

Natural Harmonics



On stringed instruments, such as the guitar, people can play single notes, chords, and do other fancy things by manipulating the strings with pressing and depressing motions in different parts of the string or by using foreign objects. Natural Harmonics are a way of manipulating the string into playing higher notes that are not reachable on the physical fret board. There are basically 4 types of harmonics on guitar and they are: Natural Harmonics, Artificial Harmonics, Pinch Harmonics and Tap Harmonics.

In this lesson we will introduce the most common places where a player can find natural harmonics. The most common places to find natural harmonics on the fret board are right above the 5th, 7th, and 12th frets. To achieve the harmonics, one must place the finger gently (Preferably the 3rd finger on the fretting hand), using the finger pad or fingerprint, right above the actual 5th, 7th or 12th fret on any of the strings. Once the finger is placed on the desired fret, the right hand will strike the string normally over the sound hole or pickups, with significant attack while simultaneously lifting the left finger off the string. This motion will produce a very chime-like sound from each of the strings.

To view examples go to <https://www.youtube.com/TruthGuitarMethod> and look for the video called "Natural Harmonics"

12th Fret Natural Harmonics

Musical notation for 12th fret natural harmonics. The top staff shows a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a sequence of notes: G4 (open), A4 (open), B4 (open), C5 (open), D5 (open), E5 (open). The bottom staff shows a guitar TAB with six strings. The notes are indicated by the number 12 on the strings: 12 on the 1st string, 12 on the 2nd string, 12 on the 3rd string, 12 on the 4th string, 12 on the 5th string, and 12 on the 6th string.

7th Fret Natural Harmonics

Musical notation for 7th fret natural harmonics. The top staff shows a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a sequence of notes: G4 (open), A4 (open), B4 (open), C5 (open), D5 (open), E5 (open). The bottom staff shows a guitar TAB with six strings. The notes are indicated by the number 7 on the strings: 7 on the 1st string, 7 on the 2nd string, 7 on the 3rd string, 7 on the 4th string, 7 on the 5th string, and 7 on the 6th string.

5th Fret Natural Harmonics

Musical notation for 5th fret natural harmonics. The top staff shows a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a sequence of notes: G4 (open), A4 (open), B4 (open), C5 (open), D5 (open), E5 (open). The bottom staff shows a guitar TAB with six strings. The notes are indicated by the number 5 on the strings: 5 on the 1st string, 5 on the 2nd string, 5 on the 3rd string, 5 on the 4th string, 5 on the 5th string, and 5 on the 6th string.