



Guitar Primer Handbook

8 pages to start playing today!

What to Bring to Class



Your guitar!

We're not here to learn air guitar! Although, that will probably also improve...



A pick (if you're learning it)

Showing up without one might cost you!



A binder with lesson materials

The materials you get in class are how we track your progress and contain the information you need.



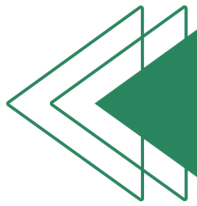
A question for the teacher

One of the best ways to deepen your learning experience is to think of a question for each class!



A yearnin' for learnin'

Get excited about the progress you are about to make and the new things you'll learn!

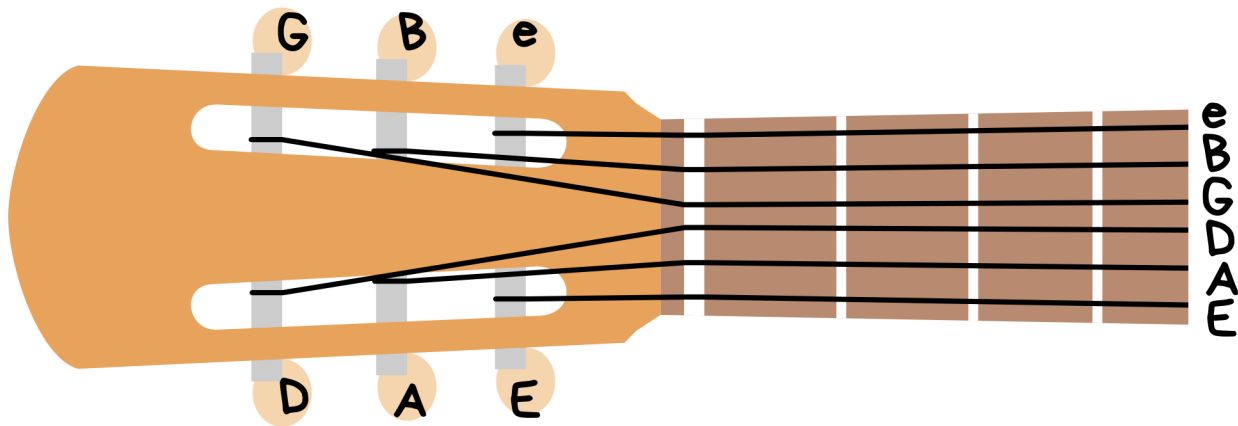


String Names



There are many acronyms used to learn the string names.

I personally just sounded them out together to form a gibberish word. Use whatever you are comfortable with!



Every **A**lligator **D**rinks **G**atorade **B**efore **E**xercising

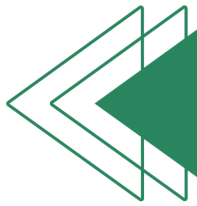
Elephants **A**nd **D**onkeys **G**ot **B**ig **E**ars

Eddie **A**te **D**ynamite, **G**ood **B**ye **E**ddie

Every **A**ging **D**ad **G**oes **B**ald **E**ventually

Enter **A**nother **D**ungeon. **G**old **B**ounty **E**verywhere

Enter **A**ldi's **D**oing **G**oofy **B**ody **E**xpressions



Holding the Pick



Holding the pick may feel awkward at first, but just like learning to write with a pen, you get used to it quickly with practice.



Thumbs up, like your ready to rock!



Pick pointing back at the star! (that's you)



Tiny pick sandwich. Only a little lettuce peaking.

Below are some bad pick habits. Only use your index and thumb and make sure the contents of your tiny pick sandwich don't start sliding out.

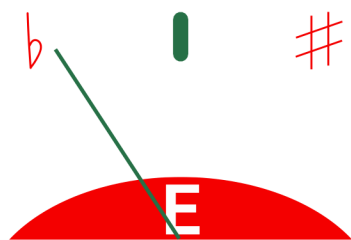


Tuning



There are many ways to tune. You can tune to other musicians, tune the guitar to itself, or tune with a device like a clip-on tuner. To start we will tune to a device. Here's how to make sense of it:

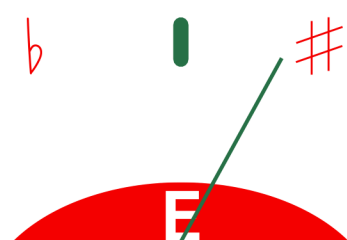
First, make sure you are ready to turn the correct tuning peg on the guitar for the string you are checking! Pluck the string and let it ring out. Don't let any other strings ring out besides the string you are checking. While you can hear it, turn the tuning peg to raise or lower the pitch, as needed.



If the needle on the device is to the left, the string pitch is flat, meaning the note is lower than it should be. You'll need to raise the pitch.



If the needle is straight up and down, most tuners will give you a visual or audible cue that the string is at the correct pitch!



If the needle on the device is to the right, the string pitch is sharp, meaning the note is higher than it should be. You'll need to lower the pitch.

Careful!

- If you aren't paying attention, turning a peg too far can snap a string! Ouch!
- Make sure the note on the metronome is the same as the string you are checking (with no '#' or 'b' next to the letter).
- Depending on the construction of the tuning peg, the direction for raising a string pitch or lowering it may change. Be sure you can hear the string you are affecting to be positive it's moving in the right direction!



Reading TAB

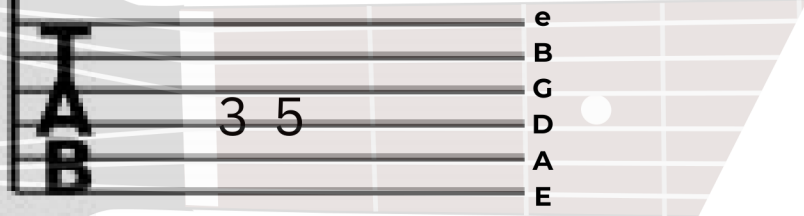


A TAB, to those who aren't familiar, can be pretty intimidating at first glance. However, it quickly becomes clear once you understand how to read it. Actually, it's much easier to understand than sheet music. The downside is TAB's very weak ability to dictate rhythm. Without prior understanding of the song, rhythm on TAB is guess work. For this reason, I like to include a traditional staff in tandem, as shown below:

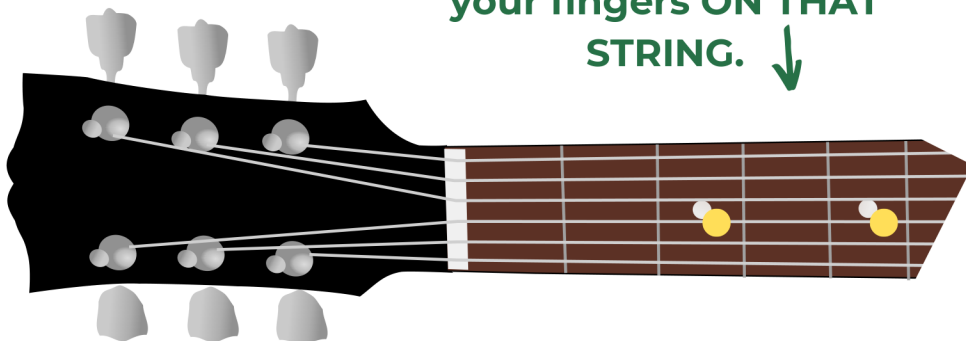
2 things to remember for now:



The lines are direct representations of the 6 strings of your guitar.



↑
The numbers on the lines indicate where to fret with your fingers ON THAT STRING.
↓





Chromatic Warm-up



This exercise can be easily modified to suit any skill level. Your teacher will help you adjust it to suit your needs. It is the foundation of your warm-up exercises for many months to come. Learn it well!

Leave fingers down while ascending...

T
A
B

4 Shift hand to second position, here. No need to leave fingers down but keep them close.

T
A
B

7

T
A
B

10 Continue pattern between target frets.

T
A
B



First Song



First Steps

Richard Green

8

T
A
B

7

T
A
B

13

T
A
B

20

T
A
B

Congrats!



You've just been through everything needed to get you playing in no time! Your teacher will help you from here to learn songs that you are interested in and progress you to the next level. Spending at least a month on the material in this packet wouldn't hurt to ensure you have mastery over the absolute basics, guaranteeing the next thing you learn will be even easier and faster to get the hang of. If something is giving you a hard time, don't panic! Remember, there is always a way to modify and approach a problem so you can keep forward momentum and a sense of accomplishment!

Go forth and ROCK!

