as how long each beat lasts. The upper number refers to how many counts there will be in a measure. Here the upper number is four so there are four beats per bar. For example, you will count 1, 2, 3, 4 as you go along bar by bar reading the music. Sometimes this number will change; for example it could be a 3, in which case there would be three counts to the measure.

In this case, the bottom number is 4 and indicates that a quarter note gets one count; that is each beat is one-quarter note.

## JINGLE BELLS

Our first tune will be "Jingle Bells." This is in 4/4 time, four counts to the measure with a quarter note getting one count.

Let's review some common problems in playing this piece.

The first bar consists of open E notes. There is a temptation to play them too quickly and then be unable to maintain that speed for the fretted notes. Select a slow, comfortable pace to allow for even timing when fingering notes later in the tune, particularly in the third bar when shifting between strings.

Once you have the timing mastered you may encounter a problem going from G to C where you cut off the note G prematurely. Try holding the G to the last minute before switching to the C.

Also, when going from D to E, lift your finger off the D so that the notes do not blur together.

Set your right-hand fingers on the third string and look only at the left hand or the sheet music when playing.

The diagram shows the musical notation for 'Jingle Bells' in 4/4 time, with corresponding guitar fretboard diagrams for strings T, A, and B. Fingerings are indicated throughout the piece.



# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 3

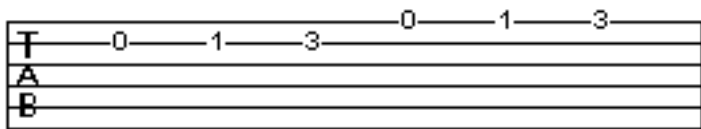
## NOTES ON THE FIRST AND SECOND STRINGS

In this lesson we will combine the notes we learned on the first string, E, F and G, with the notes on the second string, B, C and D. We will then learn our first song.

We will begin with a short series of notes on the two strings as shown below. Usually a series of notes in alphabetical order are referred to as a scale, so this would be a short scale.



B C D E F G

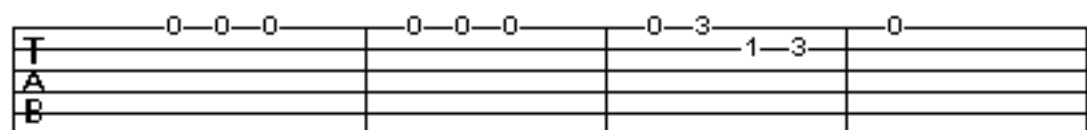


# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 3

## JINGLE BELLS



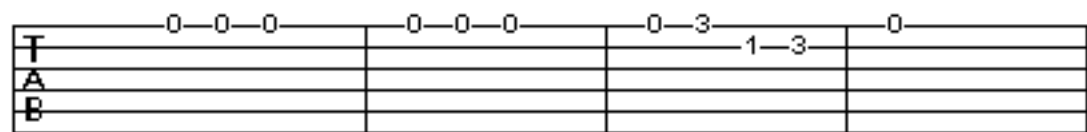
1 2 3 4    1 2 3 4    1 2 3 4    1 2 3 4



1 2 3 4    1 2 3 4    1 2 3 4    1 2 3 4



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1 2 3 4    1 2 3 4    1 2 3 4    1 2 3 4



# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 3

## TIMING

We are now at the threshold of learning to read music properly and ready to get on with our very first tune.

So far we have seen how notes on the staff correspond to the guitar. For example, you look at a note on the staff and play it on the guitar. However, not all notes ring for the same length of time. To distinguish the different lengths of time a note rings for, the notes are drawn differently.

So far we have only been dealing with one kind of note, a quarter note. The following diagram illustrates the different types of notes and how long they ring for.

Quarter notes	Half notes	Whole note
		

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In this case, the bottom number is 4 and indicates that a quarter note gets one count; that is each beat is one-quarter note.

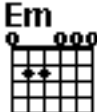

## LEARNING CHORDS

In this lesson we are going to learn how to play some chords. A chord is just a combination of two or more notes played at the same time. We will be using a pick, or plectrum, which gives a nice bright clean sound when strumming. Chords are usually used for accompaniment when singing.

### E-MINOR CHORD

The left hand holds down different fingerings or chord shapes while the right hand strums the strings. The first chord we will learn is E-minor.

**Em**

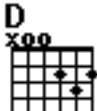

**Left Hand**

T	0	
A	0	(3)
B	2	(2)
E	0	

### D-MAJOR CHORD

Let's now try a D-major chord.

**D**






**Left Hand**

T	2	(2)
A	3	(3)
B	2	(1)
D	0	
G	0	

### CHANGING CHORDS

**Em**      **D**

1 2 3 4      1 2 3 4

T	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
A	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3
B	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
E	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
G	0	0	0	0				

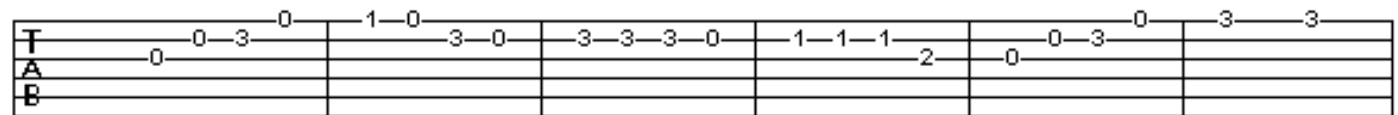
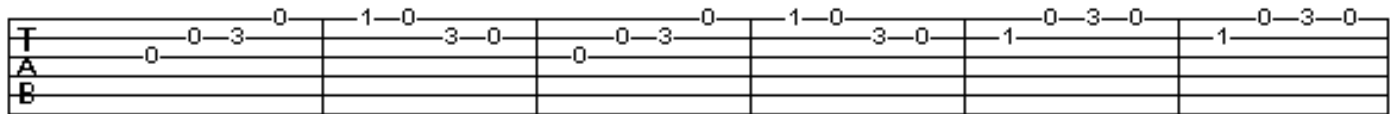
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# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 5

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## ROCK PATTERN

Let's now learn a rock pattern on the first three strings.



# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 5

## DRUNKEN SAILOR

In this lesson we will use the chords E-minor and D-major for the song "Drunken Sailor."

The chord changes and strumming are outlined below. You can sing the song yourself or play along with James singing.

**Em**  
0 2 2 3 3 0

What shall we do with the drunken sailor?

**D**  
x 0 2 2 3 2

What shall we do with the drunken sailor?

T A B

**Em**  
0 2 2 3 3 0

What shall we do with the drunken sailor?

**D**  
x 0 2 2 3 2

Early in the morning

**Em**  
0 2 2 3 3 0

Early in the morning

T A B

**Em**  
0 2 2 3 3 0

Hoooo ray and up she rises

**D**  
x 0 2 2 3 2

Hoooo ray and up she rises

T A B

**Em**  
0 2 2 3 3 0

Hoooo ray and up she rises

**D**  
x 0 2 2 3 2

Early in the morning

**Em**  
0 2 2 3 3 0

Early in the morning

T A B

# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 5

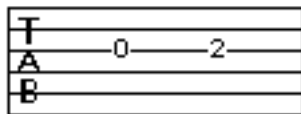
## NOTES ON THE THIRD STRING

There are only two notes on the 3rd string, open G and A at the second fret using the middle (second) finger of the left hand.



G A

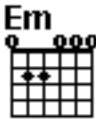

G A



## RHYTHM PATTERNS

To begin strum down on the “one” and up on the “+”, followed by down strokes on the remaining beats. The “1 +” represents two eighth notes being played in the time of one beat.

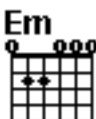

Em

	1	+	2	3	4
T	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0	0	0
B	2	2	2	2	2
	0	0	0	0	0

Once you can evenly strum the pattern with two eighth notes on the first beat try the following with eighth note strokes down and up on the second beat.

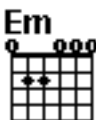

Em

	1	2	+	3	4
T	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0	0	0
B	2	2	2	2	2
	0	0	0	0	0

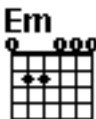

And these examples with eighth note strums on the third and then the fourth beat.

Em

	1	2	3	+	4
T	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0	0	0
B	2	2	2	2	2
	0	0	0	0	0

Em

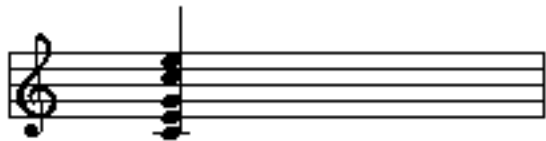
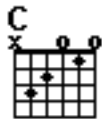
	1	2	3	4	+
T	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0	0	0
B	2	2	2	2	2
	0	0	0	0	0



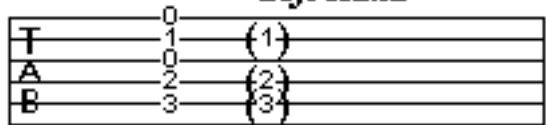
# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 6

## C-MAJOR CHORD

We will now learn a new chord, C-major.



*Left Hand*



For the C chord we want to strum with the pick from the 5th string down.

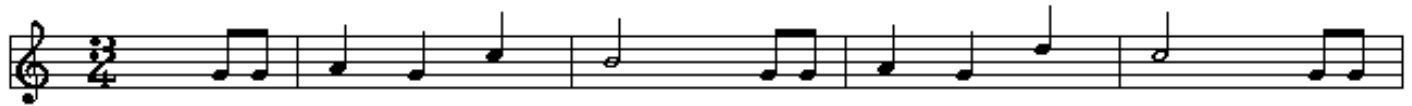
Practice going from D to C and lift your fingers up when changing the chords, do not just scoot over the surface of the strings.

# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 7

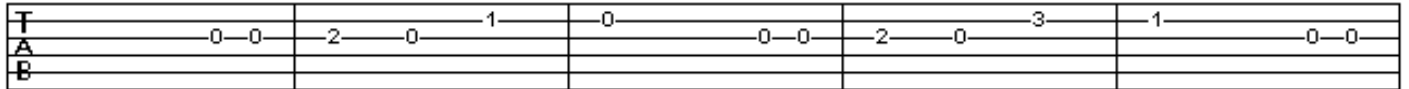
## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

In this lesson we will begin by learning a familiar tune on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd strings - "Happy Birthday."

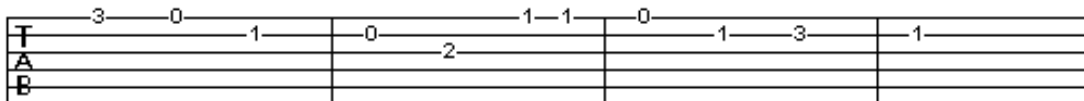
If you refer to the written music you will notice that this piece begins not on the first beat of the bar but on the third, and the third beat is divided into two eighth notes. This is referred to as an incomplete measure.



1 2 3 + 1 2 3 1 2 3 + 1 2 3 1 2 3 +



1 2 3 1 2 3 + 1 2 3 1 2



# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 7

## NEW CHORDS G AND F

We will now learn two new chords, G-major and F-major. Be warned that F is the very worst chord of all to master. It will be quite frustrating but, with practice, you will be successful.

### G-MAJOR CHORD

**G**

*Left Hand*

T	3	(3)
A	0	
B	0	
	2	(1)
	3	(2)

### F-MAJOR CHORD

Now the dreaded F chord. F is a lot like the C chord in appearance.

**F**

*Left Hand*

T	1	(1)
A	2	(2)
B	3	(3)

Play the chord from the 4th string down hitting each note.

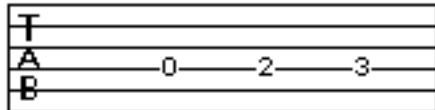
# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 8

## NOTES ON THE 4TH STRING

On the 4th string we have an open D, E at the 2nd fret and F at the 3rd fret.



D E F



# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 8

## NOTES ON THE 5TH STRING

On the 5th string we have open A, B at the 2nd fret and C at the 3rd fret.



A musical staff in treble clef showing three notes on the 5th line: an open A note (first space), a B note (second line, 2nd fret), and a C note (third line, 3rd fret). Below the notes are the labels 'A', 'B', and 'C' respectively.

T			
A			
B	0	2	3



A musical staff in treble clef showing a sequence of notes on the 5th line: four quarter notes (A, B, A, B), followed by four eighth notes (A, B, A, B), then four eighth notes (B, A, B, A), and finally four quarter notes (A, B, A, B).



A musical staff in treble clef showing a sequence of notes on the 5th line: four quarter notes (A, B, A, B), followed by four eighth notes (A, B, A, B), then four eighth notes (B, A, B, A), and finally four quarter notes (A, B, A, B).

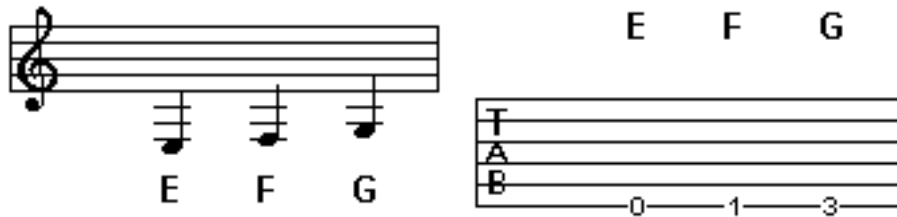
Practice reading the notes on the lower three strings and we will be ready next lesson to learn another rock pattern on the lower strings.

# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 8

## NOTES ON THE LOWER STRINGS

In this section we are going to learn the remaining notes on the 4th, 5th and 6th strings. Recall the open 4th string was D, the open 5th was A and the open 6th string was a very low or deep sounding E. The 6th string and the 1st string are actually the same note but two octaves apart.

## NOTES ON THE 6TH STRING



The diagram shows a treble clef staff with three notes: E (open), F (1st fret), and G (3rd fret). Below the staff, the notes are labeled E, F, and G. To the right, a fretboard diagram shows the 6th string (labeled '6' on the left) with frets 0, 1, and 3 marked. The notes E, F, and G are indicated above the fretboard.

Start with the open 6th string, an E. Notice that this note requires three extra ledger lines below the staff and even then it is the space below the third line where the note is positioned. The notes for this string are the same as we had on the 1st string. We have F at the 1st fret and G at the 3rd fret. Practice reading the notes on the low E string.



Two musical staves are shown, each with a treble clef. The first staff contains five measures of music, each with four notes (E, F, G, E) on the 6th string. The second staff contains five measures of music, each with four notes (E, F, G, E) on the 6th string.

# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 8

## CHORD CHANGES FOR "HAPPY BIRTHDAY"

We are going to continue learning "Happy Birthday", but this time we are going to apply the chords C, G and F as an accompaniment for the song.

Chord diagrams: C, G, G, C

Strumming pattern: 1 2 3 + 1 2 3 1 2 3 + 1 2 3 1 2 3 +

Tab: T 0-0 2-0 1-0-0 2-0 3-1 0-0

Chord diagrams: C, F, C, G, C

Strumming pattern: 1 2 3 1 2 3 + 1 2 3 1 2

Tab: T 3-0 1-0-1-1 0-1-3 1-0-2

## ALTERNATE RHYTHM PATTERN

In the above we are using a simple strum pattern because these chords are quite difficult to change. If you can manage these changes you may want to make the rhythm pattern a bit more complicated by strumming on each beat; that is, using quarter notes.

Happy	Birthday	to	you
Happy	Birthday	to	you

Happy	Birthday	dear	student	Happy
Happy	Birthday	to	you	Happy

Happy	Birthday	to	you
Happy	Birthday	to	you

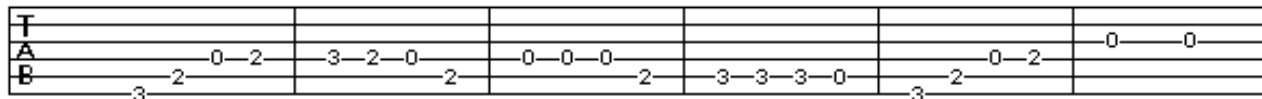
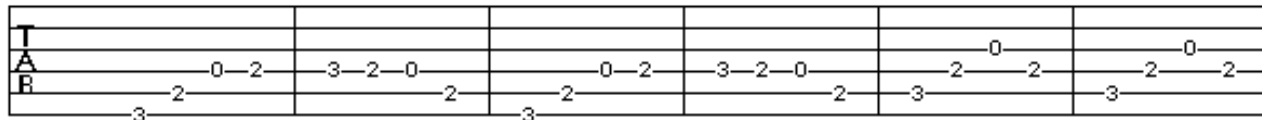
  

Happy	Birthday	dear	student	Happy
Happy	Birthday	to	you	Happy

# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 9

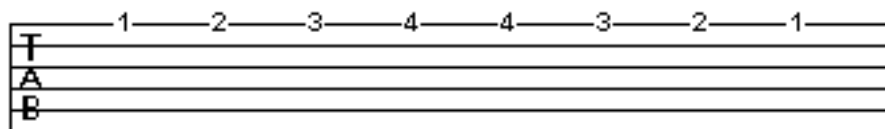
## ROCK PATTERN ON BASS STRINGS

In this lesson we are going to learn how to play a rock pattern on the bass strings using the thumb. This is actually the same pattern we learned on the three high strings.



## LEFT HAND EXERCISES

We will now learn some left-hand exercises, which will strengthen your fingers and enable you to tackle some more difficult pieces.



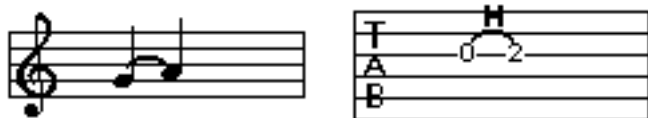
Also try playing this in reverse order. With all of your fingers down, lift off one at a time playing as you go from the 4th fret down to the 1st fret.



# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 9

## HAMMER ON

We now look at a technique called hammering on. Let the open string ring for a bit, then before it dies hammer on to produce the next tone.



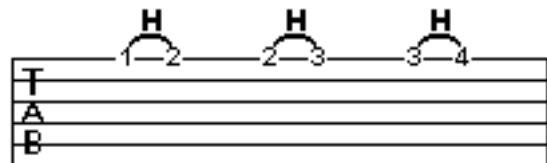
## PULL OFF

The reverse of a hammer on is a pull off. Play the note, keep pressing and without playing the note again pull your middle finger off to the side of the string.

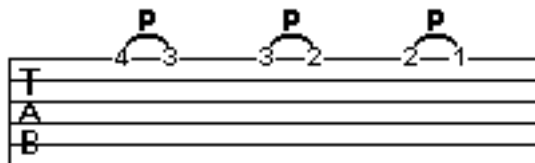


## HAMMER ON AND PULL OFF EXERCISE

We are now going to use the “hammer on and pull off” technique for a new exercise on the first four frets of the first string.



Left Hand 1 2 2 3 3 4



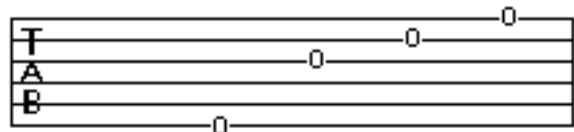
Left Hand 4 3 3 2 2 1

Try to practice these left-hand exercises daily if possible. You will notice a substantial improvement in your ability to play both chords and single note tunes.

# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 10

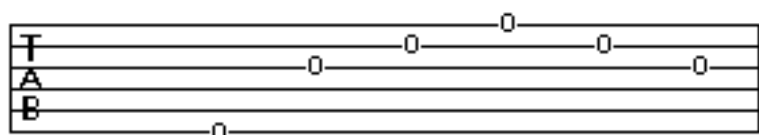
## ARPEGGIO

In this lesson we are going to switch over to the right hand and learn how to use our thumb and fingers independently.



Right Hand T 1st 2nd 3rd

Once you can do the above we will make the pattern slightly more complicated. We will change the timing to eighth notes. For the timing count “1 + 2 + 3 +” and run the notes together continuously.



Right Hand T 1st 2nd 3rd 2nd 1st

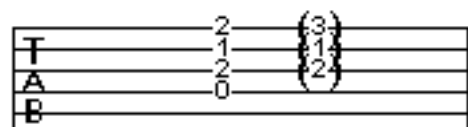
# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 10

## D7 CHORD

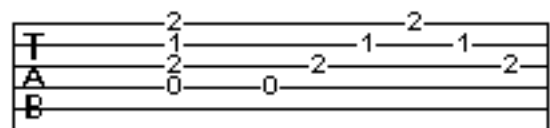
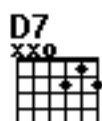
We will now look at a D7 chord, a variation of the D chord we covered earlier.



*Left Hand*



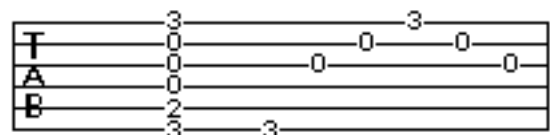
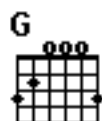
Hit this chord from the 4th string down. With our arpeggio the thumb hits the 4th string and the fingers play the pattern.



Right T 1 2 3 2 1

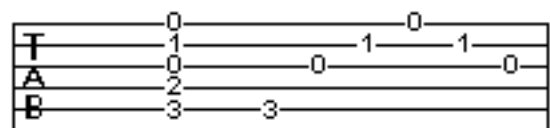
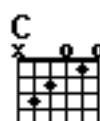
## G AND C CHORDS

Hit this chord from the 6th string down. With our arpeggio the thumb hits the 6th string and the fingers play the pattern.



Right Hand T 1 2 3 2 1

Hit this chord from the 5th string down. With our arpeggio the thumb hits the 5th string and the fingers play the pattern.



Right Hand T 1 2 3 2 1

# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 10

## SILENT NIGHT

We now use this new chord and the arpeggio technique to play a new song, "Silent Night." We need to change from D7 to G to C.

**G**

Silent night Holy night

**D7** **G**

All is calm all is bright

**C** **G**

Round yon Virgin Mother and Child

**C** **G**

Holy Infant so tender and mild

**D7** **G**

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

**G** **D7** **G**

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 11

In this lesson we are going to learn a new tune, "Auld lang syne", using the first three strings. We will introduce a new note, A, on the 1st string at the 5th fret as well as tied notes and dotted notes.

## TIED AND DOTTED NOTES

A dot following a note or rest increases the time value by half. For example a half note, when dotted, would increase from two to three beats.

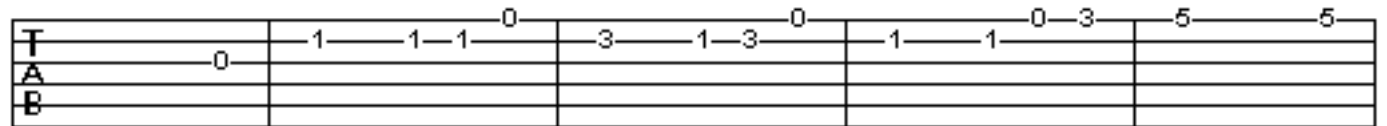
A tie indicates the note is to be extended for the duration of both tied notes. The note is only played once and held. This allows notes to be continued across bar lines.



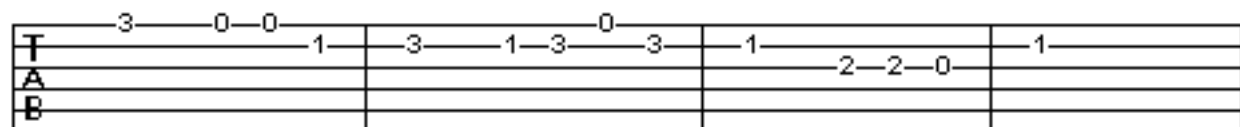
## AULD LANG SYNE



4 1 2 + 3 4 1 2 + 3 4 1 2 + 3 4 1 2 3 4



1 2 + 3 4 1 2 + 3 4 + 1 2 + 3 4 1 2 3



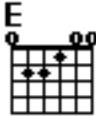
# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 11


## MAJOR AND MINOR CHORDS

We will now add two more chords to your collection, E-major and A-minor. There is a difference between the sound of major and minor chords. Minor chords tend to sound a little sad while major chords sound happier. Major chords are often referred to using just the letter name, rather than E-major it would simply be E. For minor chords an abbreviation is often used, rather than A-minor it would be Amin.

### E-MAJOR CHORD

**E**







*Left Hand*

T	0	
A	1	(1)
B	2	(3)
	2	(2)
	0	

### A-MINOR CHORD

**Amin**





*Left Hand*

T	0	
A	1	(1)
B	2	(3)
	2	(2)
	0	

With this chord you need to be careful and strum from the 5<sup>th</sup> string down.

# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 11

## SIXTEENTH NOTE TIMING

As you recall, quarter notes each get one count. For example, “1, 2, 3, 4”.

We also discussed the fact that each quarter note can be divided into two eighth notes, for a count of “1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +”.

Notes can be broken down further into sixteenth notes. To give a verbal syllable for each count we use “1 e + a, 2 e + a, 3 e + a, 4 e + a”. The beat is on the number and the four sixteenth notes are all played in the count of one quarter note.

E Change chord on +

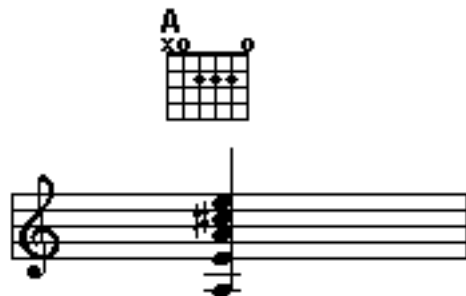
1 2 3 4 + 1

T	0	0	0	0	0	etc.
A	1	1	1	1	1	etc.
B	2	2	2	2	2	etc.
G	2	2	2	2	2	etc.
D	0	0	0	0	0	etc.

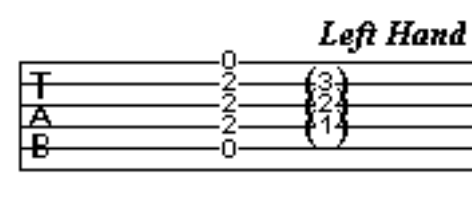
1 2 3 4 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a

# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 12

## A-MAJOR



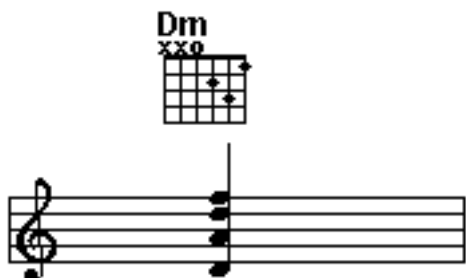
A major chord diagram showing the fretboard with the 5th, 4th, 3rd, and 2nd strings fretted at the 2nd, 2nd, 2nd, and 1st frets respectively. The 1st and 6th strings are open. Below the diagram is a musical staff in treble clef showing the notes A2, C#3, E3, and A3.




Left Hand diagram for A major chord. The strings are labeled T (Treble), A, and B (Bass). The fret numbers are 0, 2, 2, 2, 0. The fingerings are (3), (2), (1), (1).

For this chord strum the strings from the 5th string down.

## D-MINOR



D minor chord diagram showing the fretboard with the 5th, 4th, 3rd, and 2nd strings fretted at the 2nd, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st frets respectively. The 1st and 6th strings are open. Below the diagram is a musical staff in treble clef showing the notes D2, F3, A3, and D3.



Left Hand diagram for D minor chord. The strings are labeled T (Treble), A, and B (Bass). The fret numbers are 1, 3, 2, 0. The fingerings are (1), (2), (3).

For this chord strum the strings from the 4th string down.

## SWITCHING BETWEEN CHORDS

When practicing switching between chords do not play too fast. Select a speed at which you can comfortably change the chords without missing a beat between bars.



# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 12

## TIMING FOR SHUFFLE

The timing for the right hand down strokes on the 4th and 5th strings is referred to as a shuffle. To get this feel, the first note in each pair is held longer than the second note.

*Shuffle* ♪ = ♪♪

A A D A

T				
A	2-2-4-4-2-2-4-4	2-2-4-4-2-2-4-4	2-2-4-4-2-2-4-4	2-2-4-4-2-2-4-4
E	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

*Shuffle*

E D A A

T				
A	2-2-4-4-2-2-4-4	2-2-4-4-2-2-4-4	2-2-4-4-2-2-4-4	2-2-4-4-2-2-4-4
E	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

The A pattern is played four times, then with the first finger jump the gap to the D pattern on the 4th and 3rd strings and play it twice. Then back to A twice followed by the E pattern on the 6th and 5th strings played twice. Then directly to D twice and finally back to A four times, then the whole thing starts again.

# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 12

## UP TEMPO ROCK PATTERN

With a slight variation of this same pattern we can do what is called an up tempo rock pattern.

A A D D

T				
A	2-2-4-2-2-2-4-2	2-2-4-2-2-2-4-2	2-2-4-2-2-2-4-2	2-2-4-2-2-2-4-2
B	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

A A E D

T				
A	2-2-4-2-2-2-4-2	2-2-4-2-2-2-4-2		2-2-4-2-2-2-4-2
B	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0	2-2-4-2-2-2-4-2	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

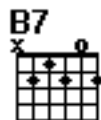
A A

T		
A	2-2-4-2-2-2-4-2	2-2-4-2-2-2-4-2
B	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

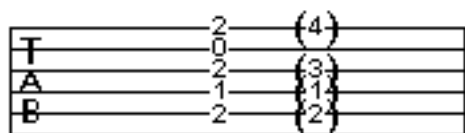
# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 13

## B7 CHORD

We are going to round this lesson off by learning another chord, B7.

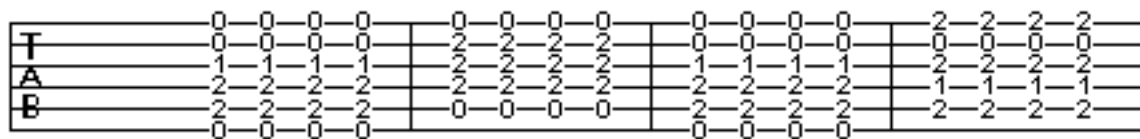
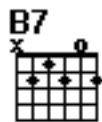
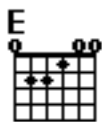
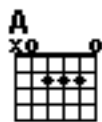
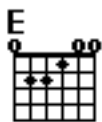


*Left Hand*



## CHANGING CHORDS

Now we will incorporate the B7 chord with two other chords, E and A. Strum each chord four times then change to the next chord.





# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 14

## BAR CHORDS

As a beginner you will likely find bar chords quite difficult initially because they involve placing your first finger right behind the fret and covering all six strings.

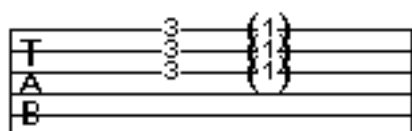
The nearest we came to a bar chord in the previous sections was the F chord where the first finger held a mini-bar on the 1st and 2nd strings.

## BAR ON THREE STRINGS

There are different versions of bar chords; the easiest to try initially uses the first finger pressing on the three high strings only.



*Left Hand*



Press with the first finger at the 3rd fret on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd strings. Position your thumb at the back of the neck under the first finger. By squeezing your thumb and finger together, with practice, you should be able to produce a nice clean sound.

If your first finger comes onto the top of the fret you will get a muffled or muted sound. If your finger is too far back you will get that awful sound referred to as fret buzz.

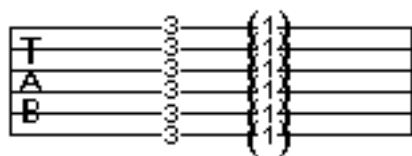
If you find it too difficult covering all three strings you can start with the mini-bar on the 1st and 2nd strings as we had for the F chord and gradually work your way up to three strings.

## BAR ON SIX STRINGS

Once you can produce a clean tone covering three strings you may wish to try covering all six strings.



*Left Hand*



There are a few things to watch for when barring all of the strings.

If your thumb is too far around the neck you may find that your first finger bends up off the fingerboard. Shifting your thumb back under the neck in line with the first finger will help straighten the first finger out.

Try to get each individual string to ring. Sometimes if a string is right under the groove of a joint in your finger it will produce fret buzz. You can move your finger a bit so that a fleshy part is involved in pressing down the string.

# BEGINNER GUITAR - LESSON 14

## E-MAJOR SHAPE BAR CHORD

Once you can manage a full bar try adding an E-major chord shape.

**E**

*Left Hand (alternate)*

T	0	
A	1	(2)
B	2	(4)
	2	(3)
	0	
	0	

You now have an E shape chord with the first finger free to bar the remaining strings.

Take this shape and slide up the neck so the third and little fingers are at the 5th fret. Put the thumb under the neck and practice putting the first finger bar all the way across the six strings.

**G**

*Left Hand*

T	0	(1)
A	0	(1)
B	0	(2)
	1	(4)
	2	(3)
	0	(1)

You may find that your little finger wants to flatten out at his point and end up barring some strings you do not want it to at the 5th fret. To avoid this keep the finger fairly vertical to the fingerboard.

One advantage with an E shape is that your barring finger does not have to press on the 5th, 4th and 3rd strings. You only have to worry about barring the 1st, 2nd and 6th strings.

Spend some time to master barring as it will open up a lot of possibilities for playing more complicated songs.

That brings us to the end of the Beginners Series. We hope you have enjoyed learning as much as we have enjoyed teaching you. If you have mastered most of the material, you will be well prepared to go on to any of the other more advanced categories on the site. We look forward to seeing you there.