



Cigar Box Guitars

So, you've bought yourself a Cigar Box Guitar (CBG) – Congratulations!

Tuning

Your guitar is strung with strings that can be tuned to the most common tuning: G – D – G. That means you will tune the top string (the one closest to you) to a low G. The middle string is tuned to middle D and the string that is farthest from you to middle G.

You can find an online tuning resource at <https://www.cigarboxguitar.com/knowledge-base/open-g-gdg-tuning-on-your-cigar-box-guitar-4-methods-with-string-sizes>. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and there are audio clips for the Low G, Middle D, Middle G tuning.

Playing

Once you have tuned your guitar, you need to find a song to play. A sample song is included below. You can play the chords which are indicated by the Letters above the music or you can play individual notes.

It helps to be familiar with the song you are trying to learn so you may want to go the Internet and play several videos of that song before you try playing it on the guitar.

The following song has 3 chords – C, G, and D. When tuned in GDG, these chords are made in the following manner:

C	G	D																																																						
G D G	G D G	G D G																																																						
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td style="text-align: center;">●</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td style="text-align: center;">●</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </table>								●							●				<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td style="text-align: center;">●</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </table>												●							<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">●</td><td> </td><td style="text-align: center;">●</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </table>							●		●									
	●																																																							
		●																																																						
		●																																																						
●		●																																																						

Try playing these chords while singing this song. (Note: All open strings will also make a G Chord.)

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

G	C	G	C	G	D	G	
Twinkle, Twinkle, little Star,			How I wonder what you are.				
G	C	G	D	G	C	G	D
Up above the world so high,				Like a diamond in the sky.			
G	C	G	C	G	D	G	
Twinkle, Twinkle, little Star,			How I wonder what you are.				



Twister Strums

How did you do? Practice is a key component of mastering any musical instrument. Playing for 10 to 15 minutes at a time will have you mastering your songs easily.

If you google Cigar Box Guitars, you will find several resources to help you get started on playing this wonderful instrument.

A couple of good resources are: <https://cigarboxnation.com>

<https://www.shanespeal.com>

<https://www.cigarboxguitar.com/>

Caring for Your Instrument

With care, your CBG can be played for years to come. Periodically wipe your instrument with a clean, dry cloth to help remove oil that can be deposited by your hands. This includes the strings. Paste wax can be applied to the wooded parts if desired. Be sure to guard your instrument against exposure to excessive heat or moisture. This means, don't leave it in the car or outside. Even old-time instruments that were played on the front porch, were brought inside and stood in a protected corner when the playing was done.