



MUSICBAND WEBSITE

FREE E-BOOK

LEARN HOW TO PLAY THE GUITAR!

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The guitar is used in almost every popular music genre in the world. Do you want to learn how to play but are strapped for cash? We can help.

Whether you are into Rock, Blues, Acoustic, Country, Funk, Rockabilly, Metal or any other kind of music that involves a guitar, you are in the right place!

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PART 1 : HISTORY OF THE GUITAR

The history of the guitar has some controversy behind where it came from. Some researchers believe that the guitar in its simplest form was invented around the 12th century. Others believe it was around the 17th century that the guitar truly began to take its shape as we know it. Either way the guitar is most likely thousands of years old! If that isn't intriguing, I don't know what is.

Guitars come in both acoustic and electric. Acoustic guitars do not require an external amplification device in order to be heard. Most people feel that playing this type of guitar is a more intimate and earthy experience. An electric guitar comes in three constructions, solid body, semi-hollow and hollow body. The electric guitar produces very low sound unless it is connected to an external amplifier. Both types of guitar have some form of wood in the construction of making them.



Here are more essentials to know when learning how to play the guitar:

- Guitars can be made to accommodate both left and right-handed players.
- Normally you use your dominant hand to plucking the strings.

Fun Guitar Facts!

- ✓ The Fender factory makes around 90,000 strings per day. This is over 20,000 miles a year, enough to circle the world.
- ✓ You can tune your guitar to the sound of a dial tone, because it's an A.
- ✓ Many of the world's most popular modern guitarists were left handed, Jimi Hendrix, Kurt Cobain, Paul McCartney.
- ✓ Guitars are constructed and repaired by Luthiers.

PART 2 : INTRODUCTION TO THE GUITAR

So you want to learn how to play the guitar! There are a few things you will need to begin.

1. A guitar (acoustic or electric, it's up to you)
2. An understanding of parts of the guitar.
3. An understanding of chords and their location on the fret board.

There are many different types of guitars, all with their own unique sounds and different levels of expense. The great thing about being a beginner is that you can learn on a cheap acoustic and upgrade as you progress. You may want to begin with an electric and these, too, have numerous styles at all price ranges. I recommend that you begin with a relatively cheaper guitar and then progress to a more expensive one as you get better. For the purpose of this e-book, it does not matter which guitar you prefer to begin with. The acoustic and electric have many of the same parts and you can use either one to begin with.

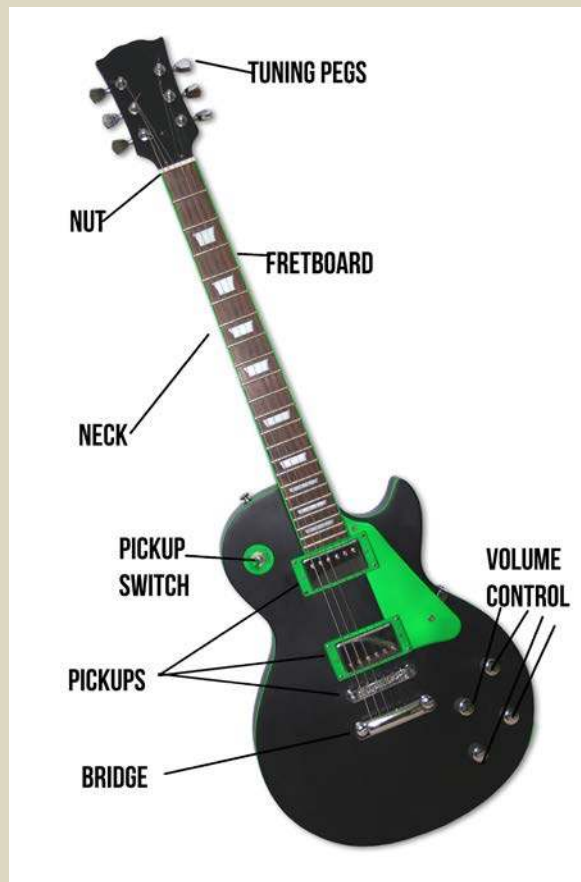
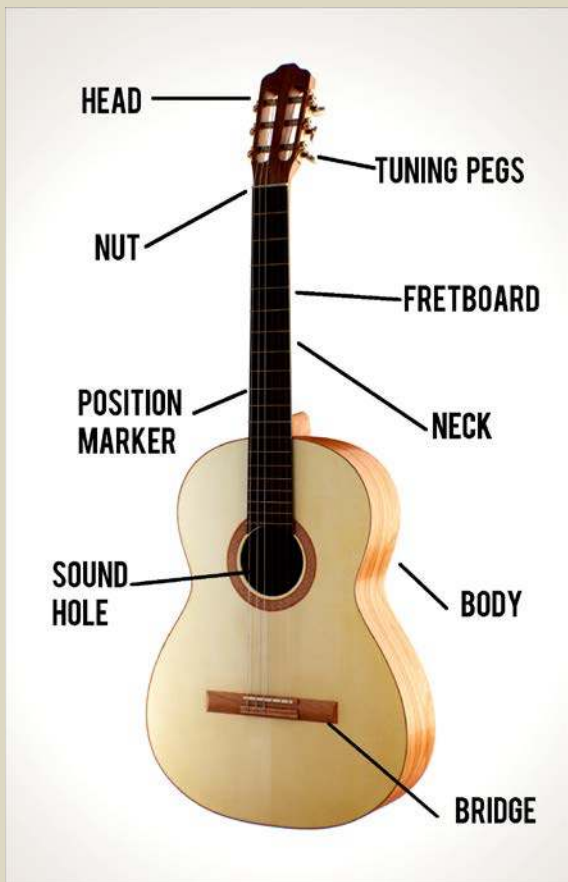
Are you ready!?

Let's begin.



Parts of the Guitar:

- **Body:** String Saddles, Pickups, Pickup Selector, Vibrato Arm (not as common), Volume & Tone Knobs, and Input Jack.
- **Neck:** Fretboard and Head Nut.
- **Head:** Tuners.



PART 3: TUNING & WARMING UP

You will want to pay special attention to the fretboard and your tuners first as I discuss tuning your guitar.

Tuning your guitar is required in order to make it sound good! There are many different ways to tune your guitar. The most popular and most widely accepted is tuning by ear, however you may wish to purchase electronic tuning devices, use an online tuner, or tune by piano or keyboard. Many of these devices and methods aren't readily available when you are playing for a crowd and so learning to tune by ear will benefit you when your guitar needs a quick tune.

Open notes are notes played on a guitar by strumming a string or strings with your strumming hand without holding down any chords with your other hand. The following chart shows you how your guitar should be tuned in open notes.

- 6th String: Low E
- 5th String: A
- 4th String: D
- 3rd String: G
- 2nd String: B
- 1st String: High E

[THE TIME I BURNED MY GUITAR IT WAS LIKE A SACRIFICE. YOU SACRIFICE THE THINGS YOU LOVE. I LOVE MY GUITAR. - JIMI HENDRIX]

**[I CAN'T PLAY GUITAR, BUT I CAN SURE MAKE IT
HOWL. - ERIC CLAPTON]**

If you choose to tune with a piano you will need to know these open notes before you begin. Start on one end and work your way through all six strings until you can match the same tone you hear from the piano with the correct corresponding string on your guitar. If you prefer to use an electronic tuner you will need to place the tuner close to your guitar. You will also want to be in a quiet place while you use your electronic tuner. Radios, TVs and even other people chatting in the same room can create artifact on your tuner.

Once you're in a quiet place with your tuner and guitar, start strumming one string at a time. If you strum the Low E, your tuner should flash a light corresponding with the Low E marker on the tuner's face. If the light flashes over another note, simply turn your tuners on the head of your guitar and strum again until the light on your electronic tuner flashes over the correct note. When you purchase an electronic tuner it should come with instructions that will be in more detail.

Fretboard:

Now that you know how to tune up your guitar with open notes, let's talk about the fretboard. The fretboard is the neck of your guitar. It's where all the action happens. The average electric guitar has 22 frets, but they do make electric guitars with 24 frets. These two extra frets are used for that stinging high pitch note usually squealed out during a rock solo.

For right now, 22 frets are enough for the beginner learner. Now hold your guitar by the neck, upright. You will notice 'Dot Markers' within some of the frets. While holding your guitar upright at the neck and

counting the frets from top to bottom, you will see the first dot marker in the 3rd fret. The dot markers are here as a visual aid to help you see the divisions of the fret board.

Warm Ups:

Now that you are all tuned up, there are still a couple of things you will need to do before you begin. A trained athlete always warms up before playing their sports. It is important to warm up before you begin practicing and playing guitar. You should start with some finger stretches. Begin with your hands stretched out flat, fingers together and palms down. Now, one hand at a time, separate your fingers until you feel a little stretch. Do this about five times per hand. Another hand stretch that you can do is making a fist and then opening it again. You should try to do this exercise about five times per hand as well. You will want to remember to warm up before each practice session or each time before you play your guitar. If you find that you are cramping while practicing and playing, it is usually because of not warming up or bad technique.

PART 4: PLAYING BASICS

Playing the Frets

Now that you know what frets are and how to warm up, let's learn how to play the frets. Here are some steps to guide you through exactly where to put your fingers in relation to each fret in order to get the

best tone and note quality.

Step 1: To play on the fretboard, first place your left thumb on the back of the neck of the guitar with your left forearm at a right angle. Then curl your hand around the neck so that each finger falls into the fretboard at a right angle.

Step 2: Now with your fingers on the fretboard, confirm proper placement by looking to see that your fingers are falling in between the actual frets and not on top of them. If you press on the string over the metal portion of the fretboard you will hear a muted tone when strummed. You want your finger to fall dead center of the frets. Too close to a fret and your tone could sound buzzy. This is a beginner's mistake but one easily heard and corrected with practice. Remember don't get lazy with finger placement and you'll always have a nice tone.

Step 3: Now that you know how to place your finger on the fretboard, and you know where to place your finger, push down on the string firmly. Try not to push too hard or too light.

To print your FREE printable guitar fretboard chart, visit [Finger Workout!](#)

[The Chromatic Scale](#)

Don't let the lesson title scare you: This is a great way to learn exactly where notes are on the guitar neck. To play this scale, it's important to learn how your fingers are numbered. Think of these finger numbers as fret numbers also. In other words, each of your 4 fingers fall naturally into place on the 1st,

2nd, 3rd, and 4th frets.

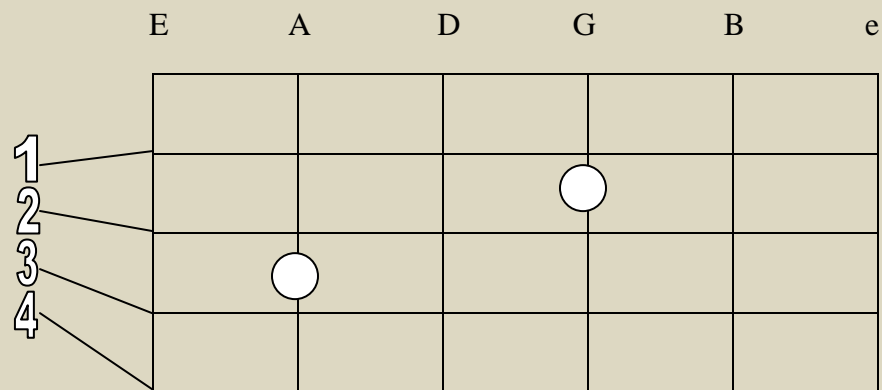
Please follow [this link to read more](#) about The Chromatic Scale.

Whole Steps/Half Steps

Half Steps: The neck of the guitar has 12 half steps that are separated by frets. Each fret is exactly one half step.

Whole Steps: Whole steps are equal to two half steps (which really mean two frets). If you've placed your finger on a fret, then went up or down by skipping an entire fret, you've moved a **whole** step.

Chord Charts



In music, a guitar chord is a chord, or collection of notes usually sounded together at once, played on a guitar. Using these numbers, the chromatic scale goes as follows ("0" means the open string is played):

6th string: 0 1 2 3 4

5th string: 0 1 2 3 4

4th string: 0 1 2 3 4

3rd string: 0 1 2 3

2nd string: 0 1 2 3 4

1st string: 0 1 2 3

Reading chord charts might seem really confusing when you first start out. The truth of the matter is that chord charts are the top way to learn most chords as well as get more comfortable with your fretboard.

First you will want to stand your guitar up so that the headstock is pointing up. Now look at the first four frets, this is your basic chord chart. The vertical lines are the 6 strings on your guitar. These are rarely ever labeled so coming up with a mnemonic for them is helpful in memorizing. Like this mnemonic: **Each Awesome Day Guitar Becomes Easy**. The black dots show you exactly where to place your fingers. In this example you would put a finger on the 3rd fret on the 5th string and another finger on the 2nd fret on the 3rd string.

When you see a 0 above a vertical line, it means that string is played open, or without holding it down. If you see an X, it means that string shouldn't be played at all.

Strumming 101

Learning how to strum the guitar is essential to becoming a guitarist.

Strumming Exercises:

1. Down - Down - Down - Down - Down Up Down Up Down Up Down Up
2. Down - Down Up - Down - Down Up - Down - Down Up
3. Down - Down Up - Up Down - Down - Down Up - Up Down

Be sure to keep your strumming forearm and wrist relaxed while strumming. Keep the motions going as if you were flowing through water and avoid stiffness.



Also, make sure that you are hitting both the downstrokes and upstrokes with the same amount of intensity and volume.

Best Advice: Practice Makes Perfect. Many guitarists have to practice heaps in order to get the flow right.

[YOU'RE ALWAYS LEARNING ABOUT THIS THING
EVERYTIME YOU PICK IT UP - KEITH RICHARDS]

The Em Chord

Em is the first chord you should learn on the guitar. Not only is it a wonderful chord, but it's easy. The small m after the E means minor.

The G Chord

One of the most widely used chords in guitar playing is G major. The most common way to play the G chord is in open position. The G chord is composed of the following notes in the key of G major: G (root), B (3rd), D (5th).

The C Chord

The C major chord, like the G major chord, is common and relatively easy to play. The most common way to play the C chord is in open position. The C chord is composed of the following notes in the key of C major: C (root), E (3rd), G (5th).

The D Chord

In addition to the Em, C and G chords, you'll end up using the D major chord tons. The most common way to play the D chord is in open position. The D chord is composed of the following notes in the key of D major: D (root), F# (3rd), A (5th).

Guitar Tabs

Tabs are great aids for beginners to learn certain songs easily and quickly. You don't have to know how to read sheet music to learn how to play guitar, and there are tons of websites and books with available tabs ready for you to learn. Tabs take a note and put it into a letter form so that you can match up the letter with a string. It then gives you a fret to play it on. The only thing tabs don't do are give you timing and strumming. This is something you will have to listen to the actual song over and over and try to imitate.

You may see tabs displayed like this....Each letter represents a string with the "little e" being the skinniest string. Each number represents a fret.

```
e|-----  
B|-----6-6--  
G|--7-5---5-7-7---5-5-5---7-  
D|-----8-----  
A|-----  
E|-----
```

If you see the numbers in a straight horizontal line that means you play them at the same time. If you don't then play them separately and always play from left to right.



Why not log on to our website [Music Band Website](#) to find some inspiration for your tab choice?

To Pick or Not to Pick, That is the Question!

Whether or not you use a pick is pure personal preference. Most people feel that if you use an electric guitar you should use a pick. When it comes to using an acoustic guitar, people just do what is most comfortable to them. You should know however, that if you decide to pick or strum with your fingers you may develop calluses that eventually turn to hard parts on your fingers.

How to hold a guitar pick:

Curl your four fingers (not including your thumb) into your palm.

Grasp the pick between your thumb and index finger.

If you need to pluck individual strings for the song you are playing, you leave only a little part of the pick hanging over your fingers.

PART 5: ONLINE RESOURCES FOR LEARNING HOW TO PLAY THE GUITAR

When learning how to play the guitar DIY style, it's best to find some videos to help you along your way. Here are a few places you can go online to check out some fantastic videos.

Video:

- Generic YouTube Search [“How to Play the Guitar for Beginners”](#)
- Absolutely FREE Guitar Videos [Free Guitar Videos Website](#)
- Free Quick Lessons [Guitar Lessons](#)
- 500 FREE Guitar Lessons [Justin Guitar](#)
- Insane Guitar [Master Class](#)
- Guitar Tricks [Free Member](#)

Complete Learning Websites:

- [Tabs 4 Acoustic](#)

BONUS

Links to easy songs to learn via tabs.....

BLINK 182 – [All The Small Things](#)

Rufus Wainright - [Hallelujah](#)

Tracy Chapman – [Fast Car](#)

And last but not least.....[Every band you can think of!](#)

THANK YOU FOR DOWNLOADING!

Don't forget that [Music Band Website](#) is your source for all things music!



Photo Resources:

<http://www.gettyicons.com/free-icon/149/unleashed-icon-set/free-guitar-icon-png/>

<http://www.sxc.hu/photo/1218440>

<http://www.sxc.hu/photo/542597>

<http://www.sxc.hu/photo/1314244>

<http://www.sxc.hu/photo/773716>

<http://www.sxc.hu/photo/536500>

<http://www.sxc.hu/photo/1237532>