

BASIC GUITAR

TECHNIQUE:

***An accelerated tutorial for
beginning players***

by David M. Shere

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PART ONE:
NOTES of the GUITAR
in FIRST POSITION

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NOTES of the GUITAR in FIRST POSITION

by David M. Shere

I. NOTATION SYSTEMS

This tutorial makes use of three different notation systems:

1. Tablature
2. Manuscript notation
3. Chord diagrams

1. Reading Tablature

Tablature is a system of notation devised specifically for fretted instruments. It clearly represents the strings and frets of the guitar. Tablature clearly conveys the following information to the reader:

1. Which **string** the note is located on
2. Which **fret** of the string the note is at

Tablature evolved over many centuries and predates modern manuscript notation. Tablature looks like this:

Example 1

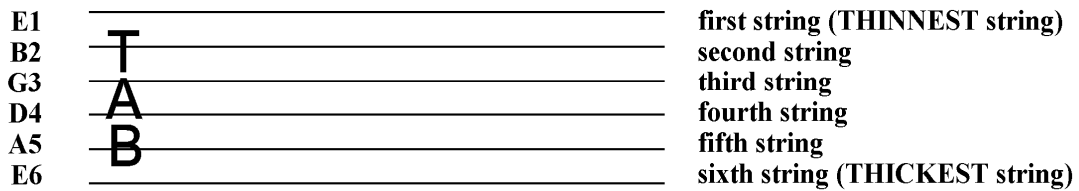
Fret [in this case, the 1st fret]

E1	T	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	3	1
B2									3	0
G3	A		2	0		0			0	0
D4					3	2	0		0	2
A5	B							3	2	3
E6									3	

String [in this case, the B string/2nd string]

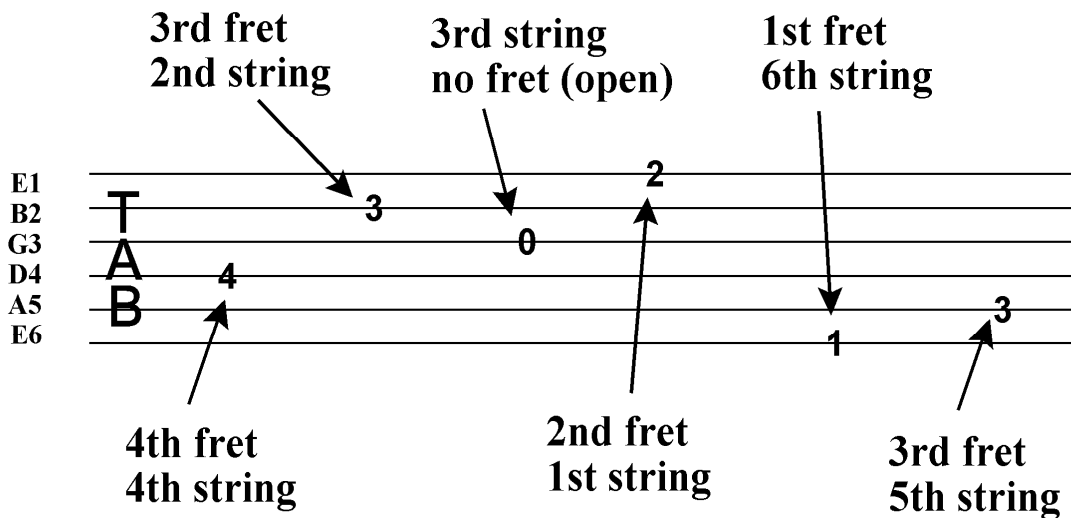
The horizontal lines represent the **strings** of the instrument:

Example 2



The numbers represent the **frets** of the instrument:

Example 3



The first part of this book will show you the notes on each string in **first position** (1st fret through 4th fret). In first position, we play notes on the 1st fret with the first finger, notes on the 2nd fret with the second finger, and so forth. There are exceptions to this rule as with any rule, but by following this idea with consistency, you will develop good physical technique.

2. Reading Manuscript Notation


Manuscript notation is the traditional European system of notation. It applies to every instrument in the European orchestral tradition, including the guitar.

Manuscript notation looks like this:

Example 4

Single Note [quarter-note 'C']

Guitar



(This is called a MUSIC STAFF)

Chords [stacked notes are played together]

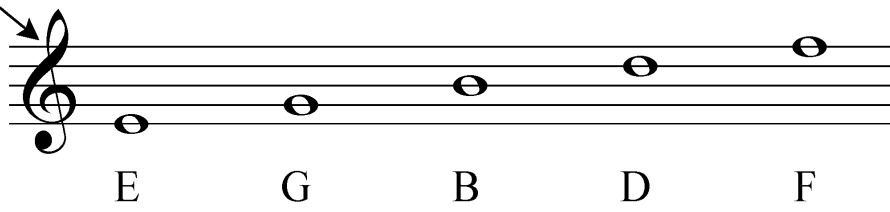
Detailed description: This diagram shows a single musical staff for guitar. It begins with a treble clef. The first note is a quarter note on the first line, labeled as 'C'. This is followed by a series of eighth notes moving up and then down the staff. The final part of the staff shows two chords: a triad of notes on the first three lines (C, E, G) and a triad of notes on the second, third, and fourth lines (D, F, A). Arrows point from the text labels to the corresponding elements in the staff.

The **lines** and **spaces** of manuscript notation show the letter names of notes:

Example 5

Treble Clef

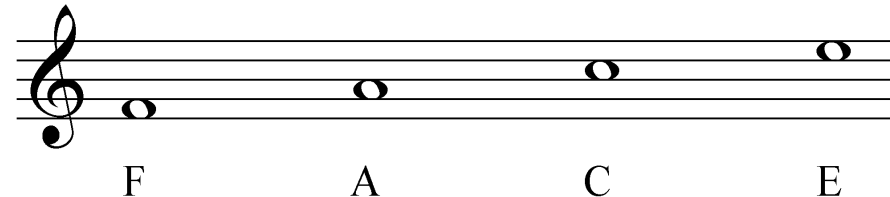
Guitar



E G B D F

2 SPACES

Gtr.



F A C E

Detailed description: This diagram illustrates the relationship between lines and spaces on a musical staff. The top staff, labeled 'Guitar', shows a treble clef and five notes placed on the lines of the staff. Below these notes are the letter names E, G, B, D, and F. The bottom staff, labeled 'Gtr.', shows a treble clef and four notes placed in the spaces between the lines of the staff. Below these notes are the letter names F, A, C, and E.

The stems, beams, and color (black/white) of the notes show rhythm values:

Example 6

METER
(indicates "4 counts per measure, quarter-note = 1 beat")

one measure =
The space between
two measure lines

measure lines

WHOLE note
(4 counts)

WHOLE note rest

Guitar

COUNT: 1,2,3,4 (1,2,3,4)

stem

HALF note
(2 counts)

HALF note rest

Gtr.

COUNT: 1,2 3,4 (1,2) (3,4)

QUARTER note
(1 count)

QUARTER note rest

Gtr.

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 (1 2 3 4)

beam

EIGHTH note
(1/2 count)

EIGHTH note rest

Gtr.

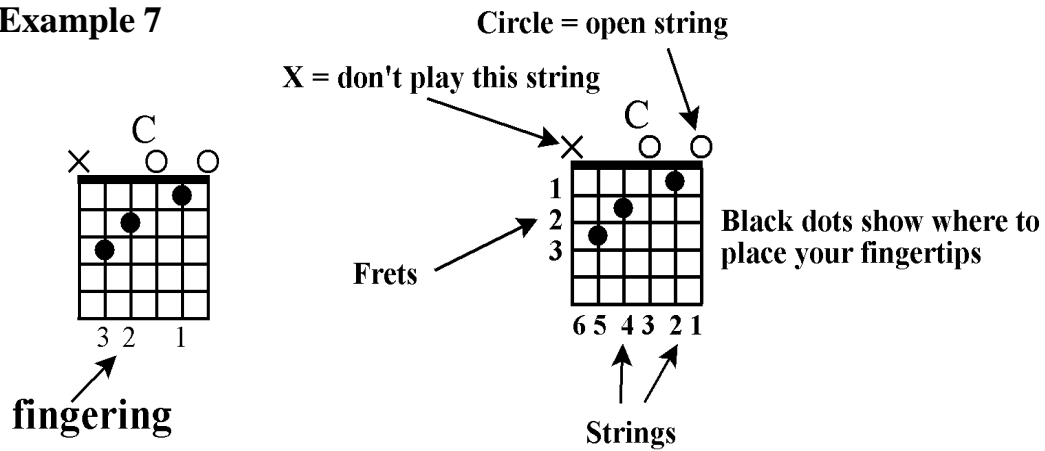
COUNT: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & (1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &)

Tablature and manuscript notation are typically used together.

3. Reading Chord Diagrams

Chord diagrams are simple pictures that show chord fingerings on the guitar neck:

Example 7



Chord diagrams are used in conjunction with tablature and manuscript notation to make chord fingerings as clear as possible:

Example 8

	C	Dm	G	Am
	X O O	X X O	O O	X O O
	3 2 1	2 3 1	2 1 3 4	2 3 1
Guitar				
Guitar				

II. Notes On the First String

1st string
open 1st fret 2nd fret 3rd fret 4th fret 5th fret

E F F# (# = 'sharp') G G# A

0 1 2 3 4 5

T
A
B

repeat sign

Exercise 1

♮ = Natural
(cancels sharp)

0 0 1 1 2 2 3 3 2 2 1 1

T
A
B

(Repeat everything between the "repeat signs") repeat sign

4

0 1 0 1 3 1 3 1 0 0 1 1

T
A
B

7

2 2 3 3 0 1 2 3 3 1 0

T
A
B

III. Notes On the Second String

2nd string open	1st fret	2nd fret	3rd fret	4th fret
B	C	C#	D	E \flat
T 0	1	2	3	4
A				
B				

Exercise 2

T . 0 3 0 3 1 3 1 3 2 3 2 3 .
A .
B .

T 1 0 1 3 0 1 3 0 1 0 3 1
A
B

T 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 3 0 1
A
B

The following melodies will allow you to practice reading manuscript notation alone, without tablature.

"New World" theme

Antonín Dvořák



Ode to Joy

Ludwig Van Beethoven



This symbol is called a 'tie'. Add the values of the tied notes together, and hold the note for the combined duration.



IV. Notes On the Third String

	3rd string open	1st fret	2nd fret	3rd fret
	G	G#	A	B \flat (\flat = 'flat')
T A B	0	1	2	3

A stepwise progression of single notes is called a **scale**. We now have enough notes on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd string to build the “**G major**” scale.

Scales are most effectively played using **alternate picking**, which means using **up** and **down strokes** to pick the strings.

^ = downstroke
v = upstroke

Exercise 3

"G major" scale

T	0	2	0	1	3	0	2	3	3	2	0	3	1	0	2	0
A																
B																

5

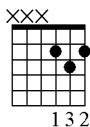
T	0	2	0	1	3	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	3	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	3	0	2	3	3	2	0	3	1	0	2	0
A																																
B																																

Exercise 4

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The staff shows a melodic line with accents (^) and breath marks (v) under the notes. The guitar tablature below shows fingerings for the right hand.

1 2 3 4

TAB: 0 0 3 2 3 1 0 2 | 0 2 0 1 3 1 0 2 | 0 0 3 3 | 2 3 1 2 .



Musical notation for measures 5-8. The staff shows a melodic line with accents (^) and breath marks (v) under the notes. The guitar tablature below shows fingerings for the right hand.

5 6 7 8

TAB: 0 2 0 1 3 0 2 3 | 2 3 2 2 | 3 2 0 3 1 0 2 0 | 0 0 3 3 .

Musical notation for measures 9-12. The staff shows a melodic line with accents (^) and breath marks (v) under the notes. The guitar tablature below shows fingerings for the right hand.

9 10 11 12

TAB: 0 2 0 0 2 | 0 1 3 2 3 1 0 2 | 0 0 2 0 1 3 | 0 2 3 .

Musical notation for measures 13-16. The staff shows a melodic line with accents (^) and breath marks (v) under the notes. The guitar tablature below shows fingerings for the right hand.

13 14 15 16

TAB: 3 2 0 2 0 | 3 1 0 1 3 0 3 1 0 2 | 0 0 3 2 3 | 0 .

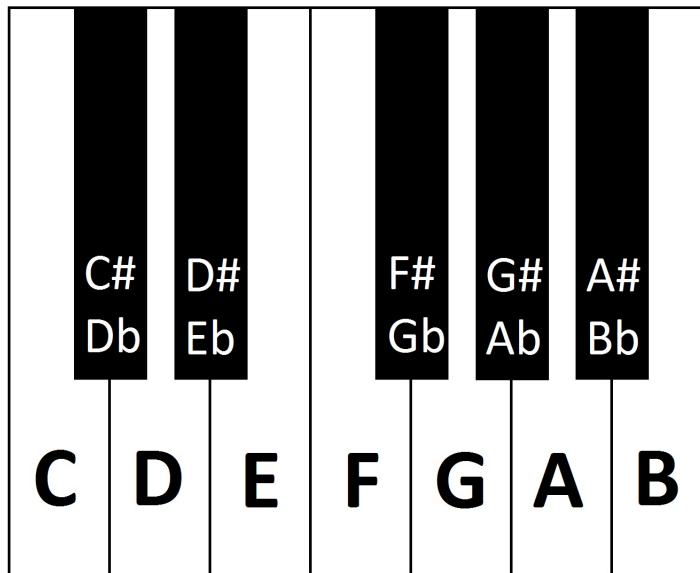
So far in addition to simple notes and rhythms, we have also seen the following notation symbols:

Example 9

= Sharp ♭ = Flat ♮ = Natural

These symbols are called **accidentals**. They are part of the European system of naming notes. Accidentals are derived from the piano keyboard:

Example 10



- **NATURAL** notes are the notes on the white keys.
- **EVERY ACCIDENTAL has two names.**
- **SHARP** notes are on the black keys to the **RIGHT** of a natural note (C# is to the right of C natural, F# is to the right of F natural, etc.)
- **FLAT** notes are on the black keys to the **LEFT** of a natural note (Db is to the left of D natural, Gb is to the right of G natural, etc.)

V. Notes On the Fourth String

4th string open	1st fret	2nd fret	3rd fret	4th fret	
D	E \flat	E	F	F \sharp	
T A B	0	1	2	3	4

Exercise 5

"D major" scale

^ v ^ v ^ v ^ v ^ v ^ v ^ v ^ v
T A B
0 2 4 0 2 0 2 3 3 2 0 2 0 4 2 0

5

^ v ^ v ^ v ^ v ^ v ^ v ^ v ^ v
T A B
0 2 4 0 2 0 4 2 0 2 4 0 2 0 4 2

7

^ v ^ v ^ v ^ v ^ v ^ v ^ v ^ v
T A B
0 2 4 0 2 0 2 3 3 2 0 2 0 4 2 0

Major scales have a bright, positive sound. The “D harmonic minor” scale has a dark, moody sound. D minor is the parallel minor of D major.

Exercise 6

"D harmonic minor" scale

5

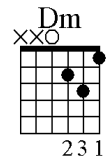
7

The tune “Scarborough fair” uses **dotted notes**. Dotted notes have a duration equal to three times the next smaller note value.

Example 11

dotted quarter note = 3 eighth notes dotted half note = 3 quarter notes

Scarborough Fair

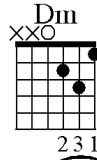


Traditional

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The top staff is in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature for strings T, A, and B. Slur marks are present over the first two notes of each measure in the top staff.

This is a "slur" mark.
Let these notes ring over each other.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. Measure 5 is marked with a '5' above the first note. Slur marks are present over the first two notes of each measure in the top staff.



Musical notation for measures 9-12. Measure 9 is marked with a '9' above the first note. Slur marks are present over the first two notes of each measure in the top staff.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. Measure 13 is marked with a '13' above the first note. Slur marks are present over the first two notes of each measure in the top staff.

2 17

21

This is a low 'C' note:
3rd fret, 5th string

25

29

Strum the Dm chord
with a downstroke

The First Noel

3 counts per measure
quarter note = one beat

Traditional

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The first measure includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff. Below the staff is a guitar chord diagram with three lines labeled T, A, and B. The diagram shows fret numbers for each string: T (4, 2), A (0, 2, 4, 0), and B (2, 0, 2, 3, 2, 0). The first measure ends with a repeat sign.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The melody continues on a single staff. The guitar chord diagram below shows fret numbers: T (3, 2, 0), A (2, 0, 2), B (3, 2, 0) for measures 5-6; and T (4, 4, 2) for measure 8. The system ends with a repeat sign.

Musical notation for measures 9-12. The melody continues on a single staff. The guitar chord diagram below shows fret numbers: T (0, 2, 4, 0), A (2, 3, 2), B (0, 2, 3, 0) for measures 9-10; and T (2, 0) for measure 12. The system ends with a repeat sign.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. The melody continues on a single staff. The guitar chord diagram below shows fret numbers: T (3, 2, 0), A (2, 0, 2), B (3, 2, 0) for measures 13-14; and T (4) for measure 16. The system ends with a repeat sign.

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

6 counts per measure
8th note = one beat

Johann Sebastian Bach

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The treble clef is in 6/8 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth notes. The guitar tablature below shows fingerings for the treble (T), auxiliary (A), and bass (B) strings. Measure 1 starts with a 7th fret barre on the treble string.

T	0	2	0	3	1	1	0	3	3	2	3	3	0	0	2	0	1	3	0	3	1	0
A																						
B																						

Musical notation for measures 5-8. A guitar chord diagram is shown above measure 5: a 5-fret barre with fingers 4, 2, 1 on strings 2, 3, and 4 respectively. The tablature continues with fingerings for the treble (T), auxiliary (A), and bass (B) strings.

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

Musical notation for measures 9-12. The melody continues with eighth notes. The tablature shows fingerings for the treble (T), auxiliary (A), and bass (B) strings.

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

Musical notation for measures 13-16. The melody consists of dotted half notes. The tablature shows fingerings for the treble (T), auxiliary (A), and bass (B) strings.

T	0	1	3	3	1	0																	
A																							
B																							

2 16

421

TAB: 2 4 2 | 0 4 2 2 | 0 2 0 3 1 | 1 0 3 3 3 2

20

421

TAB: 3 3 0 0 2 0 | 1 3 0 3 1 0 | 2 0 0 0 2 | 0 4 2 1 0 2


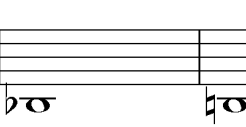
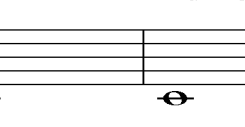


24

TAB: 0 0 2 0 3 1 | 1 0 3 3 3 2 | 3 3 0 0 2 0

27


TAB: 3 1 0 2 0 | 0 0 4 0

VI. Notes On the Fifth string

5th string open	1st fret	2nd fret	3rd fret	4th fret
				
A	B \flat	B	C	C \sharp
T A B	0	1	2	3
				4


Sailor's Hornpipe

Anonymous




T	. 3 2	3	0 0 2 0	4 2 3 3 2 0 3	0	0	0 3
A							
B							

4



T	2 0	2 2 0 2	3 2 0 2 0 2 0	4
A				
B				

6



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

Exercise 7

"C major" scale

System 1: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Accents (^) are placed above the notes C4, D4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, E4, D4, and C4. The guitar TAB below shows fret numbers: 3, 0, 2, 3, 0, 2, 0, 1, 1, 0, 2, 0, 3, 2, 0, 3.

5

System 2: Treble clef. The melody continues with quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Accents (^) are placed above the notes C4, D4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, E4, D4, and C4. The guitar TAB below shows fret numbers: 3, 0, 2, 3, 0, 3, 2, 0, 3, 0, 2, 3, 0, 3, 2, 0.

7

System 3: Treble clef. The melody continues with quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Accents (^) are placed above the notes C4, D4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, E4, D4, and C4. The guitar TAB below shows fret numbers: 3, 0, 2, 3, 0, 2, 0, 1, 1, 0, 2, 0, 3, 2, 0, 3.

Chords are an indispensable part of music. A chord is two or more notes played simultaneously together to create **harmony**.

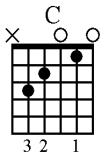
Below is our first real **chord progression**. A chord progression is a series of chords one after another, generally used to produce an accompaniment for a melody. The chords may be played as harmonies as in **Exercise 8**, or as **arpeggios** as in **Exercise 9**, otherwise known as “broken chords”.

Exercise 8

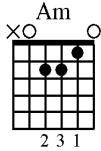
The exercise consists of four measures of accompaniment in 4/4 time, each measure containing a single chord. The chords are C major, A minor, F major 7, and C major. The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a bass staff with fingerings for the thumb (T), index (A), and middle (B) fingers.

Measure	Chord	Fingering (T, A, B)
1	C	0, 1, 2, 3
2	Am	0, 2, 2, 0
3	Fmaj ⁷	0, 1, 2, 3
4	C	0, 1, 2, 3

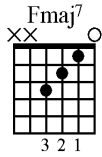
Exercise 9



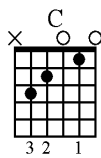
Musical notation for the first system, measures 1-2. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Notes: C4, E4, G4, C5, E5, G5. Bass clef: T (Tuning), A, B strings. Fingerings: 3 2 0 1 0 1 0 2.



Musical notation for the second system, measures 3-4. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Notes: A3, C4, E4, A4, C5, E5. Bass clef: T (Tuning), A, B strings. Fingerings: 0 2 2 1 0 1 2 2.



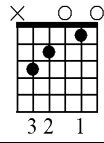
Musical notation for the third system, measures 5-6. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Notes: F4, A4, C5, F5, A5, C6. Bass clef: T (Tuning), A, B strings. Fingerings: 3 2 1 0 1 0 1 2.



Musical notation for the fourth system, measures 7-8. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Notes: C4, E4, G4, C5, E5, G5. Bass clef: T (Tuning), A, B strings. Fingerings: 3 2 0 1 0 1 0 2.

The Star-Spangled Banner

Francis Scott Key



Musical notation for the first system, measures 1-3. The top staff is in treble clef, 3/4 time. The bottom staff is a guitar TAB with strings T, A, B. Measure 1: Treble clef has a dotted quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, and a quarter note B4. TAB: T=0, A=2, B=3. Measure 2: Treble clef has a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, and a quarter note E5. TAB: T=1, A=0, B=3. Measure 3: Treble clef has a quarter note F5, a quarter note G5, and a quarter note A5. TAB: T=1, A=2, B=4. Measure 4: Treble clef has a quarter note B5, a quarter note C6, and a quarter note D6. TAB: T=0, A=0, B=0.

Musical notation for the second system, measures 4-7. Measure 4: Treble clef has a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, and a quarter note G5. TAB: T=0, A=3, B=1. Measure 5: Treble clef has a quarter note A5, a quarter note B5, and a quarter note C6. TAB: T=0, A=2, B=0. Measure 6: Treble clef has a quarter note D6, a quarter note E6, and a quarter note F6. TAB: T=1, A=1, B=0. Measure 7: Treble clef has a quarter note G6, a quarter note A6, and a quarter note B6. TAB: T=2, A=3, B=2. A first ending bracket labeled '1.' spans measures 6 and 7.

Musical notation for the third system, measures 8-11. Measure 8: Treble clef has a quarter note C6, a quarter note D6, and a quarter note E6. TAB: T=0, A=0, B=0. Measure 9: Treble clef has a quarter note F6, a quarter note G6, and a quarter note A6. TAB: T=0, A=1, B=3. Measure 10: Treble clef has a quarter note B6, a quarter note C7, and a quarter note D7. TAB: T=3, A=1, B=0. Measure 11: Treble clef has a quarter note E7, a quarter note F7, and a quarter note G7. TAB: T=3, A=0, B=1.

Musical notation for the fourth system, measures 12-15. Measure 12: Treble clef has a quarter note A6, a quarter note B6, and a quarter note C7. TAB: T=1, A=1, B=0. Measure 13: Treble clef has a quarter note D7, a quarter note E7, and a quarter note F7. TAB: T=3, A=1, B=0. Measure 14: Treble clef has a quarter note G7, a quarter note A7, and a quarter note B7. TAB: T=0, A=2, B=0. Measure 15: Treble clef has a quarter note C8, a quarter note D8, and a quarter note E8. TAB: T=1, A=2, B=4. Measure 16: Treble clef has a quarter note F8, a quarter note G8, and a quarter note A8. TAB: T=0, A=0, B=0.

17

T 1 1 1 0 2 2 2 3 0 1 0 3 1
A
B

20

T 1 0 0 0 1 3 0 1
A
B

23

T 3 1 3 0 1 3 1
A
B

In “The Star Spangled Banner”, we have two new note durations: the **sixteenth-note**, and the **dotted eighth-note**:

Example 12

SIXTEENTH note
(1/4 count)

1 ee & uh 2 ee & uh 3 ee & uh 4 ee & uh

2 dotted eighth note = 3 sixteenth notes

The next scale we will look at is the “**A natural minor**” scale. A **natural minor** is the **relative minor** of C major.

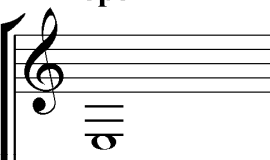

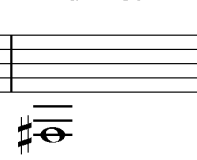


Exercise 10

"A natural minor" scale

5

7

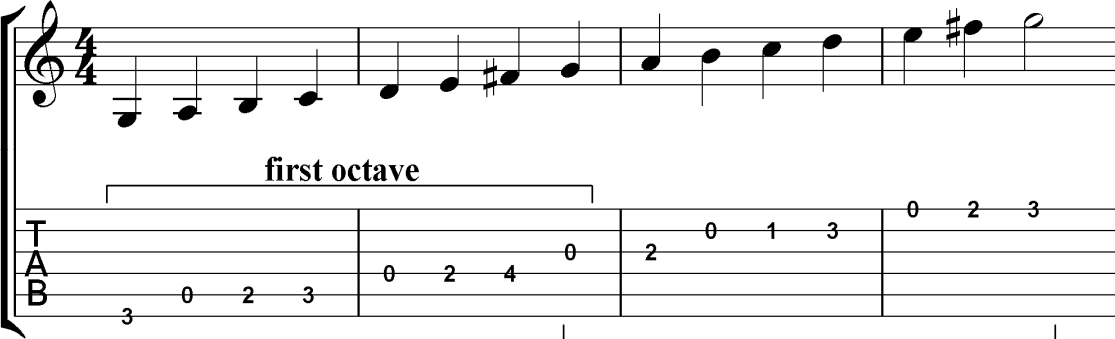
VII. Notes On the Sixth String

6th string open	1st fret	2nd fret	3rd fret	4th fret
				
E	F	F#	G	G#
T A B				
0	1	2	3	4

Exercise 11

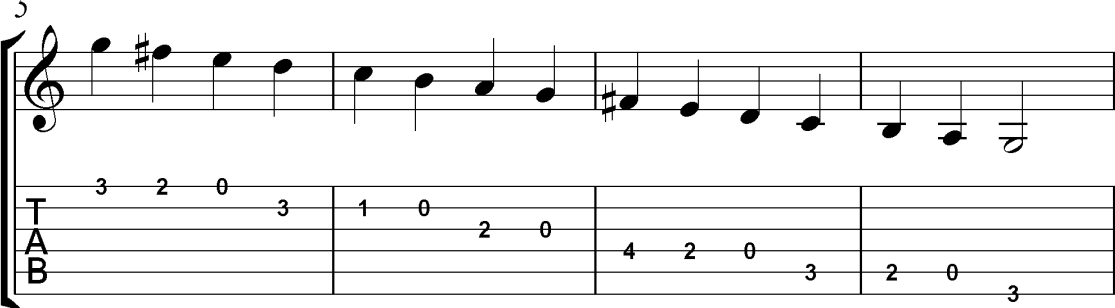
"G major" scale, 2 octaves

first octave



second octave

5



Exercise 12

"A major" scale, 2 octaves

first octave

second octave

5

Exercise 13

"E major" scale, 2 octaves

first octave

second octave

5

Brandenburg Concerto #5 (theme)

Johann Sebastian Bach

4/4

T
A
B 0 0 4 4 2 2 2 2 | 1 2 1 4 2 0 4 2 | 0 0 4 4 2 2 2 2

4

T
A
B 0 0 2 2 0 0 3 3 2 2 | 2 2 0 0 | 1 1 2 2

7

T
A
B 0 0 4 4 4 4 2 2 | 4 4 0 0 0 0 | 4 2 4 0 2 2 0 0

10

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

2 ¹³

T
A
B

¹⁵

T
A
B

VIII. CHROMATIC SCALE and BASIC CHORDS

We have now covered all the notes of the guitar in the **first** position of the neck. The following pages show:

- the entire **chromatic scale** in first position, along with both names of each accidental note;
- the most common **chords** in first position.

The Chromatic Scale (in First position)

6th (E) String

2

5th (A) String

3

4th (D) String

4

3rd (G) String

5

2nd (B) String

6

1st (high E) String

T
A
B

Basic Chords

Transcribed by David Shere

MAJOR

5

MINOR

9

13

Chord diagrams and tablature for Major and Minor chords. Each chord is shown with a guitar fretboard diagram, a musical staff with a treble clef and key signature, and a six-string guitar tablature. The Major section includes G, C, D, A, E, Bsus4, F, and Bb. The Minor section includes Gm, Cm, Dm, Am, Em, Bm, and Fm. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 on the fretboard diagrams and on the tablature lines.

DOMINANT 7th

2 16

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

G⁷ C⁷ D⁷ A⁷

TAB

3	0	2	0
0	1	1	0
2	2	2	2
2	3	0	0

20

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

E⁷ B⁷ F⁷

TAB

0	0	2	1
0	0	0	1
1	1	2	2
0	0	1	1
2	2	2	3
0	0	2	4

MAJOR 7th

23

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

G^{Δ7} C^{Δ7} D^{Δ7} A^{Δ7}

TAB

3	0	2	0
4	0	2	2
4	0	0	1
3	3	0	0

27

1 2 1 3 2 4 3 2 1

E^{Δ7} B^{Δ7} F^{Δ7}

TAB

0	4	0
0	3	1
1	4	2
1	2	3

MINOR 7th

30

1 1 1 1

1 3 1 2 1

2 1 1

2 1

Gm⁷ Cm⁷ Dm⁷ Am⁷

34

2

2 3 4

1 3 1 2 1

1 1 1 1

Em⁷ Bm⁷ Fm⁷

Chords are most commonly played by **strumming** (brushing all the strings with the pick), using simple rhythms. Try the following rhythm patterns:

Example 13

pick any chord and strum it using the following patterns

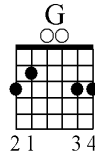
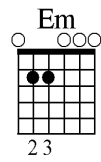
1 2 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 3 4 &

= strum DOWN

= strum UP

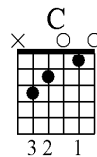
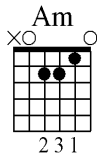
Strumming Exercise 1

^ = strum DOWN
v = strum UP



Musical notation for the first section of the exercise, featuring a treble clef, 4/4 time signature, and a TAB system below. The TAB system includes fret numbers for strings 1 through 6.

	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	3
	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	3
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	3



Musical notation for the second section of the exercise, featuring a treble clef, 4/4 time signature, and a TAB system below. The TAB system includes fret numbers for strings 1 through 6.

	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	3

Strumming Exercise 2

The image shows a musical score for a guitar strumming exercise. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble clef staff, a guitar chord diagram, and a three-line tablature.

System 1:

- Chord Diagrams:**
 - A:** x02232 (strings 1-6: 0, 2, 2, 3, 2, 0)
 - G:** 210233 (strings 1-6: 2, 1, 0, 2, 3, 3)
- Staff:** 4/4 time signature, key of D major. The first system contains 12 chords. The first six are A major, and the last six are G major. Strumming patterns are indicated by ^ (downstroke) and v (upstroke).

0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	3
2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2
0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	3

System 2:

- Chord Diagram:**
 - D:** xx0232 (strings 1-6: 0, 2, 3, 2, 0, 0)
- Staff:** 4/4 time signature, key of D major. The second system contains 12 chords. The first six are D major, and the last six are D major with a sharp sign above the staff. Strumming patterns are indicated by ^ (downstroke) and v (upstroke).

2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

This concludes our tutorial on the notes of the guitar in **first position**.
 The next tutorial will deal with **transposable chords and scale fingerings**.

PART TWO:
CHORDS and SCALES
In EVERY KEY

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(Revised 9/7/2009)

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I. INTERVALS

An **interval** is the distance between any two notes. There are 12 basic types of **intervals** in music:

1. **minor second (m2)**
2. **Major second (M2)**
3. **minor 3rd (m3)**
4. **Major 3rd (M3)**
5. **Perfect 4th (P4)**
6. **Augmented 4th (A4)/diminished 5th (d5)**
7. **Perfect 5th (P5)**
8. **minor 6th (m6)**
9. **Major 6th (M6)**
10. **minor 7th (m7)**
11. **Major 7th (M7)**
12. **Octave (P8)**

- A **melodic interval** is the distance between any two horizontal notes.
- A **harmonic interval** is the distance between any two vertical notes.

Two or more notes played together constitute a **harmony**, and intervals are the most fundamental type of harmony in music. They are the building blocks of chords. The following pages show examples of some of these intervals.

minor second (m2- one half-step)

Musical notation for the minor second interval. The top staff shows melodic intervals and harmonic intervals. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature. Melodic intervals: 0 1, 1 0, 1 2, 3 2. Harmonic intervals: 0 4, 0 3, 0 4.

7 Major second (M2- two half-steps, one whole-step)

Musical notation for the major second interval. The top staff shows melodic intervals and harmonic intervals. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature. Melodic intervals: 3 1, 2 4, 2 0. Harmonic intervals: 0 2, 0 3.

13 minor third (m3- three half-steps, one-and-a-half whole-steps)

Musical notation for the minor third interval. The top staff shows melodic intervals and harmonic intervals. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature. Melodic intervals: 3 0, 0 3. Harmonic intervals: 0 2, 0 1, 0 2.

19 Major third (M3- four half-steps, two whole-steps)

Musical notation for the major third interval. The top staff shows melodic intervals and harmonic intervals. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature. Melodic intervals: 3 2, 3 4, 3 2. Harmonic intervals: 0 2, 1 2, 1 2.

25 Perfect fourth (P4- five half-steps, two-and-a-half whole-steps)

Musical notation for the perfect fourth interval. The top staff shows melodic intervals and harmonic intervals. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature. Melodic intervals: 2 2, 0 1, 3 3. Harmonic intervals: 0 3, 2 3, 2 3.

31 Tritone, or Augmented 4th/diminished 5th (A4/d5- six half-steps, 3 whole-steps)

Musical notation for the tritone interval. The top staff shows melodic intervals and harmonic intervals. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature. Melodic intervals: 3 1, 2 3. Harmonic intervals: 2 0, 4 3, 3 2, 2 1.

2 37 Perfect 5th (P5- seven half-steps, 3-and-a-half whole-steps)

43 minor 6th (m6- eight half-steps, 4 whole-steps)

49 Major 6th (M6- nine half-steps, 4-and-a-half whole-steps)

55 minor 7th (m7- ten half-steps, five whole-steps)

61 Major 7th (M7- eleven half-steps, five-and-a-half whole-steps)

67 Perfect octave (P8- 12 half-steps, six whole-steps)

II. KEY SIGNATURES

Key signatures are a traditional part of **manuscript notation**. A key signature tells you which notes in a piece of music are to be played as **sharps** or **flats**.

The purpose of a key signature is to reduce the number of accidentals on the printed score. Key signatures indicate either a **major scale** key, or its **relative minor scale** key.

SHARP KEY signatures

C major/A minor
(no accidentals) G major/E minor D major/B minor A major/F# minor

[F#] [F#,C#] [F#,C#,G#]

5 E major/C# minor B major/G# minor F# major/D# minor C# major/A# minor

[F#,C#,G#,D#] [F#,C#,G#,D#,A#] [F#,C#,G#,D#,A#,E#] [F#,C#,G#,D#,A#,E#,B#]

(F# and C# are rarely-used key signatures)

FLAT KEY signatures

9 C major/A minor
(no accidentals) F major/D minor B♭ major/G minor E♭ major/C minor

[B♭] [B♭,E♭] [B♭,E♭,A♭]

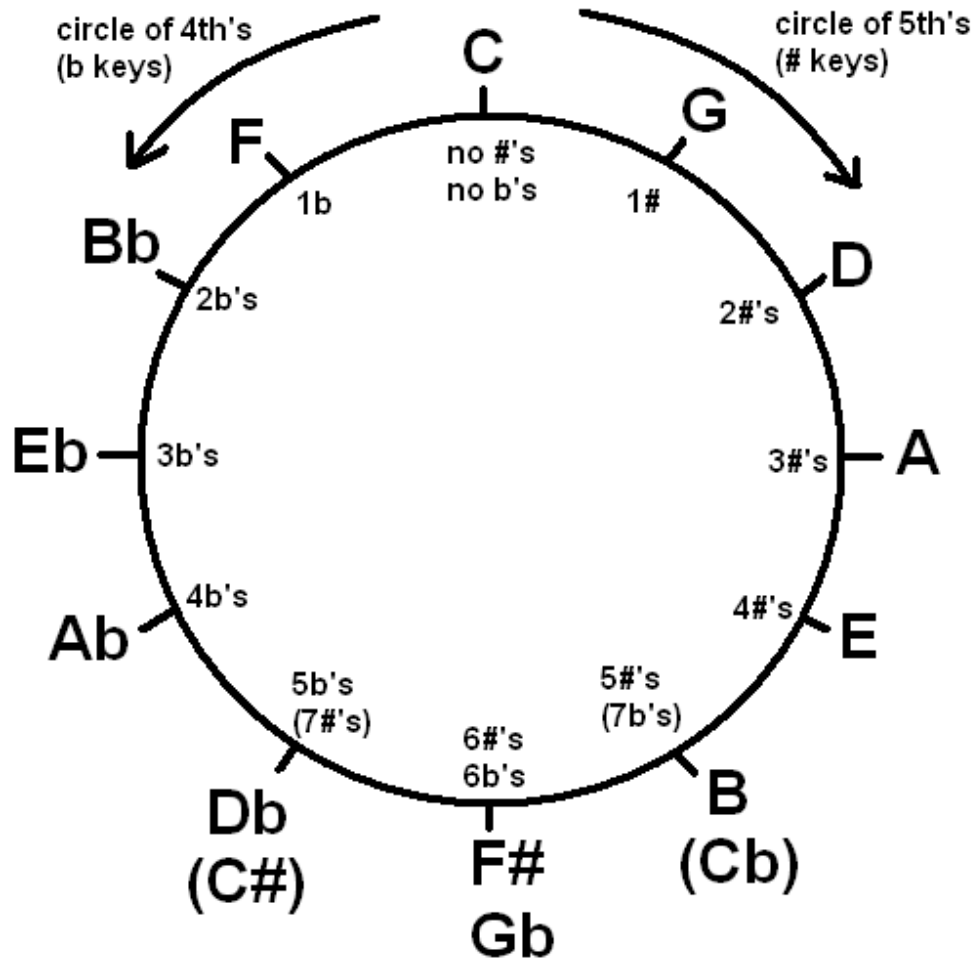
13 A♭ major/F minor D♭ major/B♭ minor G♭ major/E♭ minor C♭ major/A♭ minor

[B♭,E♭,A♭,D♭] [B♭,E♭,A♭,D♭,G♭] [B♭,E♭,A♭,D♭,G♭,C♭] [B♭,E♭,A♭,D♭,G♭,C♭,F♭]

(C♭ is a rarely-used key signature)

III. THE CIRCLE OF FIFTHS and FOURTHS

The **circle of fifths and fourths** shows the natural order of major keys in the European musical tradition. The keys going **clockwise** around the circle ascend through the musical alphabet by **5ths**. The keys going **counterclockwise** around the circle ascend through the musical alphabet by **4ths**.



The Musical Alphabet: [ABCDEFG]

IV. Common OPEN STRING SCALE fingerings

European music is built on **diatonic scales**. **Diatonic scales** are scales with **seven notes** (not including notes repeated above or below). Diatonic scales in simple **key signatures** can be played using open strings.

The following musical examples show a list of traditional open string scale fingerings:

C major scale

T
A
B

3 0 2 3 0 2 0 1 | 1 0 2 0 3 2 0 3

A natural minor scale

T
A
B

0 2 3 0 2 3 0 2 2 0 1 3 0 1 3 5 5 3 1 0 | 3 1 0 2 2 0 3 2 0 3 2 0

(KEY SIGNATURE indicates all F's to be played as F#)

G major scale

T
A
B

3 0 2 3 0 2 4 0 0 2 0 1 3 0 2 3 3 2 0 | 3 1 0 2 0 0 4 2 0 3 2 0 3

11 E natural minor scale

TAB: 0 2 3 | 0 2 3 0 2 | 2 4 0 2 0 1 3 0 | 0 3 1 0 2 0 4 2 | 2 0 3 2 0 3 2 0

15 D major scale B natural minor scale

TAB: 0 2 4 0 2 4 2 3 | 3 2 4 2 0 4 2 0 | 2 4 0 2 4 0 2 4 4 2 0 4 2 0 | 2 4 0 2 4 4 2 0 4 2 0 4 2

19 A major scale

TAB: 0 2 4 0 2 4 1 2 | 2 0 2 3 0 2 4 5 | 5 4 2 0 3 2 0 2 | 2 1 4 2 0 4 2 0

23 F# natural minor scale

TAB: 2 4 0 2 4 0 2 4 4 | 4 1 2 0 2 3 0 2 2 0 3 2 0 2 1 4 | 4 4 2 0 4 2 0 4 2

4

39 A harmonic minor scale

T
A
B

0 2 3 0 2 3 1 2 2 0 1 3 0 1 4 5 5 4 1 0 3 1 0 2 2 1 3 2 0 3 2 0

43 E harmonic minor scale

T
A
B

0 2 3 0 2 3 1 2 2 4 0 2 0 1 4 0 0 4 1 0 2 0 4 2 2 1 3 2 0 3 2 0

47 D harmonic minor scale

T
A
B

0 2 3 0 2 3 2 3 3 2 3 2 0 3 2 0

V. TRANSPOSABLE SCALE fingerings

Many scale fingerings (particularly in **flat-key signatures**) are impractical using open strings. **Transposable scale fingerings** are the most useful way to play scales: a scale can be played in any key by simply moving the fingering pattern around the neck.

The following musical examples show one way of fingering **major scales** and **relative natural minor scales** across two **octaves** (an **octave** is the interval at which a note name is repeated), following the **circle of 5ths**:

One-octave scale fingerings in two octaves

^ = DOWN (practise ascending and descending)

v = UP

C major scale

Musical notation for the C major scale in two octaves. The top staff shows the scale with fingering symbols (^ for down, v for up) below the notes. The bottom staff shows the guitar TAB with fret numbers for the Treble (T) and Bass (B) clefs.

FINGER: 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2

5 A natural minor scale

Musical notation for the A natural minor scale in two octaves. The top staff shows the scale with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a double bar line at the end. The bottom staff shows the guitar TAB with fret numbers for the Treble (T) and Bass (B) clefs.

(etc.)
1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1

9 G major scale

Musical notation for the G major scale in two octaves. The top staff shows the scale with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The bottom staff shows the guitar TAB with fret numbers for the Treble (T) and Bass (B) clefs.

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

13 E natural minor scale

Musical notation for the E natural minor scale in two octaves. The top staff shows the scale with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a double bar line at the end. The bottom staff shows the guitar TAB with fret numbers for the Treble (T) and Bass (B) clefs.

1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1

2

17 **D major scale**

FINGER: 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2

21 **B natural minor scale**

1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1

25 **A major scale**

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

29 **F# natural minor scale**

1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1 3 1 4 3 1

33 E major scale

TAB: T 9 11 12 12 11 9 12 10 9 11 9 9 8 6 9 7 6 9 7

FINGER: 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2

37 C# natural minor scale

TAB: T 7 9 10 7 9 9 7 10 9 7 9 8 6 6 4 7 6 4 7 6 4

FINGER: 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1

41 B major scale

TAB: T 4 5 7 4 6 7 7 6 4 7 5 4 6 4 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2

FINGER: 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 4 6 4 5 7 4 6 7 7 6 4 7 5 4 6 4 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2

45 G# natural minor scale

TAB: T 6 8 9 6 8 9 7 9 9 7 9 8 6 9 8 6 6 4 7 6 4 7 6 4

FINGER: 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1

49 **F major scale**

T
A
B

8 10 7 8 10 7 9 10 10 12 10 12 13 13 12 10 13 11 10 12 10 10 9 7 10 8 7 10 8

FINGER: 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2

53 **D natural minor scale**

T
A
B

5 7 8 5 7 8 5 7 7 9 10 8 10 11 8 10 10 8 11 10 8 10 9 7 7 5 8 7 5 8 7 5

1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1

57 **B \flat major scale**

T
A
B

6 8 5 6 8 5 7 8 8 10 7 8 10 8 10 11 11 10 8 10 8 7 10 8 8 7 5 8 6 5 8 6

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

61 **G natural minor scale**

T
A
B

3 5 6 3 5 6 3 5 5 7 8 5 7 8 6 8 8 6 8 7 5 8 7 5 5 3 6 5 3 6 5 3

1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1

65 **E \flat major scale**

T
A
B

6 8 5 6 8 8 10 8 9 11 11 10 8 11 9 8 10 8 8 7 5 8 6 5 8 6

FINGER: 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2

69 **C natural minor scale**

T
A
B

3 5 6 3 5 6 3 5 5 7 8 6 8 9 6 8 8 6 9 8 6 8 7 5 5 3 6 5 3 6 5 3

1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1

73 **A \flat major scale**

T
A
B

4 6 3 4 6 3 5 6 6 8 5 6 8 6 8 9 9 8 6 8 6 5 8 6 6 5 3 6 4 3 6 4

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

77 **F natural minor scale**

T
A
B

1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 3 5 6 3 5 6 4 6 6 4 6 5 3 6 5 3 6 5 3 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1

1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1

6

81 **Db major scale**

T
A
B

4 6 3 4 6 3 5 6 6 8 6 7 9 6 8 9 9 8 6 9 7 6 8 6 6 5 3 6 4 3 6 4

FINGER: 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2

85 **Bb natural minor scale**

T
A
B

1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 3 5 6 4 6 7 4 6 6 4 7 6 4 6 5 3 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1

1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 4 1 3 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1

89 **Gb major scale**

T
A
B

2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 4 6 3 4 6 4 6 7 7 6 4 6 4 3 6 4 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2

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

93 **Eb natural minor scale**

T
A
B

6 8 9 6 8 9 8 10 11 9 11 12 9 11 11 9 12 11 9 11 10 8 8 6 9 8 6 9 8 6

1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 4 1 3 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1 3 1 4 3 1 4 3 1

The next set of musical examples shows:

1. The **chromatic scale** on all 12 frets of each string;
2. Another way of playing **Major scales** and **relative natural minor scales** across two and 2.5 **octaves**, using:
 - a **3 notes-per-string (nps)** fingering pattern, and
 - transposing via the **chromatic scale**.
3. **Minor and Major pentatonic scales**. The **pentatonic scale** is a scale that contains five notes (whereas **diatonic scales** contain seven notes).

Chromatic Scale

(all 12 frets each string)

1

E F F# G G# A A# B B# C C# D D# E E#
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

T
A
B

2

A A# B B# C C# D D# E E# F F# G G# A# A#
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

T
A
B

3

D D# E E# F F# G G# A A# B B# C C# D# D#
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

T
A
B

2

4

G A B C D E F G A B C D E F G A

T A B

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

51

5

B C D E F G A B C D E F G A B C

T A B

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

6

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E F

T A B

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

2.5 and 2-octave scale fingerings (3 nps) (practise ascending AND descending)

E major **F major**

FINGER: 1 3 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 4 (position shift) 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 1

G^b major **G major**

FINGER: 3 4 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2

A^b major

FINGER: 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 4

A major **B^b major**

FINGER: 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2

B major

FINGER: 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4

2 23 C major D \flat major

TAB: 3 5 7 3 5 7 4 5 7 5 6 8 5 7 8 | 4 6 8 4 6 8 5 6 8 6 7 9 6 8 9

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

27 D major E \flat major

TAB: 5 7 9 5 7 9 6 7 9 7 8 10 7 9 10 | 6 8 10 6 8 10 7 8 10 8 9 11 8 10 11

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

31 E natural minor F natural minor

TAB: 0 2 3 0 2 3 0 2 4 0 2 4 1 3 5 2 3 5 7 | 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3

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

35 F \sharp natural minor

TAB: 5 1 3 5 2 4 6 3 4 6 8 | 2 4 5 2 4 5 2 4 6 2 4 6 3 5 7 4

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

39 G natural minor

TAB: 5 7 9 | 3 5 6 3 5 6 3 5 7 3 5 7 4 6 8 5 6 8 10

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

43 **G# natural minor** **A natural minor** 3

T
A
B

4 6 7 4 6 7 4 6 8 4 6 8 5 7 9 6 7 9 11 5 7 8 5 7 8 5 7

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

47 **Bb natural minor**

T
A
B

9 5 7 9 6 8 10 7 8 10 12 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 5 2 4 6 2 4 6

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

51 **B natural minor** **C natural minor**

T
A
B

2 4 5 2 4 5 2 4 6 3 5 7 3 5 7 3 5 6 3 5 6 3 5 7 4 6 8 4 6 8

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

55 **C# natural minor** **D natural minor**

T
A
B

4 6 7 4 6 7 4 6 8 5 7 9 5 7 9 5 7 8 5 7 8 5 7

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

58 **Eb natural minor**

T
A
B

9 6 8 10 6 8 10 6 8 9 6 8 9 6 8 10 7 9 11 7 9 11

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

Minor and Major pentatonic scales

(practise ascending AND descending)

E minor pentatonic

(use same finger as fret)

F minor pentatonic **F# minor pentatonic**

FINGER: 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 4 1 4

G minor pentatonic **G# minor pentatonic**

1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 4 1 4

A minor pentatonic **Bb minor pentatonic**

1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 4 1 4

B minor pentatonic **C minor pentatonic**

1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 4 1 4

2 11 C# minor pentatonic D minor pentatonic

TAB: 9 12 9 11 9 11 9 12 9 12 | 10 13 10 12 10 12 10 13 10 13

FINGERING: 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 4 1 4 | 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 4 1 4

13 Eb minor pentatonic E minor pentatonic

TAB: 11 14 11 13 11 13 11 14 11 14 | 12 15 12 14 12 14 12 15 12 15

FINGERING: 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 4 1 4 | 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 4 1 4

15 E Major pentatonic

TAB: 0 2 4 2 4 2 4 1 4 2 5 2 4 | 4 2 5 2 4 1 4 2 4 2 4 2 0

FINGERING: 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 4 1 4 1 3 | 3 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1

17 F Major pentatonic Gb Major pentatonic

TAB: 1 3 5 3 5 3 5 2 5 3 6 3 5 | 2 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 2 4 2 4

FINGERING: 1 3 3 1 3 1 3 1 4 1 4 1 3 | 2 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3

19 G Major pentatonic Ab Major pentatonic

TAB: 3 5 2 5 2 5 2 4 3 5 3 5 | 4 6 3 6 3 6 3 5 4 6 4 6

FINGERING: 2 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 | 2 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3

21 **A Major pentatonic** **B \flat Major pentatonic** 3

TAB
 A B 5 7 4 7 4 7 4 6 5 7 5 7 || 6 8 5 8 5 8 5 7 6 8 6 8
 2 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 2 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3

23 **B Major pentatonic** **C Major pentatonic**

TAB
 A B 7 9 6 9 6 9 6 8 7 9 7 9 || 8 10 7 10 7 10 7 9 8 10 8 10
 2 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 2 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3

25 **D \flat Major pentatonic** **D Major pentatonic**

TAB
 A B 9 11 8 11 8 11 8 10 9 11 9 11 || 10 12 9 12 9 12 9 11 10 12 10 12
 2 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 2 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3

27 **E \flat Major pentatonic** **E Major pentatonic**

TAB
 A B 11 13 10 13 10 13 10 12 11 13 11 13 || 12 14 11 14 11 14 11 13 12 14 12 14
 2 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 2 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3









VI. Common TRANSPOSABLE CHORD fingerings


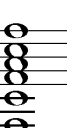

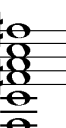
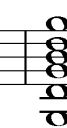
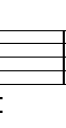

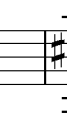
The following section shows a number of common **transposable chord fingerings**, in the following categories:

- **MAJOR chords**
- **MINOR chords**
- **DOMINANT 7th chords**
- **MAJOR 7th chords**
- **MINOR 7th chords**
- **SUSPENDED 2nd chords**
- **SUSPENDED 4th chords**









Many of these fingerings are **barre chords**, meaning that one or more fingers are used to fret more than one string at a time. Using the index finger to barre all six strings is called a **full barre**.


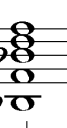

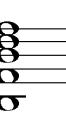
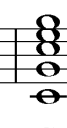
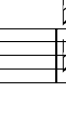


MAJOR chords

							
134211	134211	134211	134211 4fr	134211 5fr	134211 6fr	134211 7fr	134211 8fr









							
F	F#	G	A ^b	A	B ^b	B	C




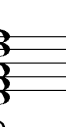


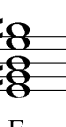

T	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

							
13331	13331	13331	13331 4fr	13331 5fr	13331 6fr	13331 7fr	13331 8fr

							
B ^b	B	C	D ^b	D	E ^b	E	F

T	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

							
43121	43121	43121 3fr	43121 4fr	43121 5fr	43121 6fr	43121 7fr	43121 8fr

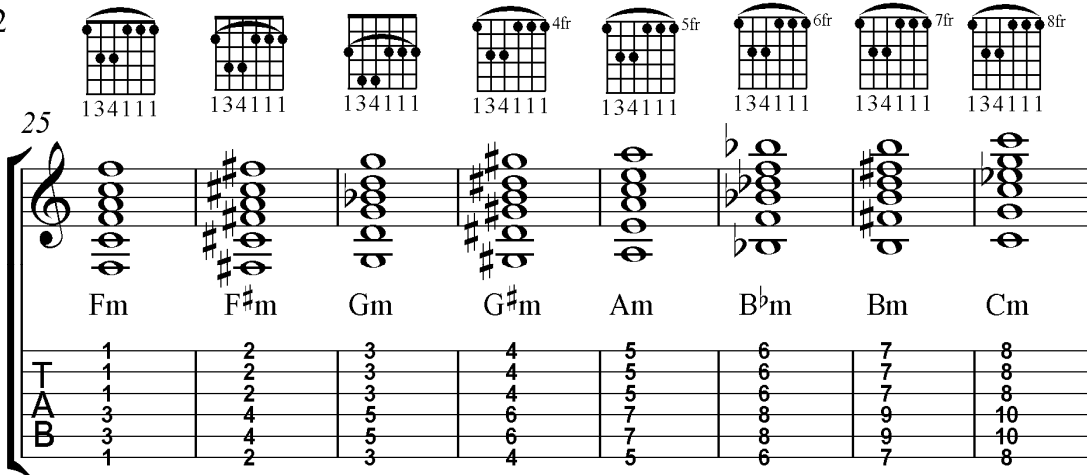
							
D ^b	D	E ^b	E	F	F#	G	A ^b

T	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

MINOR chords

2

25



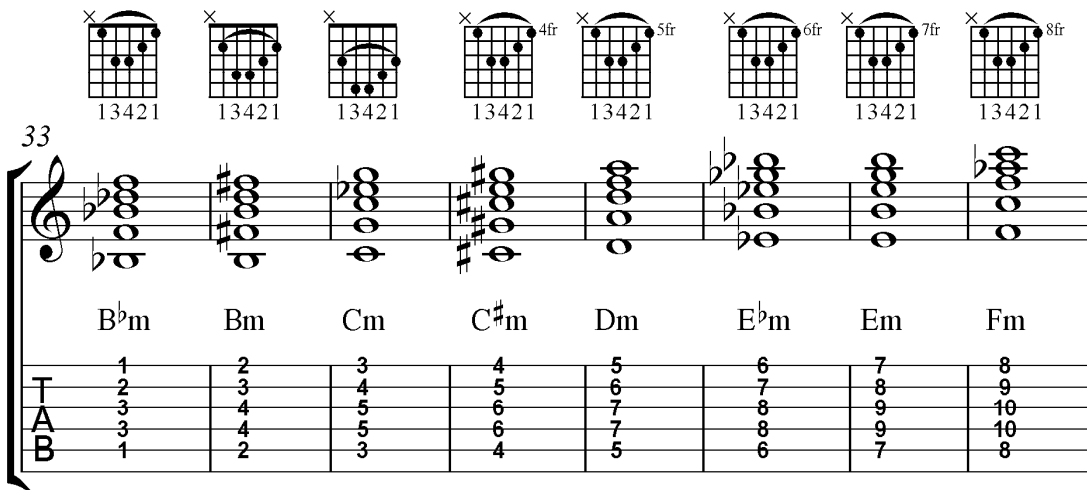
134111 134111 134111 134111 134111 134111 134111 134111

4fr 5fr 6fr 7fr 8fr

Fm F#m Gm G#m Am Bbm Bm Cm

T	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

33



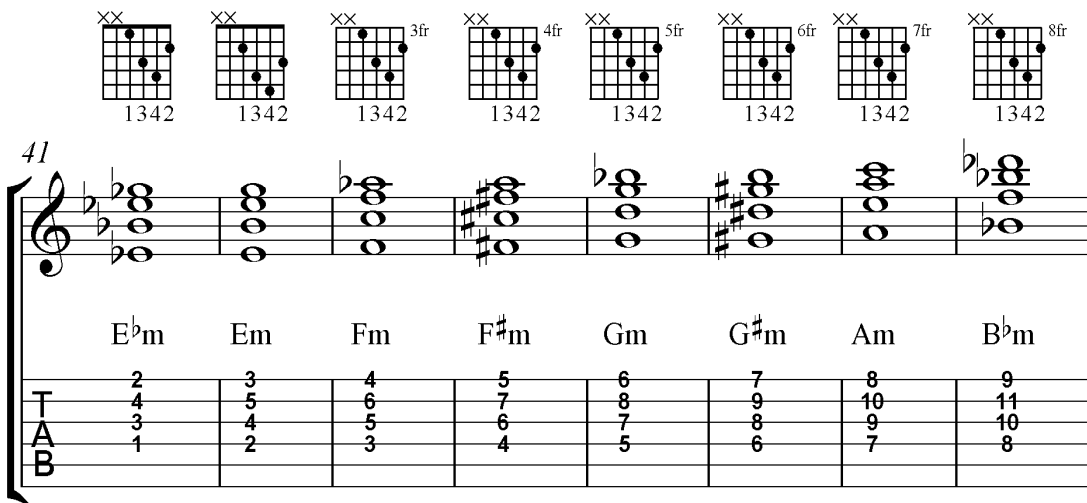
13421 13421 13421 13421 13421 13421 13421 13421

X 4fr 5fr 6fr 7fr 8fr

Bbm Bm Cm C#m Dm Ebm Em Fm

T	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

41



1342 1342 1342 1342 1342 1342 1342 1342

XX 3fr 4fr 5fr 6fr 7fr 8fr

Ebm Em Fm F#m Gm G#m Am Bbm

T	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

DOMINANT 7th chords

49

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
T	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

57

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
T	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

65

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
T	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

MAJOR 7th chords

4

73

1 3 4 2 1 3 4 2 1 3 4 2 1 3 4 2 4fr 1 3 4 2 5fr 1 3 4 2 6fr 1 3 4 2 7fr 1 3 4 2 8fr

Fma⁷ F[#]ma⁷ Gma⁷ G[#]ma⁷ Ama⁷ B^bma⁷ Bma⁷ Cma⁷

T	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
B	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

81

1 3 2 4 1 1 3 2 4 1 1 3 2 4 1 1 3 2 4 1 4fr 1 3 2 4 1 5fr 1 3 2 4 1 6fr 1 3 2 4 1 7fr 1 3 2 4 1 8fr

B^bma⁷ Bma⁷ Cma⁷ C[#]ma⁷ Dma⁷ E^bma⁷ Ema⁷ Fma⁷

T	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

89

4 3 1 1 1 4 3 1 1 1 4 3 1 1 1 3fr 4 3 1 1 1 4fr 4 3 1 1 1 5fr 4 3 1 1 1 6fr 4 3 1 1 1 7fr 4 3 1 1 1 8fr

C[#]ma⁷ Dma⁷ E^bma⁷ Ema⁷ Fma⁷ F[#]ma⁷ Gma⁷ G[#]ma⁷

T	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

97

4321 4321 4321 4321 4321 4321 4321 4321 5

F#ma⁷ Gma⁷ A^bma⁷ Ama⁷ B^bma⁷ Bma⁷ Cma⁷ C#ma⁷

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
T	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

105

1333 1333 1333 1333 1333 1333 1333 1333

E^bma⁷ Ema⁷ Fma⁷ F#ma⁷ Gma⁷ G#ma⁷ Ama⁷ B^bma⁷

	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
T	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

MINOR 7th chords

6

113 131111 131111 131111 131111 131111 131111 131111 131111

Fm⁷ F[♯]m⁷ Gm⁷ G[♯]m⁷ Am⁷ B[♭]m⁷ Bm⁷ Cm⁷

T	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

121 13121 13121 13121 13121 13121 13121 13121 13121

B[♭]m⁷ Bm⁷ Cm⁷ C[♯]m⁷ Dm⁷ E[♭]m⁷ Em⁷ Fm⁷

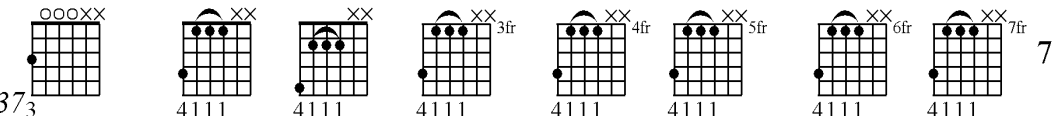
T	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

129 3141 3141 3141 3141 3141 3141 3141 3141

Cm⁷ C[♯]m⁷ Dm⁷ E[♭]m⁷ Em⁷ Fm⁷ F[♯]m⁷ Gm⁷

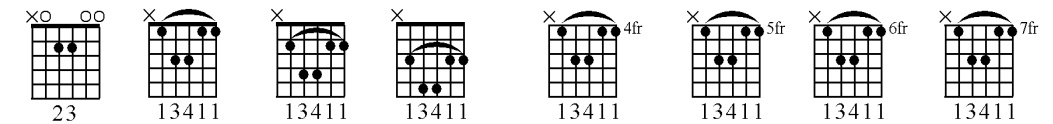
T	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

SUSPENDED 2nd chords

137 

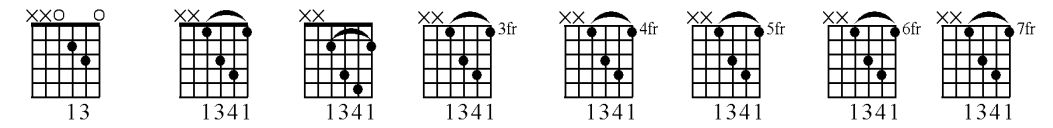
G^{5/2} *G*^{#5/2} *A*^{5/2} *B*^{b5/2} *B*^{5/2} *C*^{5/2} *C*^{#5/2} *D*^{5/2}

T								
A	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

145 

A^{5/2} *B*^{b5/2} *B*^{5/2} *C*^{5/2} *C*^{#5/2} *D*^{5/2} *E*^{b5/2} *E*^{5/2}

T	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
B	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

153 

D^{5/2} *E*^{b5/2} *E*^{5/2} *F*^{5/2} *F*^{#5/2} *G*^{5/2} *G*^{#5/2} *A*^{5/2}

T	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
B	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

SUSPENDED 4th chords

8

161

333 133311 133311 133311 133311 133311 133311 133311

Esus⁴ Fsus⁴ F[#]sus⁴ Gsus⁴ G[#]sus⁴ Asus⁴ B^bsus⁴ Bsus⁴

T	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
B	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
B	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

169

234 13341 13341 13341 13341 13341 13341 13341

Asus⁴ B^bsus⁴ Bsus⁴ Csus⁴ C[#]sus⁴ Dsus⁴ E^bsus⁴ Esus⁴

T	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
B	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

177

134 1344 1344 1344 1344 1344 1344 1344

Dsus⁴ E^bsus⁴ Esus⁴ Fsus⁴ F[#]sus⁴ Gsus⁴ G[#]sus⁴ Asus⁴

T	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
B	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

VII. Common CHORD PROGRESSIONS

Traditional **chord progressions** are derived from the **major scale**, **harmonized in diatonic thirds**. In other words, the major scale is harmonized with itself to create chords, as shown in the following example:

C Dm Em F G Am B° C
I ii iii IV V vi vii I

The **Roman numerals** below each chord show the following information about each chord:

1. the **scale degree** (i.e. the number of the note in relation to its ordering in the scale).
2. whether the chord is **Major** or **minor**:
 - a. an **upper-case** Roman numeral indicates a **major triad**;
 - b. a **lower-case** Roman numeral indicates a **minor triad** (in the case of the vii chord, the triad is **diminished**).

The most common chord progression in European music is the **[I-III-vi-IV-ii-V-I]**, which approximately follows the circle of fifths:

C Em Am F Dm G C
I iii vi IV ii V I

The last musical examples in this book show the following two chord progressions in every key, transposed chromatically:

- **[I-ii-iii-IV-V7-vi-vii-I]**
- **[I-III-vi-IV-ii-V-I]**

CHORD PROGRESSION #1: [I-ii-iii-IV-V7-vi-vii-I]

10

231 134111 134111 213 13141 13421 2314 13331

186

E F#m G#m A B7 C#m D#07 E

T	0	2	4	0	2	4	7	7
A	0	2	4	2	4	5	5	9
B	2	4	6	2	2	6	7	9
B	2	4	6	0	4	4	6	9
B	0	2	4	0	2	4	6	7

134211 134111 134111 13331 13141 13421 2314 13331

194

F Gm Am Bb C7 Dm E07 F

T	1	3	5	1	3	5	8	8
A	1	3	5	3	3	6	10	10
B	3	3	5	3	3	7	6	10
B	3	5	7	3	5	7	8	10
B	3	5	7	1	3	5	7	8
B	1	3	5	1	3	5	7	8

134211 134111 134111 13331 13141 13421 1324 43121

202

F# G#m A#m B C#7 D#m F07 F#

T	2	4	6	2	4	6	4	6
A	2	4	6	4	6	7	3	7
B	3	4	6	4	6	8	4	6
B	4	6	8	4	6	8	3	8
B	4	6	8	2	4	8	3	8
B	2	4	6	2	4	6	9	9

210

21 34 XO 231 X 13421 X O O 32 1 XXO 213 O O O O 23 O 2 1314 O O 21 34

G Am Bm C D⁷ Em F[#]0⁷ G

TAB

3	0	2	0	2	0	2	3
3	1	3	1	1	0	1	3
0	2	4	0	2	0	2	0
2	2	4	2	2	2	1	0
3	0	2	3	0	0	2	3

218

4fr 134211 6fr 134111 X 13421 X 4fr 13331 X 6fr 13141 X 8fr 13421 X 2 1314 X 4fr 134211

A^b B^bm Cm D^b E^b7 Fm G⁰7 A^b

TAB

4	6	3	4	6	8	3	4
4	6	4	6	8	9	2	4
5	6	5	6	6	10	3	4
6	8	5	6	8	10	2	5
6	8	3	4	8	8	3	6
4	6	3	4	6	8	3	4

226

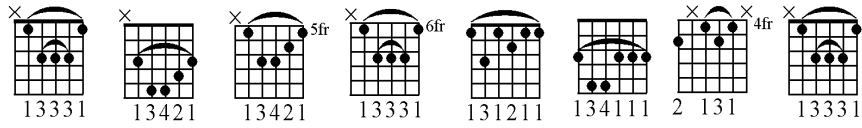
XO O 213 X 13421 X 4fr 13421 X 5fr 13331 O O O O 2 1 134111 X 3fr 2 1314 X 5fr 134211

A Bm C[#]m D E⁷ F[#]m G[#]0⁷ A

TAB

0	2	4	5	0	2	4	5
2	3	5	7	0	2	3	5
2	4	6	7	1	2	4	6
2	4	6	7	0	4	3	7
0	2	4	5	2	4	4	7
0	2	4	5	0	2	4	5

12

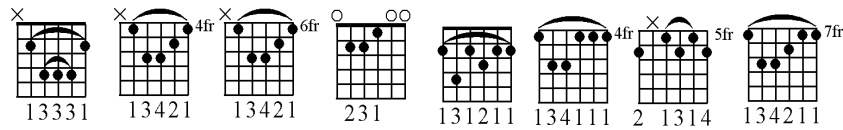


234

Musical notation for measures 12-19, including a treble clef staff with notes and a guitar tablature staff with fret numbers.

Chords: B^b, Cm, Dm, E^b, F⁷, Gm, A^{o7}, B^b

T	1	3	5	6	1	3	4	1
A	3	4	6	8	2	3	5	3
B	3	5	7	8	3	5	4	3
B	1	3	5	6	1	3	5	1

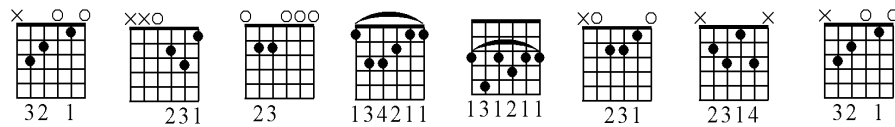


242

Musical notation for measures 20-27, including a treble clef staff with notes and a guitar tablature staff with fret numbers.

Chords: B, C^{#m}, D^{#m}, E, F^{#7}, G^{#m}, A^{#o7}, B

T	2	4	6	0	2	4	6	7
A	4	5	7	0	2	4	5	7
B	4	6	8	1	3	4	6	8
B	2	4	6	2	4	6	5	9
B	2	4	6	0	2	4	6	7



250

Musical notation for measures 28-35, including a treble clef staff with notes and a guitar tablature staff with fret numbers.

Chords: C, Dm, Em, F, G⁷, Am, B^{o7}, C

T	0	1	0	1	3	0	0
A	1	3	0	1	3	1	1
B	0	2	0	2	4	2	0
B	2	0	2	3	5	3	2
B	3	0	2	3	0	2	3

258

13331 13421 134111 134211 131211 13421 2314 13331

D^b E^bm Fm G^b A^b7 B^bm C^o7 D^b

T	4	6	1	2	4	1	4
A	6	7	1	2	4	2	6
B	6	8	1	3	5	3	6
B	4	8	3	4	4	4	6
B	4	6	3	4	6	3	4
B			1	2	4		

266

XXO 132 O OOO 23 134111 21 34 XO O O 2 3 X 13421 X 2314 X 3fr 13331

D Em F[#]m G A⁷ Bm C^{#o}7 D

T	2	0	2	3	0	2	5
A	3	0	2	3	2	3	7
B	0	2	4	0	4	5	7
B	2	2	4	2	4	5	7
B	0	0	2	3	2	4	5

274

X 3fr 43121 134111 134111 134211 13141 X 13421 X 2314 X 4fr 13331 X 6fr

E^b Fm Gm A^b B^b7 Cm D^o7 E^b

T	3	1	3	4	1	3	6
A	4	1	3	4	3	4	8
B	3	1	3	5	1	5	8
B	5	3	5	6	3	5	8
B	6	3	5	6	3	5	8
B		1	3	4			6

CHORD PROGRESSION #2: [I-iii-vi-IV-ii-V7-I]

14

282

T	0	4	4	0	2	2	0
A	0	4	5	2	2	4	0
B	1	4	6	2	2	2	1
A	2	6	6	2	4	4	2
B	2	6	4	0	4	2	2
B	0	4			2		0

289

T	1	5	5	3	3	3	1
A	1	5	6	3	3	3	1
B	2	5	7	3	3	3	2
A	3	7	7	3	5	5	3
B	3	7	5	1	5	3	3
B	4	5			3		1

296

T	2	6	6	2	4	4	2
A	2	6	7	4	4	4	2
B	3	6	8	4	4	4	3
A	4	8	8	4	6	6	4
B	4	8	6	2	6	4	4
B	2	6			4		2

303

21 34 X 13421 O 23 X 32 1 XO 231 XXO 213 OO 21 34

G Bm Em C Am D7 G

TAB

3	2	0	0	0	2	3
3	3	0	1	1	1	3
0	4	0	0	2	0	0
2	2	2	3	0	0	2
3	2	0				3

310

134211^{4fr} X 13421 134111 X 13331^{4fr} 134111^{6fr} X 13141^{6fr} 134211^{4fr}

A^b Cm Fm D^b B^bm E^b7 A^b

TAB

4	3	1	4	6	6	4
4	4	1	6	6	8	4
5	5	1	6	6	6	5
6	5	3	6	8	8	6
6	3	3	4	8	6	6
4		1		6		4

317

XO 213 X 13421^{4fr} 134111 XXO 132 X 13421^{4fr} O O OO 2 1 XO 213

A C[#]m F[#]m D Bm E7 A

TAB

0	4	2	2	2	0	0
2	5	2	3	3	0	2
2	6	2	2	4	1	2
2	6	4	0	4	0	2
0	4	4		2	2	0
		2			0	

16

324

T	1	5	3	6	3	1	1
A	3	6	3	8	4	1	3
B	3	7	3	8	5	2	3
B	1	5	5	6	5	1	3
B			3		3		1

331

T	2	6	4	0	4	2	2
A	4	7	4	0	5	2	4
B	4	8	4	1	6	3	4
B	4	8	6	2	6	2	4
B	2	6	6	2	4	4	2
B			4	0		2	

338

T	0	0	0	1	1	3	0
A	1	0	1	1	3	3	1
B	0	0	2	2	2	4	0
B	2	2	2	3	0	3	2
B	3	2	0	3		5	3
B		0		1		3	

345

13331 134111 13421 134211 13421 131211 13331

D^b F^m B^bm G^b E^bm A^b7 D^b

T	4	1	1	2	6	4	4
A	6	1	2	2	7	4	6
B	6	3	3	3	8	5	6
B	4	3	1	4	8	4	6
B		3		4	6	6	4
B		1		2		4	

352

132 134111 13421 21 34 23 2 3 132

D F[#]m B^m G E^m A⁷ D

T	2	2	2	3	0	0	2
A	3	2	3	3	0	2	3
B	0	2	4	0	0	2	0
B		4	4	0	2	2	0
B		4	2	2	0	0	0
B		2		3			

359

43121 134111 13421 134211 134111 13141 43121

E^b G^m C^m A^b F^m B^b7 E^b

T	3	3	3	4	1	1	3
A	4	3	4	4	1	3	4
B	3	3	5	5	1	1	3
B	5	5	5	6	3	3	5
B	6	5	3	6	3	1	6
B		3		4	1		

VIII. CONCLUSION

Once you have completed this book, you may consider yourself well-grounded in the basics of music theory and guitar technique. I encourage you to continue exploring music theory, continue expanding your guitar technique, and apply your newfound guitar skills to learning a broad repertoire of your favorite music.

I hope you enjoyed learning from this book as much as I enjoyed writing it. Best of luck with your future musical adventures!

-David M. Shere

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