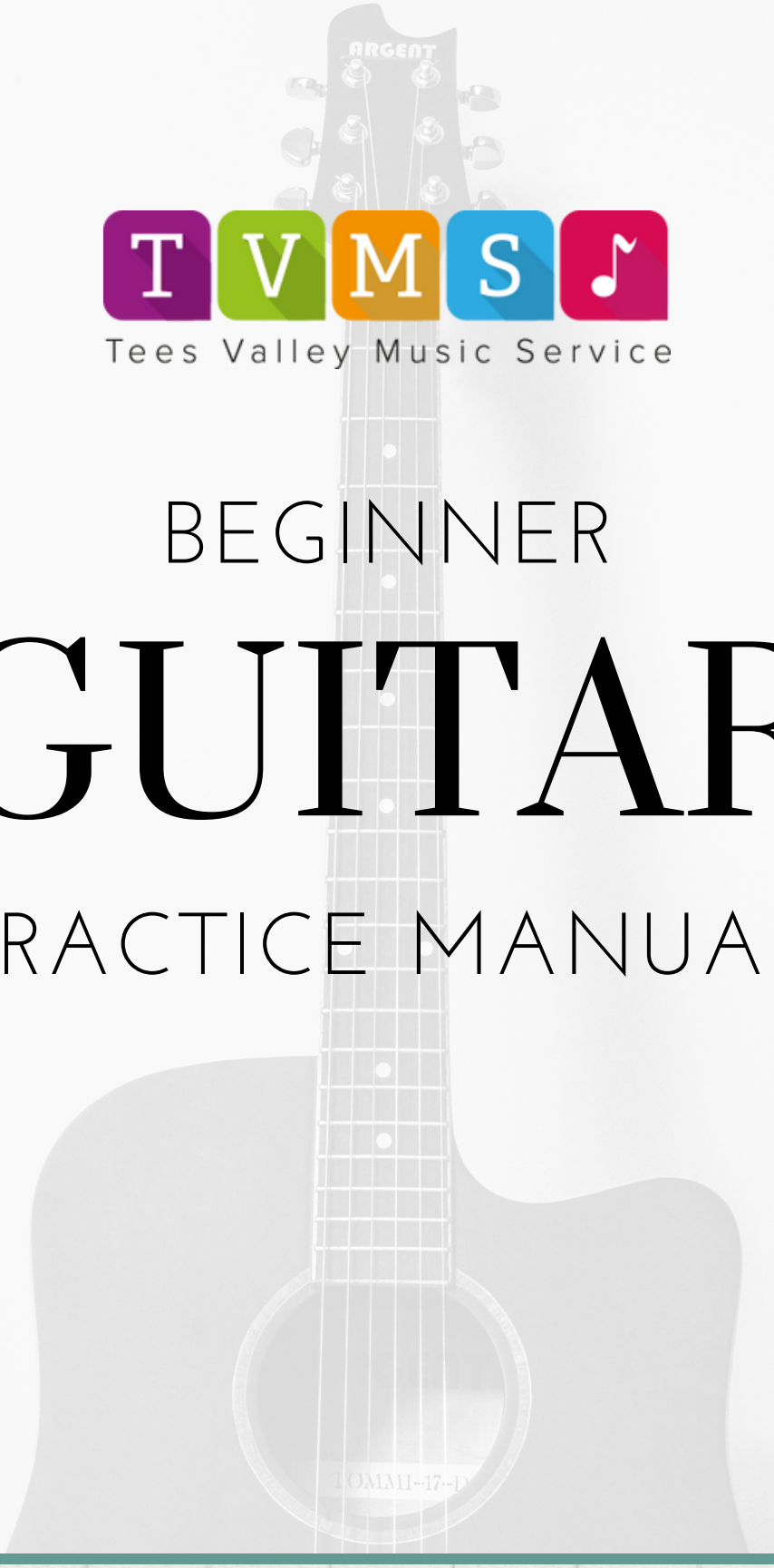
Tees Valley Music Service

BEGINNER GUITAR PRACTICE MANUAL

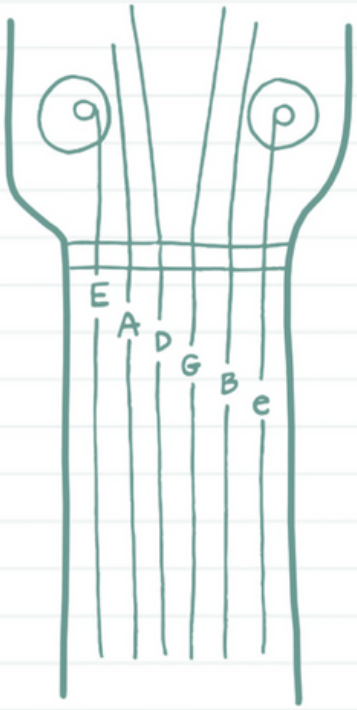


NAMES OF THE STRINGS

There is a low E string and a high E string.
The low E string is also called the 6th string,
the A is also called the 5th string,
the D is the 4th string,
G is the 3rd string,
B is the 2nd string,
and the high E is the 1st string.

To remember the names of the six open strings just remember this statement **“Eddie Ate Dynamite, Good Bye Eddie”** – **EADGBE**.

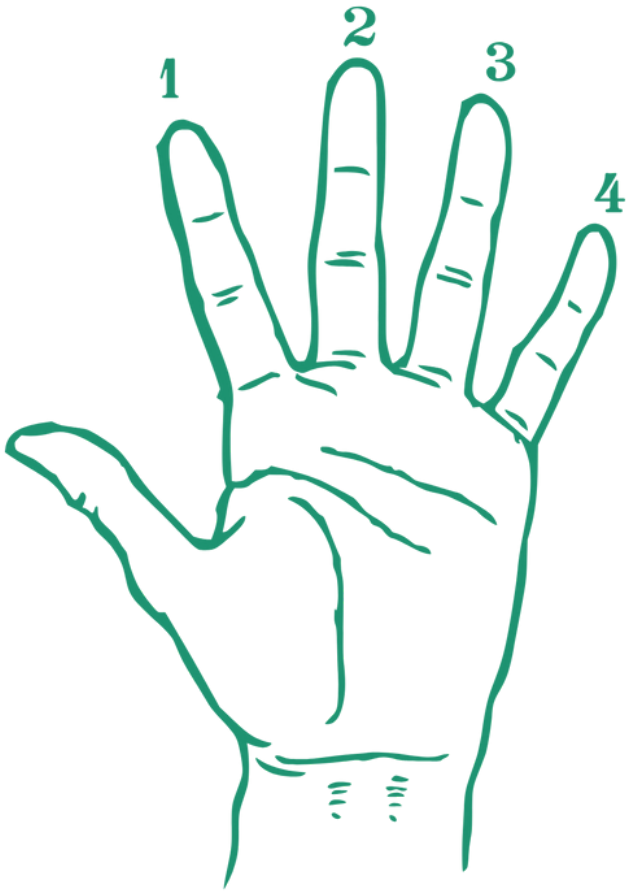
Eddie
Ate
Dynamite
Good
Bye
Eddie



NAMES OF THE FINGERS

The pointer finger is “1”,
the middle finger is “2”,
the ring finger is “3”,
and the pinky is “4”.

The thumb is often referred to as “T” but isn't used by beginners - keep this comfortably placed on the back of the guitar's neck.

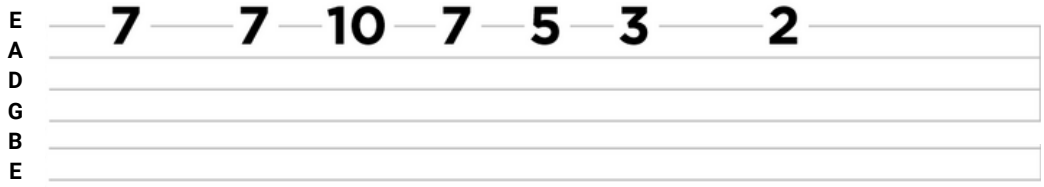


FIRST THREE RIFFS

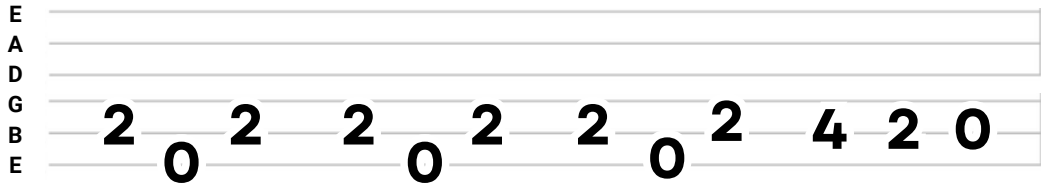
A "riff" is a short repeated phrase in popular music and jazz, typically used as an introduction or refrain in a song. Use one finger on the frets numbered below to play these famous riffs.

SMOKE ON THE WATER

SEVEN NATION ARMY

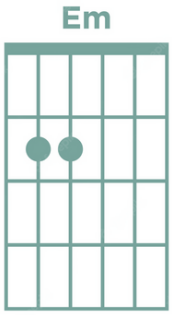


SHAPE OF YOU

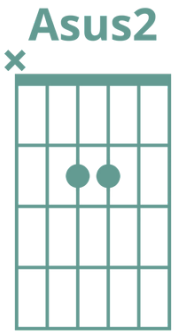


FIRST THREE CHORDS
E minor - Asus2 - Am9

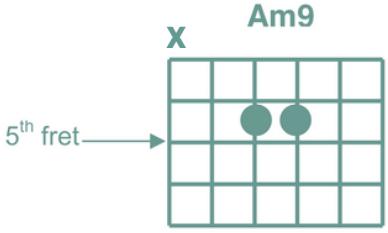
Place your fingers on the chord, strum it, and then lift all your fingers off the fret board slightly, but keeping them in the same cluster shape of the chord hovering slightly over the frets. Practice off and on, off and on. This gets you used to coming off chords and getting back on them quickly and accurately.. Don't worry too much at this stage about what "sus2" or "minor 9" mean.



On the 2nd fret of the A string place your first finger and on the 2nd fret of the D string place your second finger. Play all of the strings.

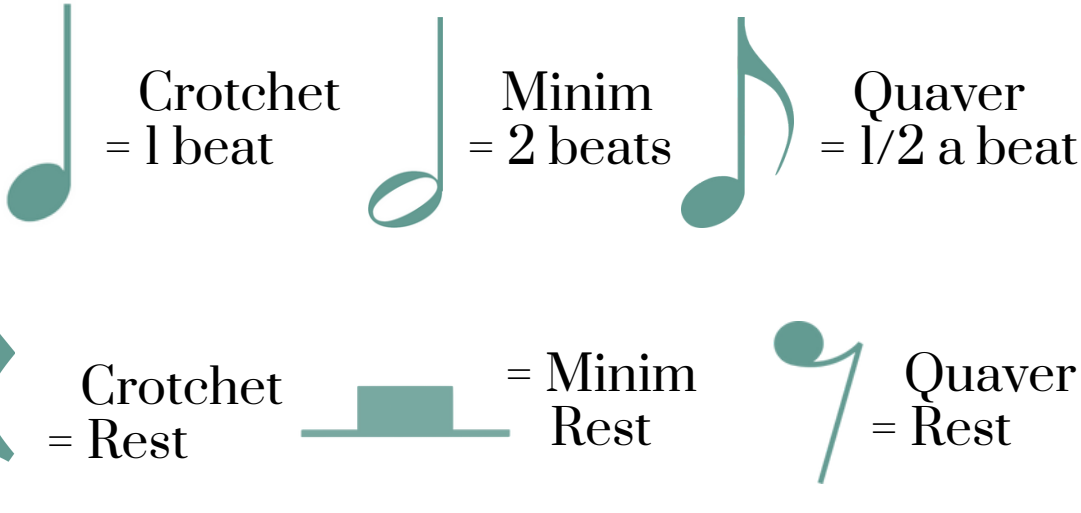


Basically just drop the fingers down one string each and you have the Asus2 chord. So your first finger on the second fret of the D string, and then with your second finger the 2nd fret of the G string. Play the bottom 5 strings. **You will not be playing the Low E string.**

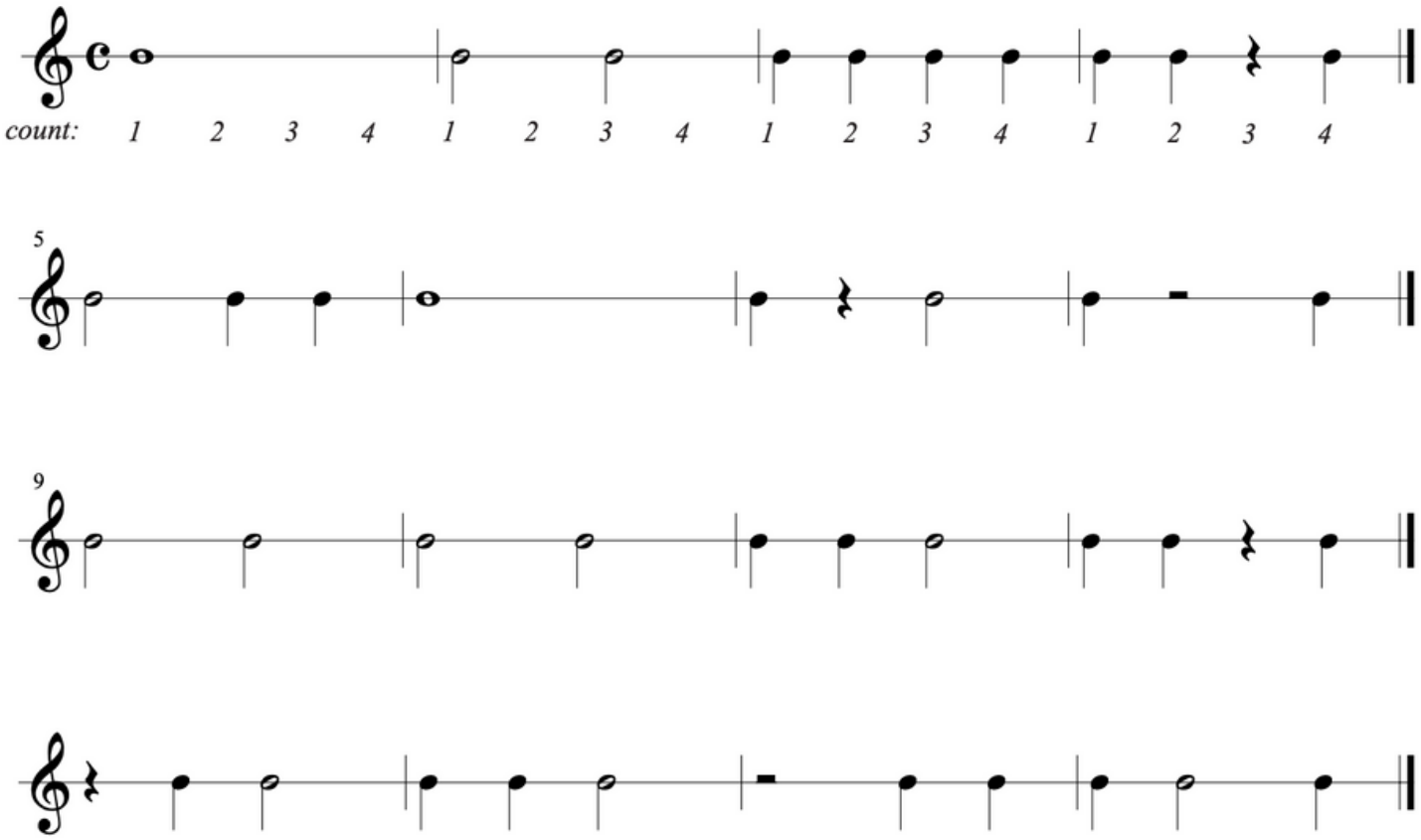


You use the same fingering or chord voicing to play Am9 as you did for Asus2. Just slide the Asus2 chord shape down 3 frets to the **fifth fret**. Play the bottom 5 strings. **You will not be playing the Low E string.**

FIRST THREE BEATS



For this rhythm exercise, pluck an open string and let it sustain for the duration of the note value while you count “one, two, three, four” out loud.



STRUM PATTERNS

First try strumming crotchets with four down strums which we write like this: **d/d/d/d**. Play an Em chord and strum with four down strums. Then try changing to the Asus2 chord for four down strums. Then back to the Em chord. Then to the Am9.

d / d / d / d

ONE TWO THREE FOUR

Now we will add "up strums" to the mix and play straight quavers. Quavers are two notes per beat and the count is:

d / u / d / u / d / u / d / u

ONE & TWO & THREE & FOUR &

Below is a more musical sounding strum pattern to get you started. Remember to break strum patterns down into smaller sections when first working on them. It will take a while to get the groove of a pattern, but stick with it and soon you will get it.

down / down / up / up / down / up (d/d/u/u/d/u)

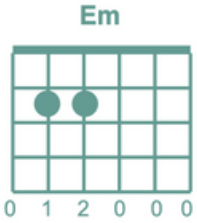
Let's break it down to make it easier to get it rolling – first play the red sections on their own, then at the end put it all together.

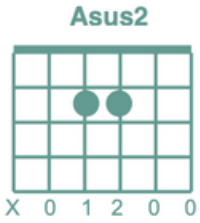
down / down / up / up / down / up
down / down / up / up / down / up
down / down / up / up / down / up
down / down / up / up / down / up
down / down / up / up / down / up

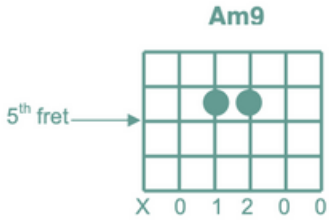
Once you've got it - try to repeat the pattern over and over again.

MORE CHORDS

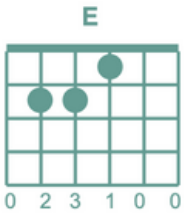
These were the first three chords that you learned in the previous lessons:

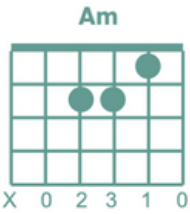




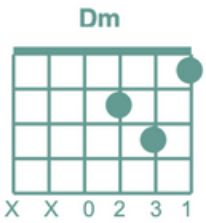


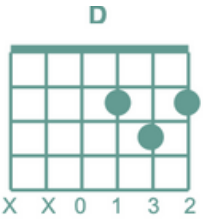
The next two chords for you to learn will be Emajor and Aminor. Look at the chord charts below and notice that both chords share the exact same voicing. Just drop the Emajor down one string each and you have Aminor.



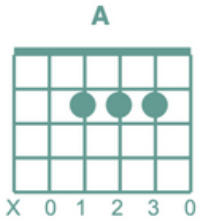


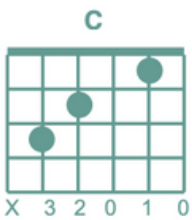
These are two four note chords so try to avoid hitting the low E and A strings when playing these chords





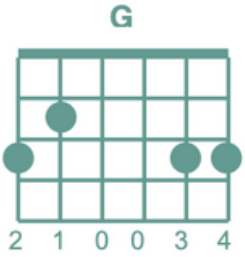
The next two chords will be a little trickier. The A crams three fingers onto one fret. The C requires quite a stretch!

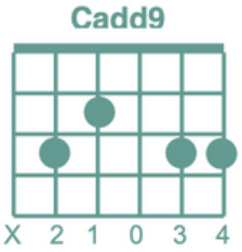




CHORDS CONTINUED

The next two chords will require utilising all four fingers on your fret hand.





Practice:

Chord changing can be one of the most challenging aspects of beginner guitar. At first it seems almost impossible to go from one chord to another in time while strumming. I assure you we all go through these challenges when learning guitar and it just takes practice and patience.

As taught in previous lessons, a good practice device is to fret a chord and practice lifting your fingers off the fretboard slightly while keeping the fret fingers in the same chord shape. Then place your fingers back on the fretboard in the same chord position. Pick all the notes of the chord individually and then strum the chord, this will ensure that all notes ring clean and your fingers have not shifted.

SONG: **NEXT TO ME**

EMELI SANDÉ

Am C
You won't find him drinking at the table
Am C
Rollin' dice and staying out 'til three
Am C
You won't ever find him being unfaithful
Am C
You will find him, you'll find him next to me

Am C
You won't find him tryna chase the Devil
Am C
For money, fame, for power, out of grief
Am C
You won't ever find him where the rest go
Am C
You will find him, you'll find him next to me

CHORUS

Am C
Next to me Ooh, ooh, ooh
Am C
Next to me Ooh, ooh
Am C
Next to me Ooh, ooh, ooh
Am C
You will find him, you'll find him next to me

CHORUS

CTD.... **NEXT TO ME**

Am C
When the money's spent and all my friends have vanished
Am C
And I can't seem to find no help or love for free
Am C
I know there's no need for me to panic
Am C
'Cause I'll find him, I'll find him next to me
Am C
When the skies are grey and all the doors are closing
Am C
And the rising pressure makes it hard to breathe
Am C
When all I need is a hand to stop the tears from falling
Am C
I will find him, will find him next to me

CHORUS

Am C
When the end has come and buildings falling down fast
Am C
When we spoilt the land and dried up all the sea
Am C
When everyone has lost their heads around us
Am C
You will find him, you'll find him next to me

SONG: **ALL I WANT IS YOU**

U2

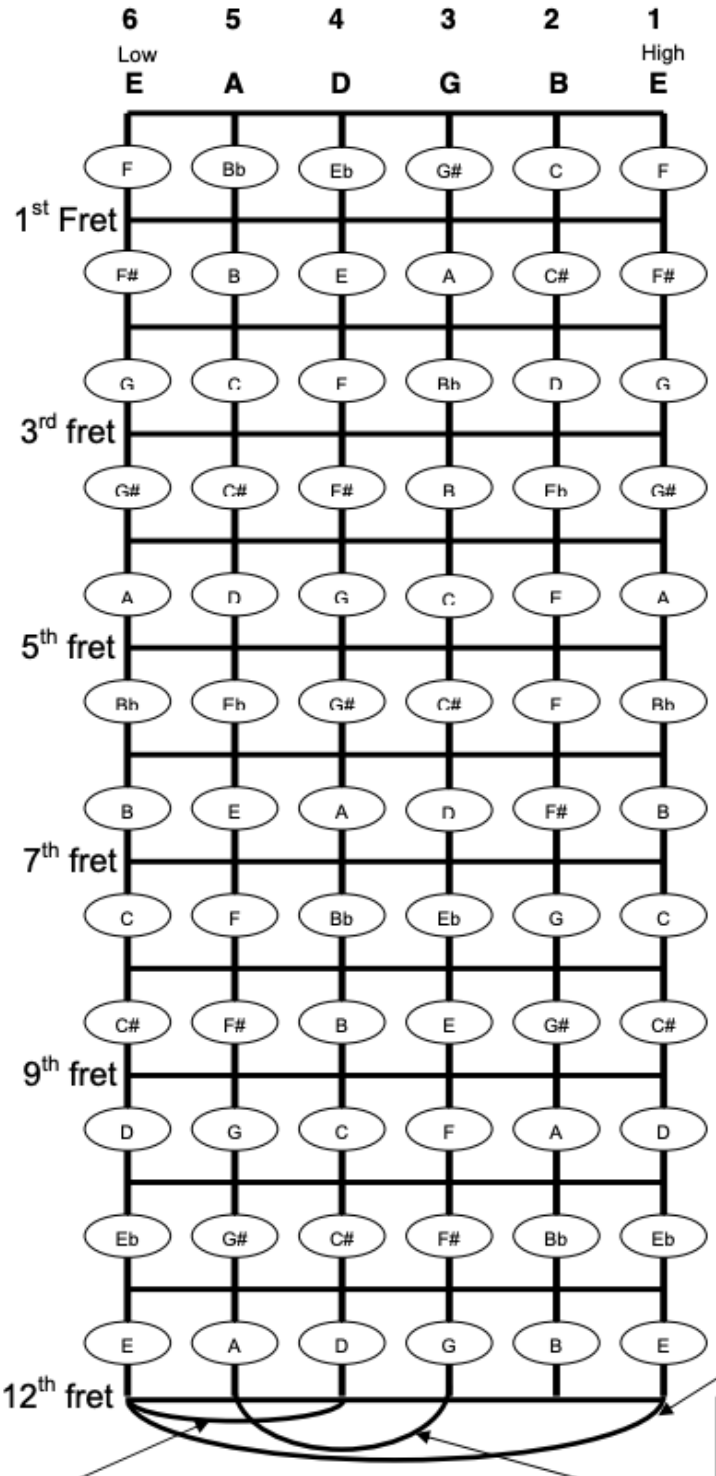
G C G C
You say you want Diamonds on a ring of gold
G C G C
You say you want Your story to remain untold

CHORUS
Em C
But all the promises we make
Em C
From the cradle to the grave
G C G C
When all I want is you
CHORUS

G C G C
You say you'll give me A highway with no one on it
G C G C
Treasure just to look upon it All the riches in the night
G C C
You say you'll give me Eyes in a moon of blindness
G C G C
A river in a time of dryness A harbour in the tempest

CHORUS

NOTES ON THE FRETBOARD



Edie Ate Dynamite Good Bye Edie

# = SHARP
b = FLAT

E and D strings are related – from any note on the E string go 2 strings down and 2 frets over, you have the same note an octave higher on the D string.

Low E and High E strings have same note names on each fret – just two octaves apart.

A and G strings are related – from any note on the A string go 2 strings down and 2 frets over, you have the same note an octave higher on the G string.

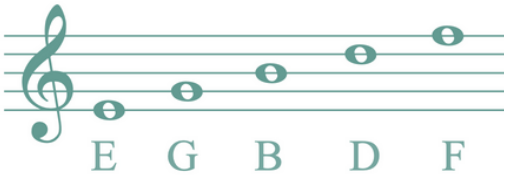
The twelve-note scale consists of:

A, Bb, B, C, C#, D, Eb, E, F, F#, G, G#

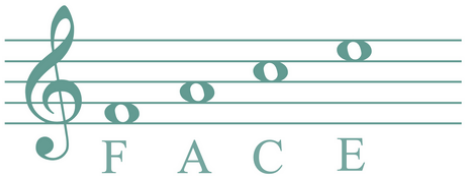
NOTES ON THE PAGE

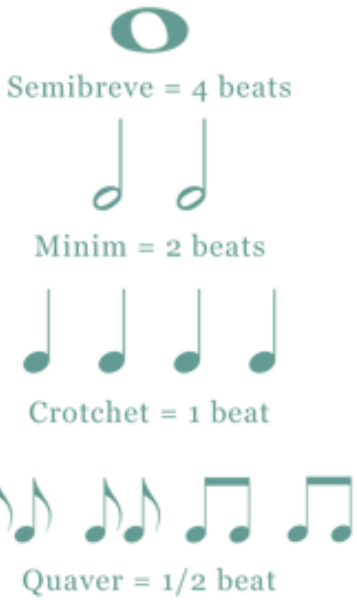
Notes convey pitch and rhythm. Notes are held on a staff. A note towards the top of the staff is higher in pitch than one towards the bottom of the staff.

The notes on the lines can be remembered by acronyms:
Every **G**ood **B**oy **D**oes **F**ine or
Empty **G**arbage **B**efore **D**ad **F**lips



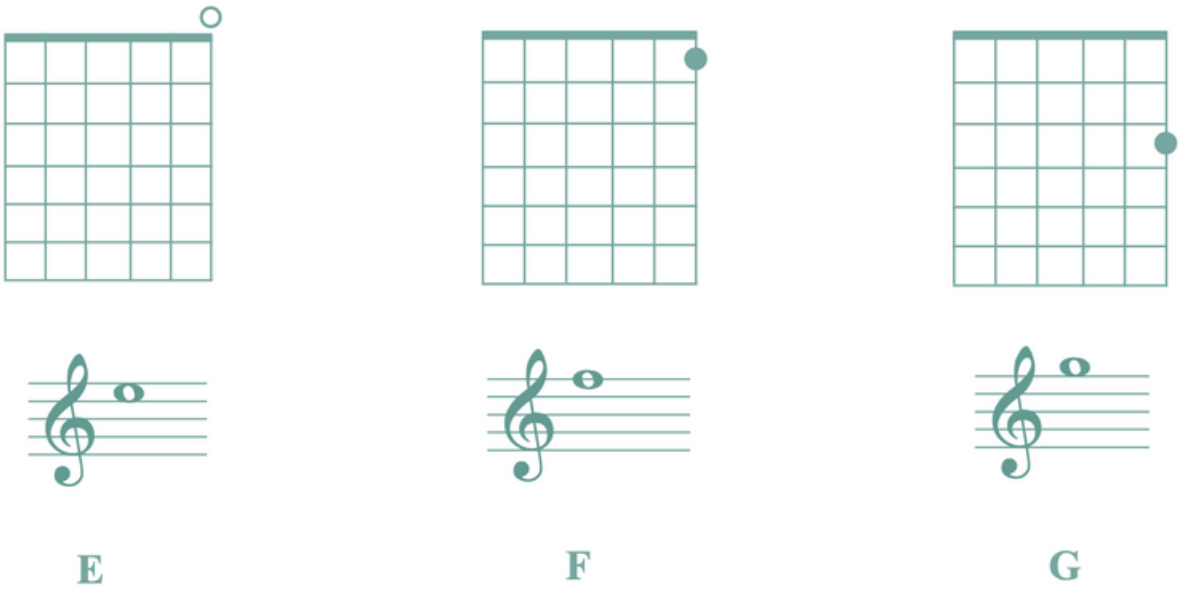
The notes on the spaces can be remembered by what they spell:
F,A,C,E



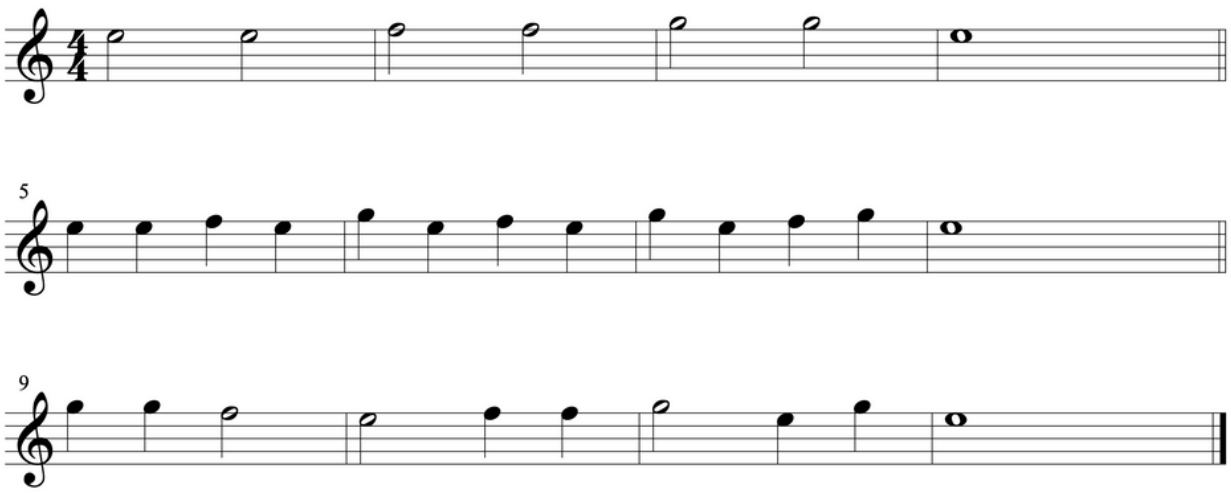


NOTES ON FIRST STRING

The open first string sounds the note E, shown here in a fretboard diagram and as notation. The first finger on the first fret is F, the third finger on the third fret is G.

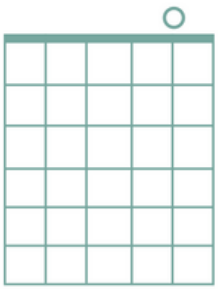


1ST STRING EXERCISE

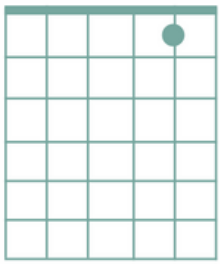


NOTES ON SECOND STRING

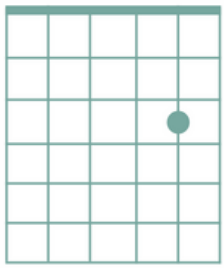
The open second string sounds the note B, the first finger on the first fret is C, the third finger on the third fret is D.



B

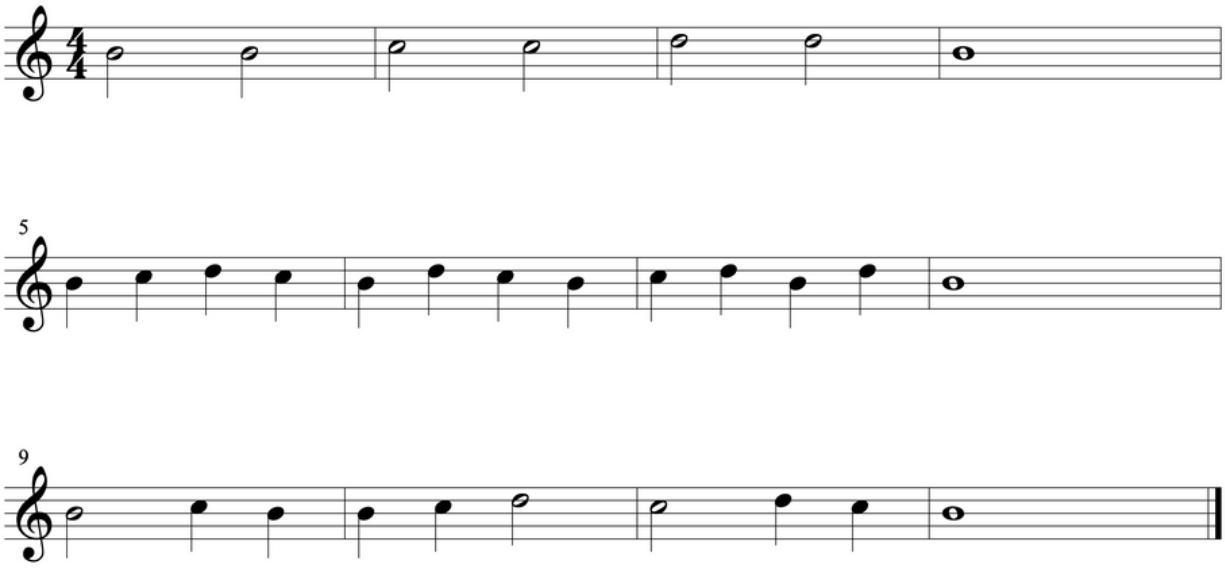


C

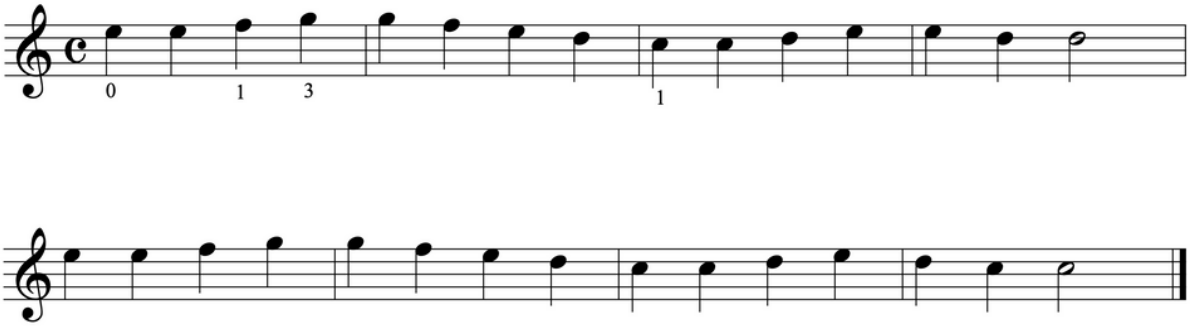


D

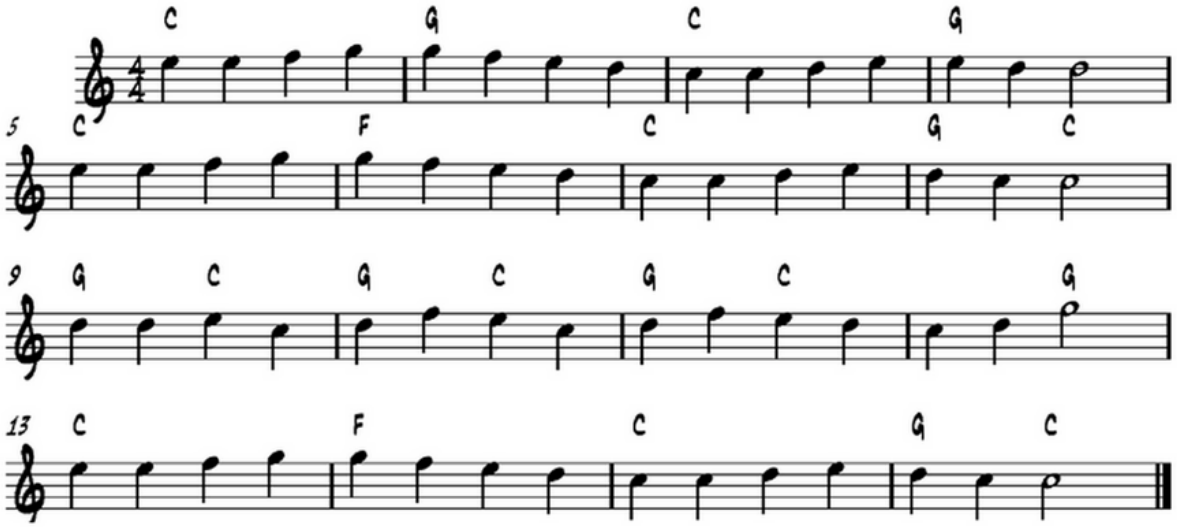
2ND STRING EXERCISE



SONG: **ODE TO JOY**
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

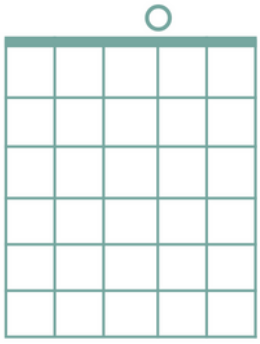


Play through the notes above using the B string and high E string. Then, play through the version below - ignoring the chord letters - which is a longer version. Finally, practice strumming the correct chord on the correct beat. If a bar doesn't have a chord above it, then continue playing the notes.

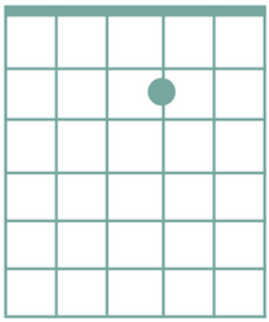


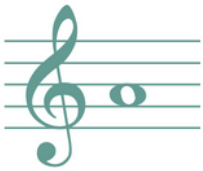
NOTES ON THIRD STRING

The open third string sounds the note G, the second finger on the second fret is A.



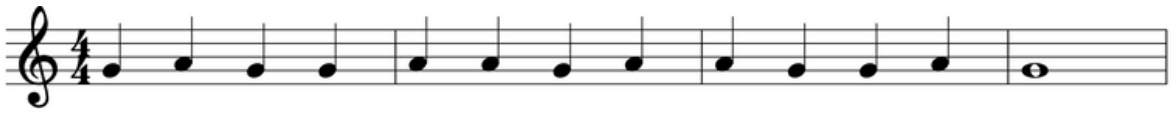
G



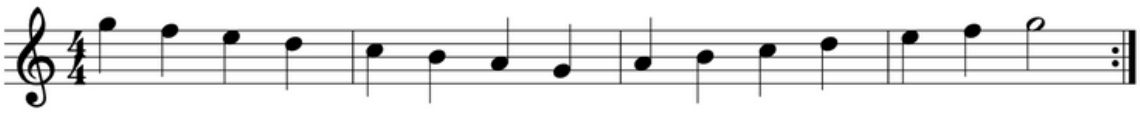


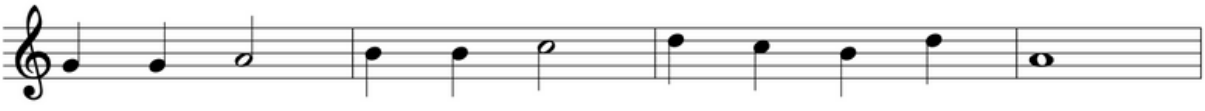
A

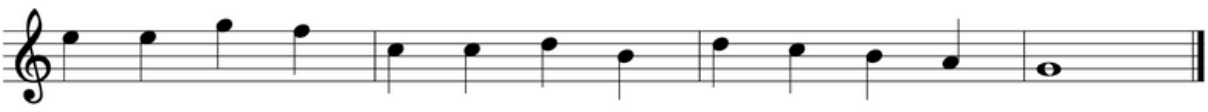
3RD STRING EXERCISE



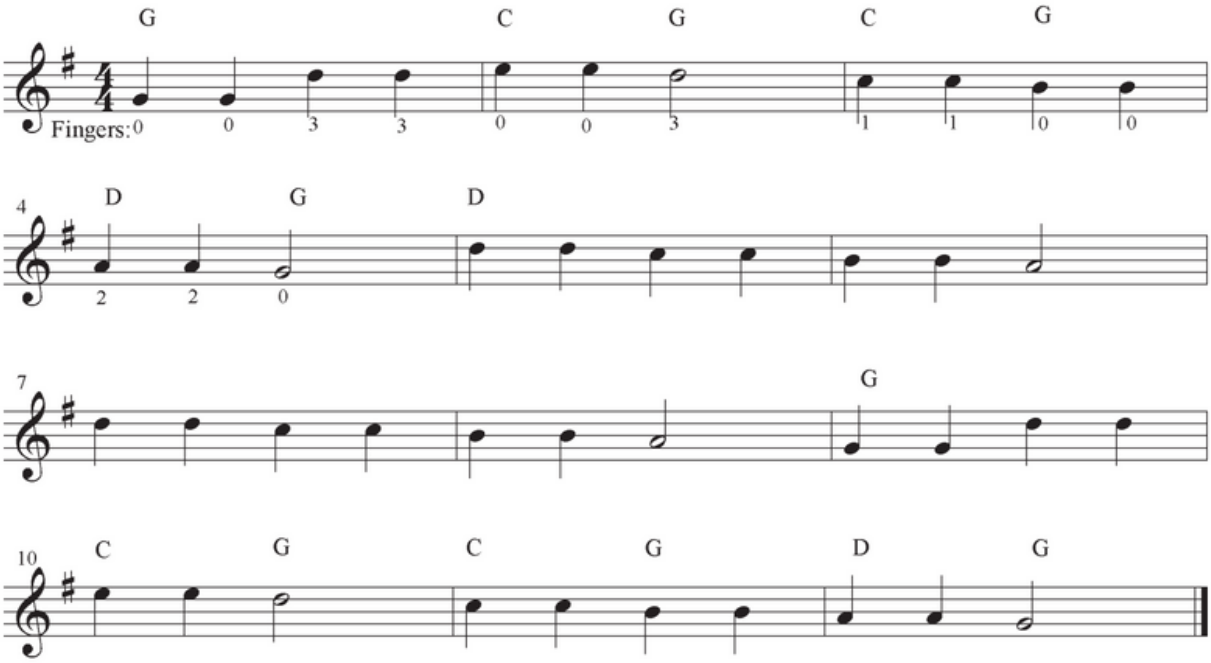
EXERCISE ACROSS THREE STRINGS





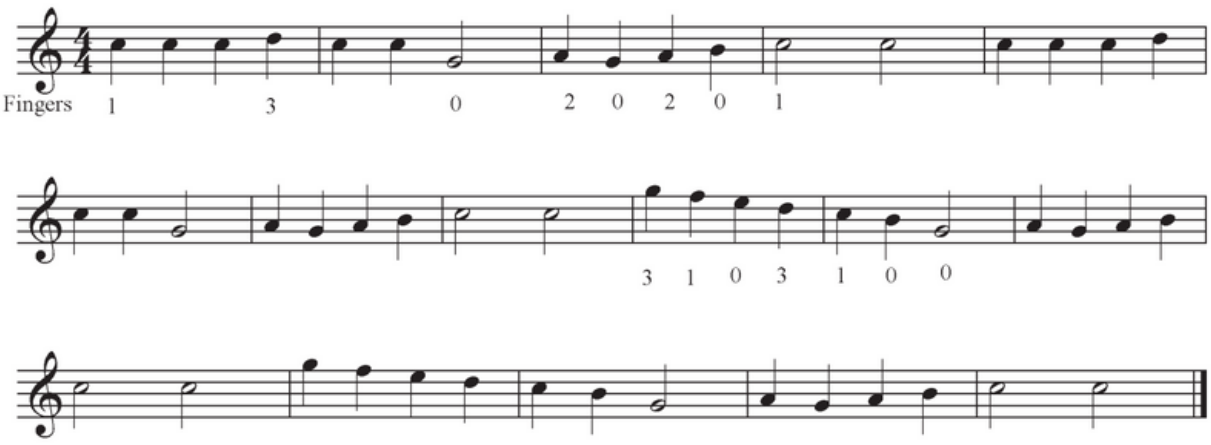


SONG: **TWINKLE, TWINKLE**



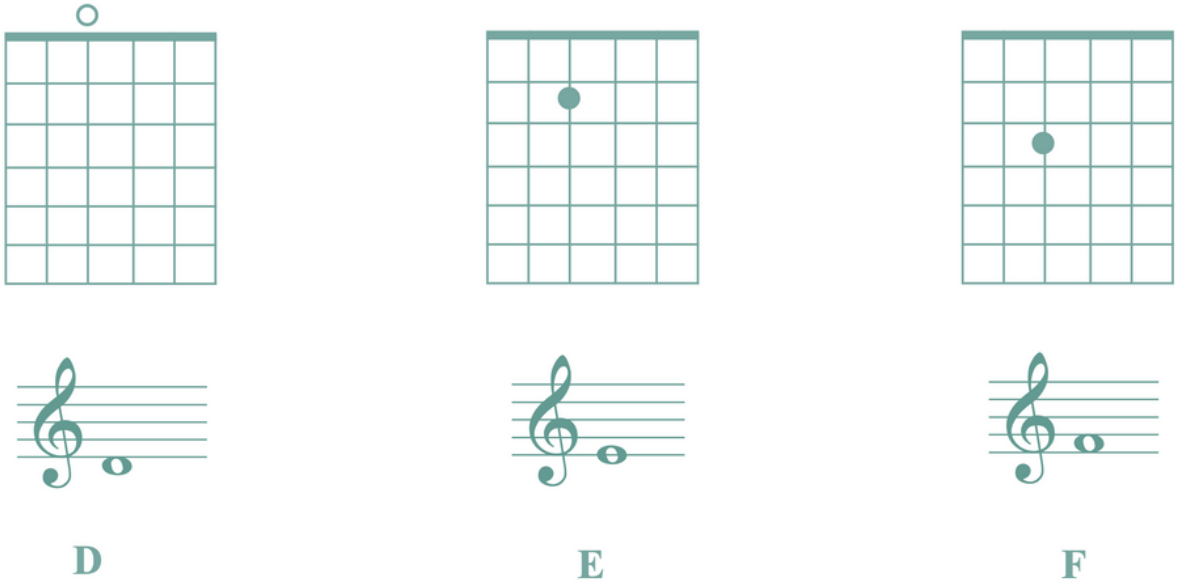
SONG: **KING WENCESLAS**

English Traditional

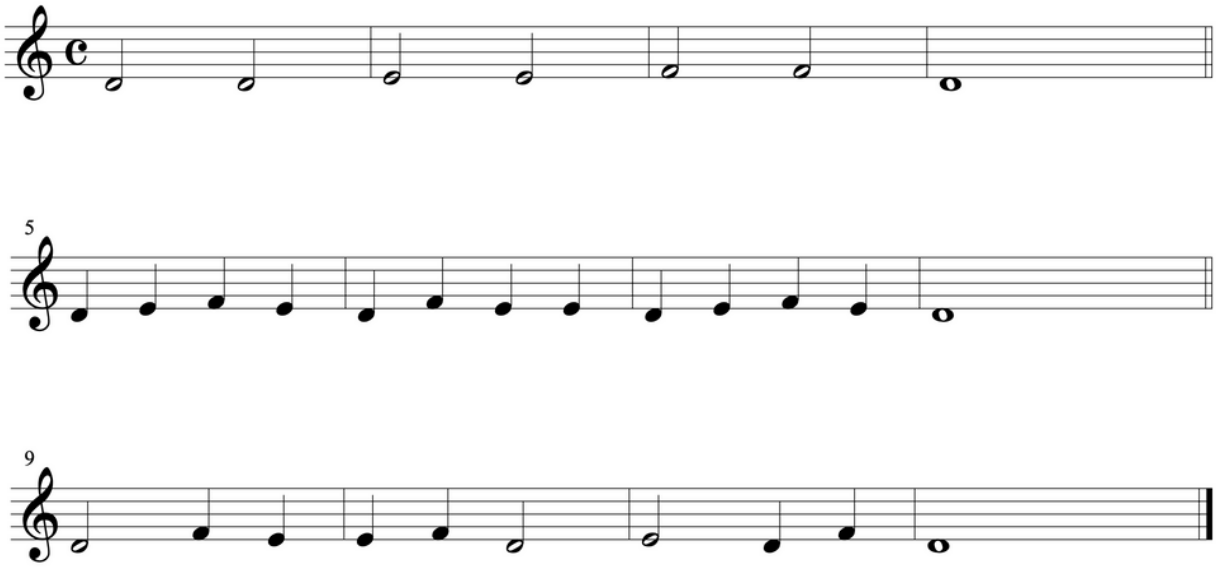


NOTES ON FOURTH STRING

The open fourth string sounds the note D, the second finger on the second fret is E, the third finger on the third fret is F.

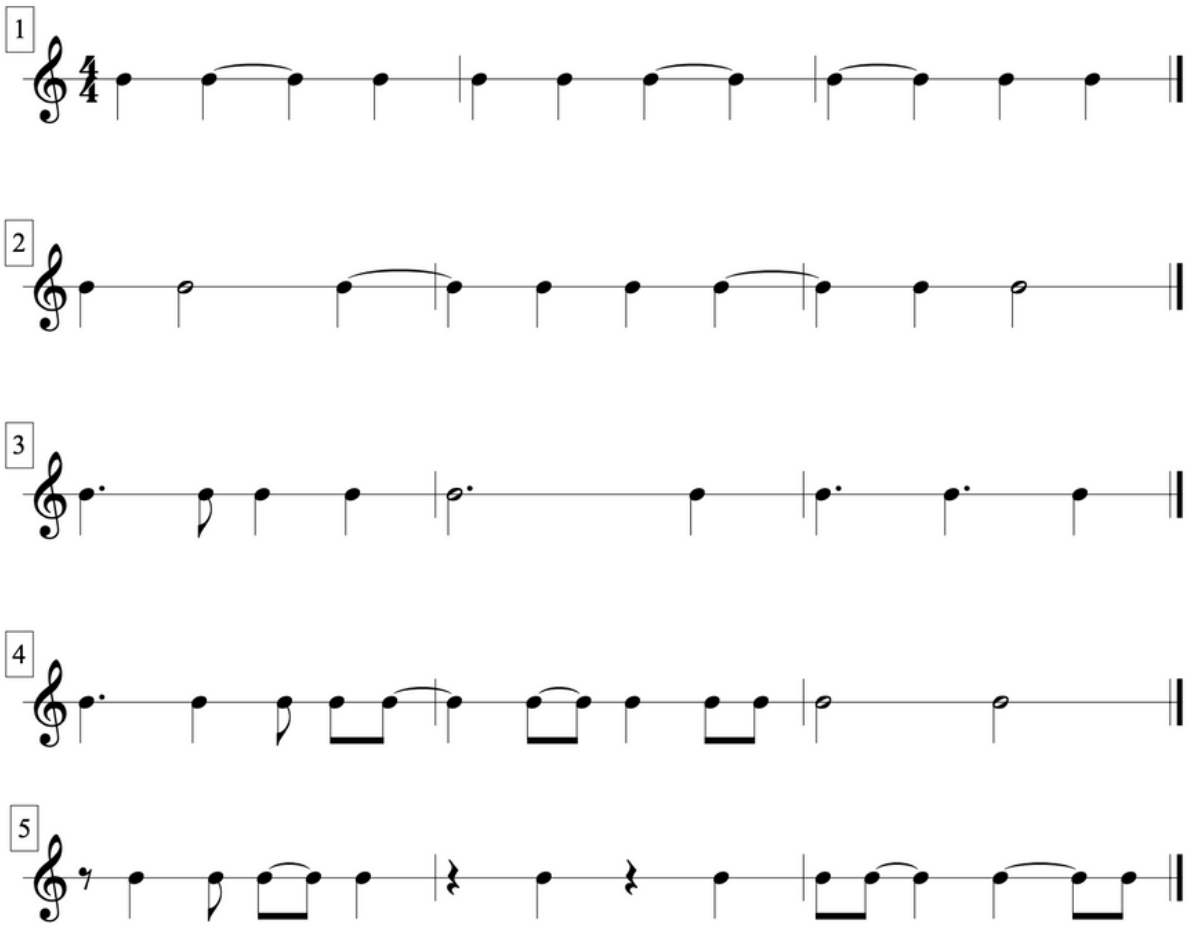


4TH STRING EXERCISE



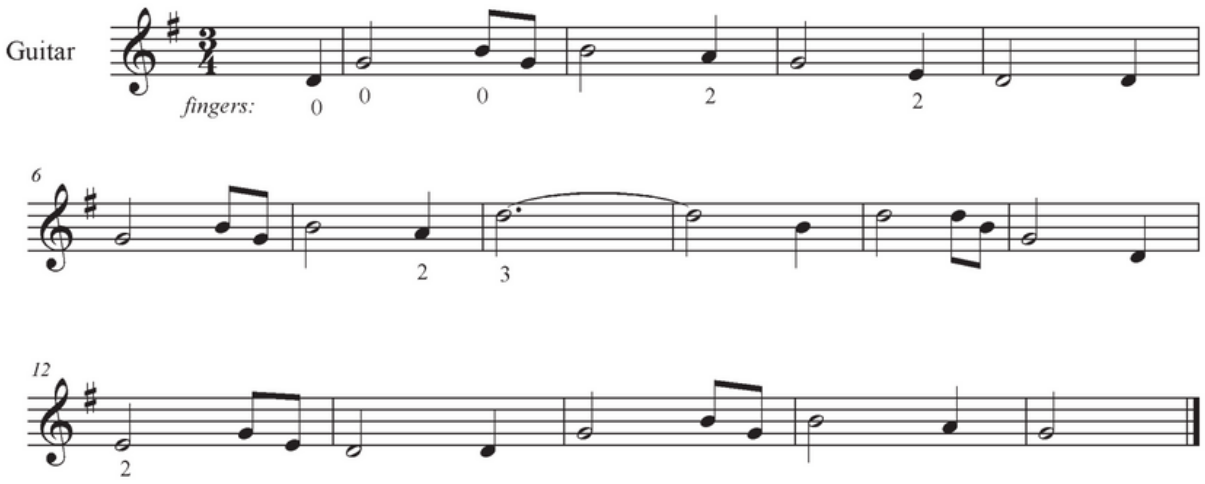
RHYTHMS

Introducing the tie and the dotted note value, along with the quaver rest. The tie connects two notes within a bar or across a barline. The dot adds half of the note's value to the note, for instance, a dotted crotchet equals one and a half beats. A dotted minim equals three beats etc. Play through each line using an open string.

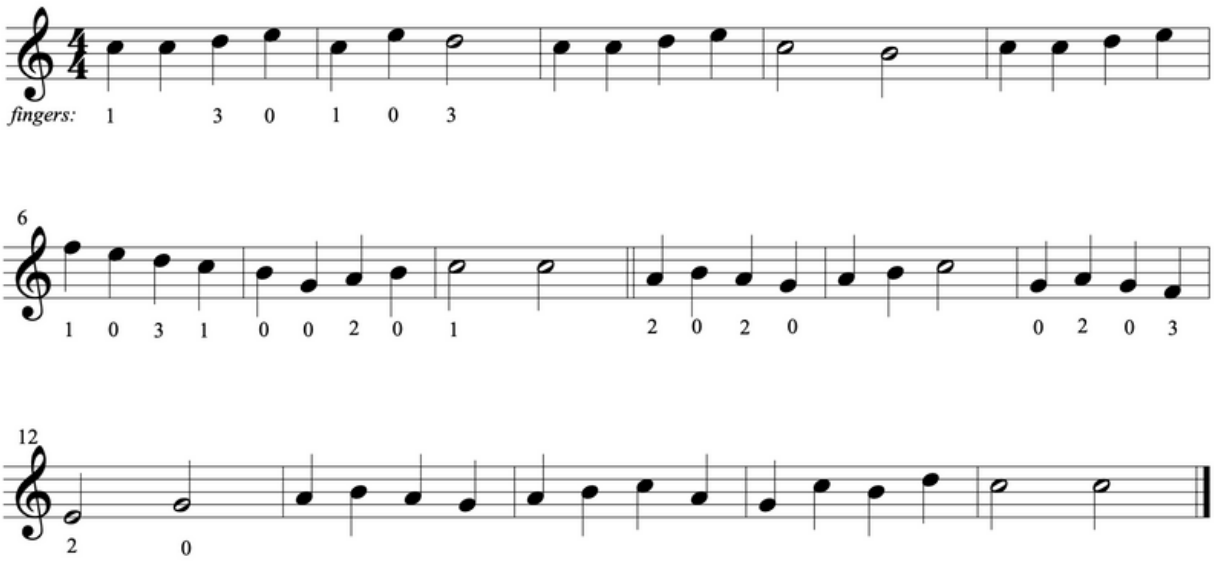


SONG: **AMAZING GRACE**

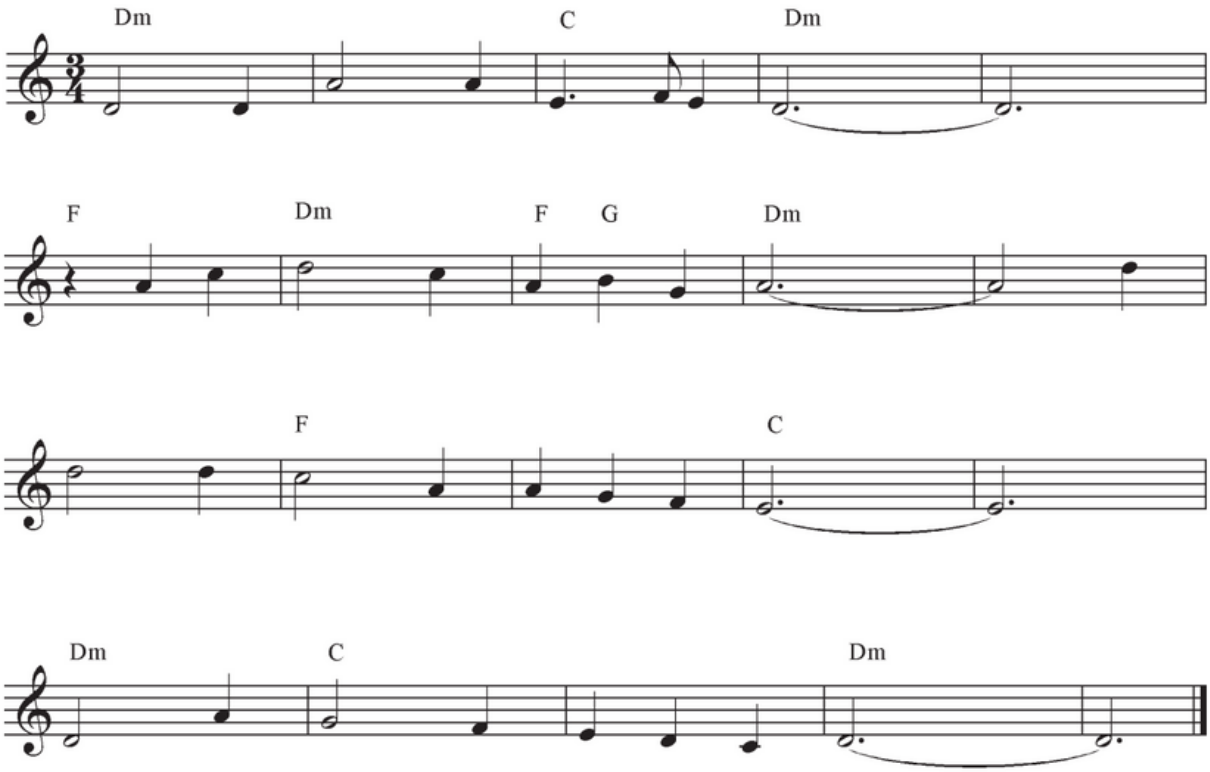
John Newton



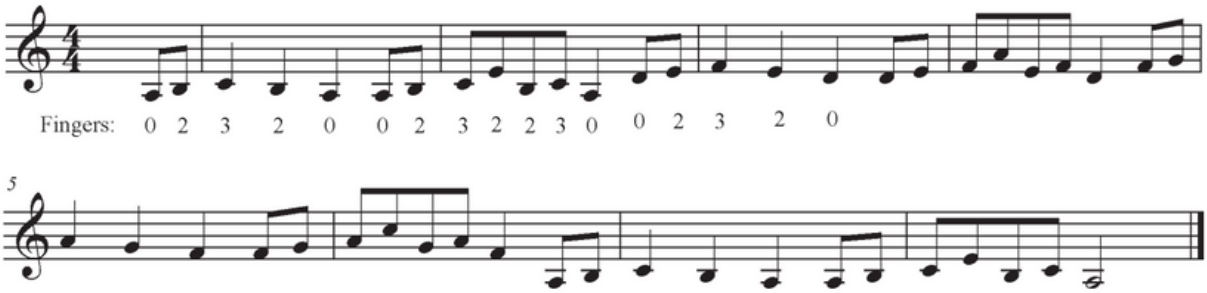
SONG: **KING WENCESLAS**



SONG: **SCARBOROUGH FAIR**

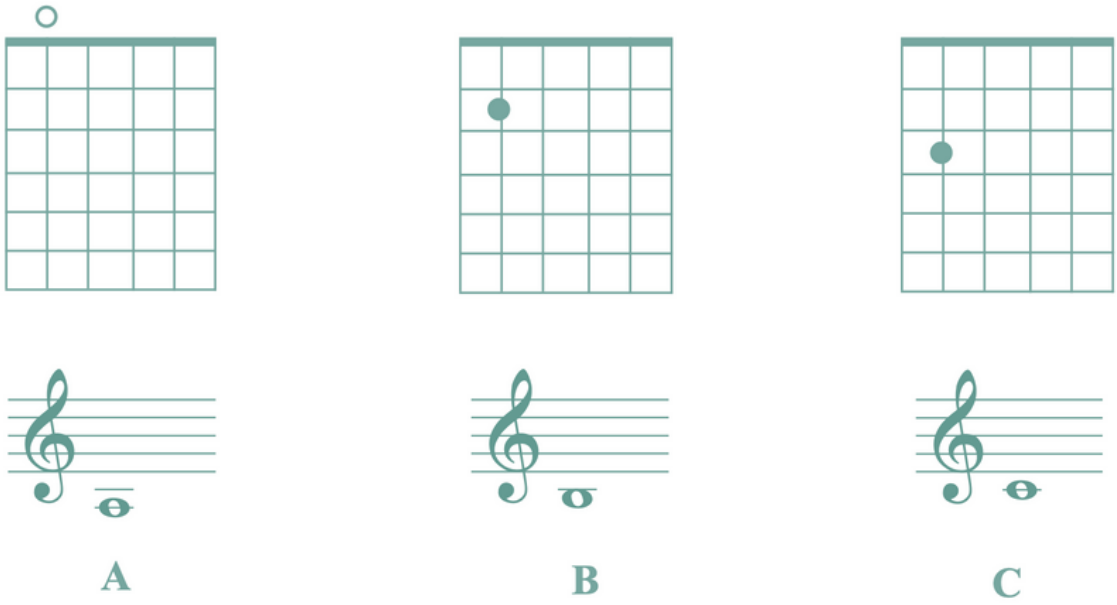


SONG: **PHAROAH MUSIC**

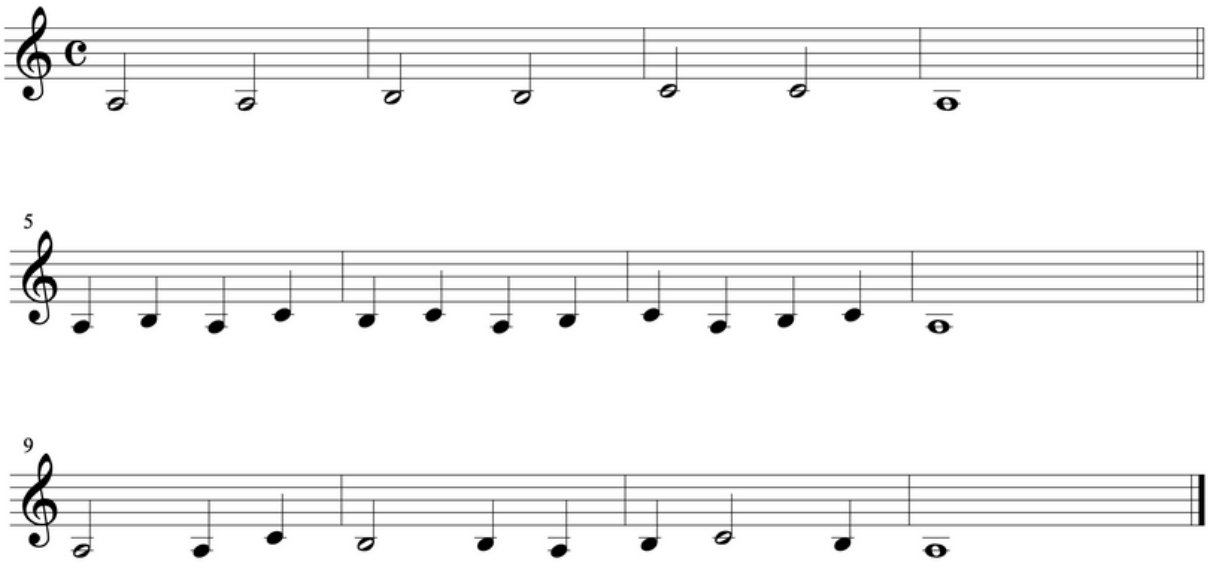


NOTES ON FIFTH STRING

The open fifth string sounds the note A, the second finger on the second fret is B, the third finger on the third fret is C

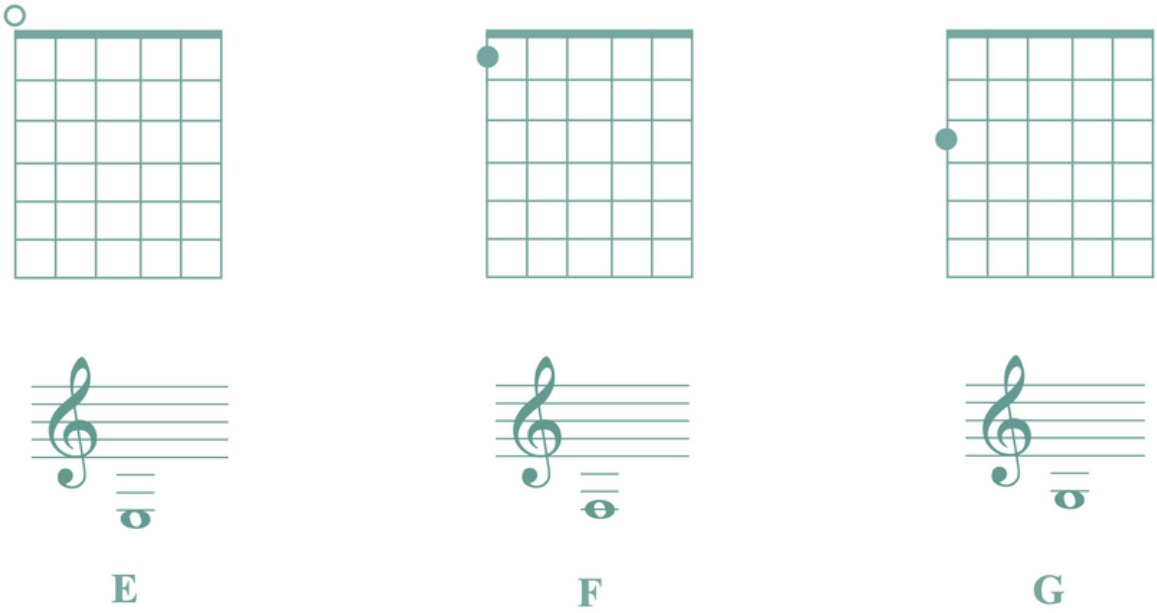


5TH STRING EXERCISE

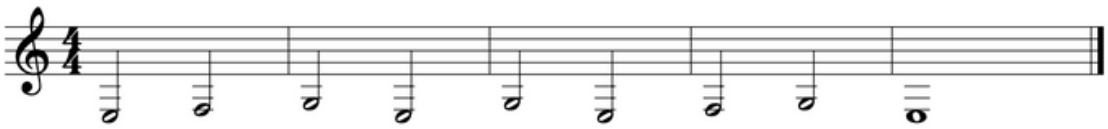


NOTES ON SIXTH STRING

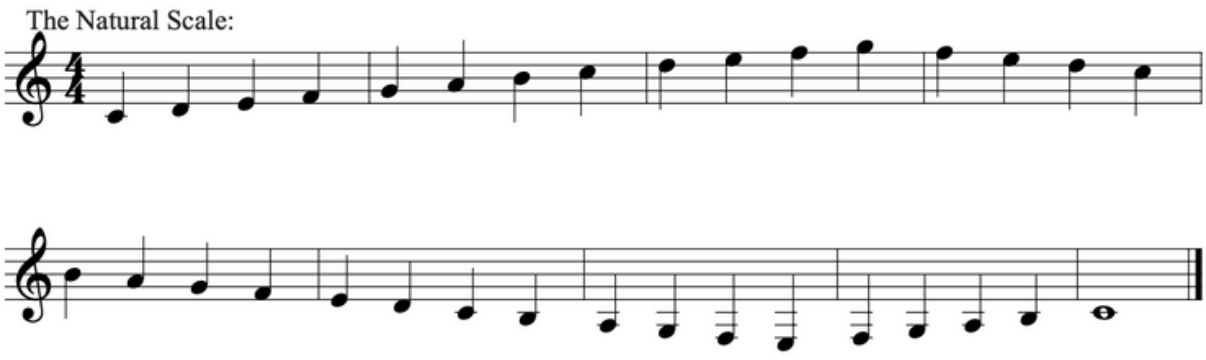
The open sixth string sounds the note E, the first finger on the first fret is F, the third finger on the third fret is G.



6TH STRING EXERCISE

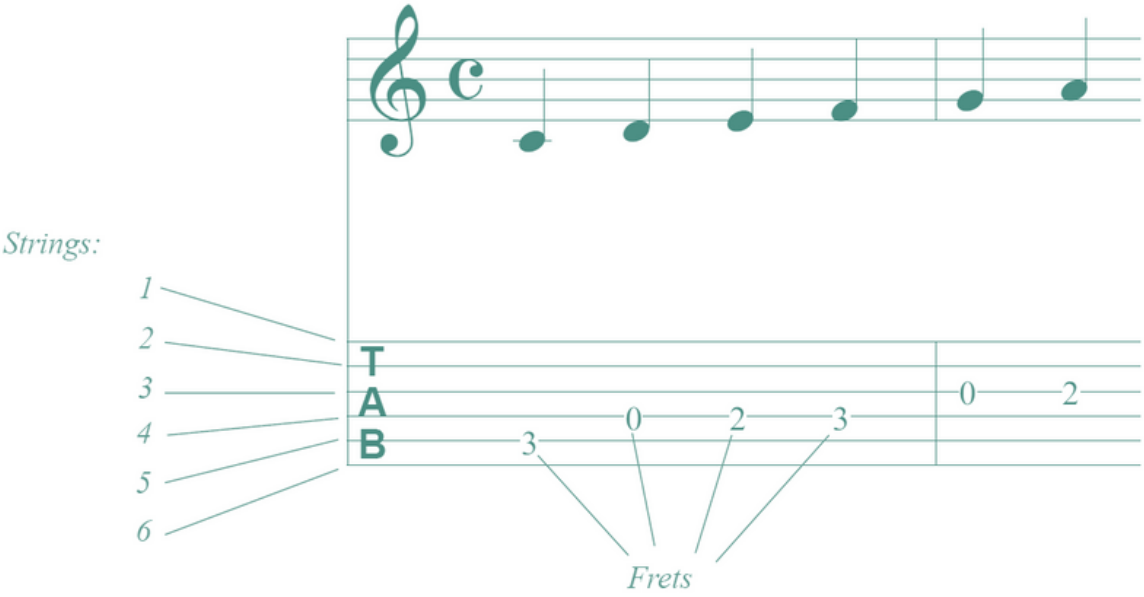


The Natural Scale:



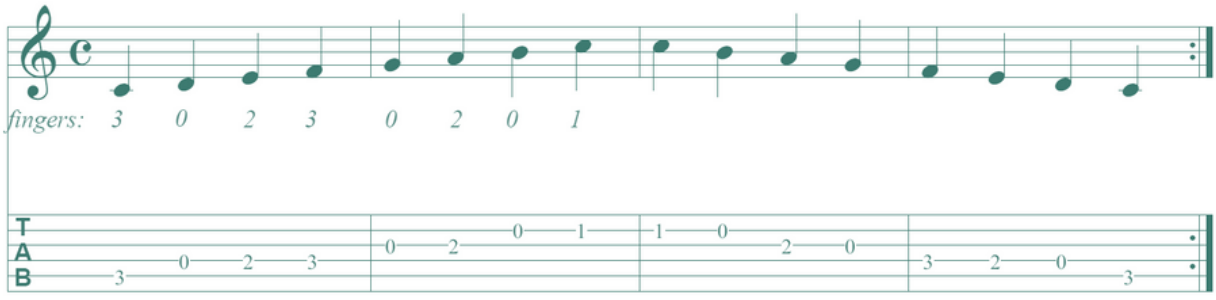
READING TAB

Tablature (or TAB) is a visual way of writing music for guitar and other stringed instruments. The hoizontal lines represent the strings of the instrument, and the numbers indicate the fret on which it is played. You will most likely see tabulature added underneath standard notation.



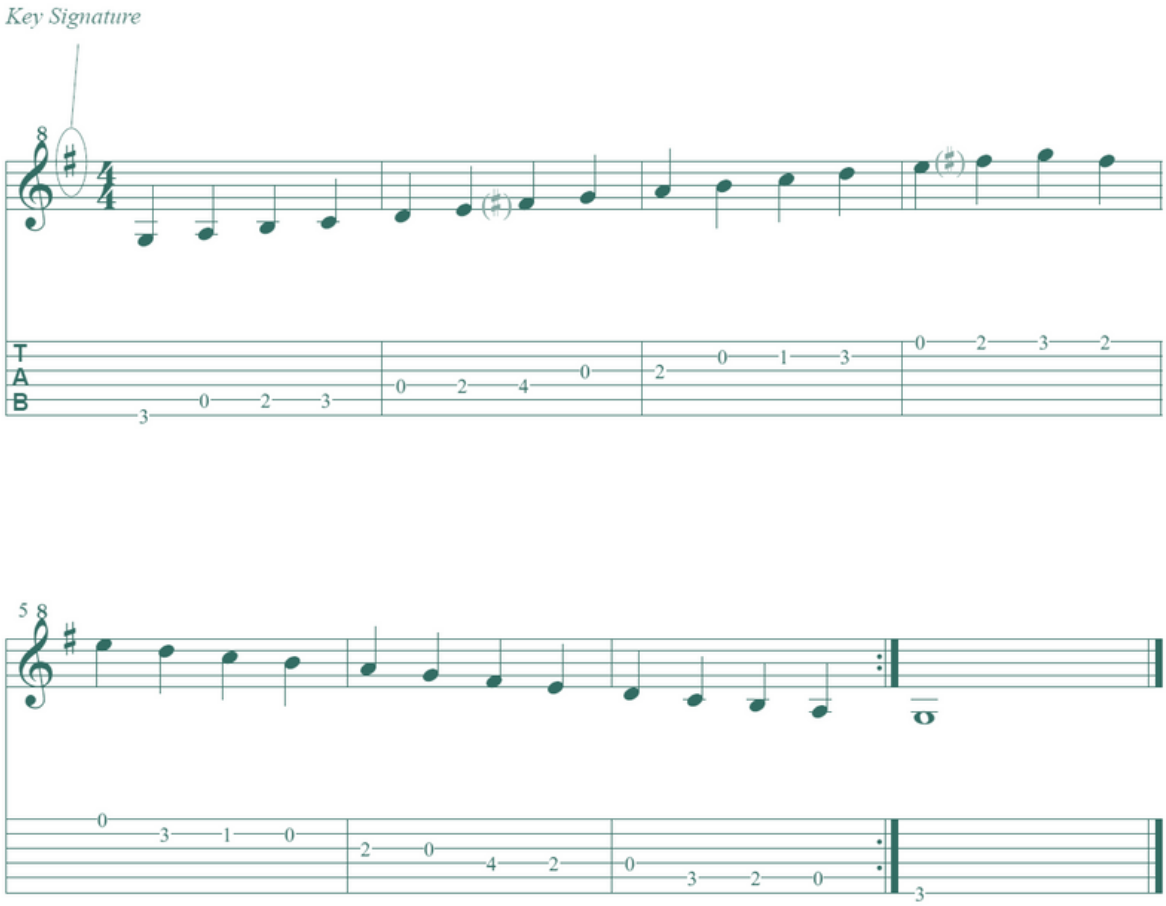
C MAJOR SCALE

The C major scale is illustrated below using notation and tabLature.



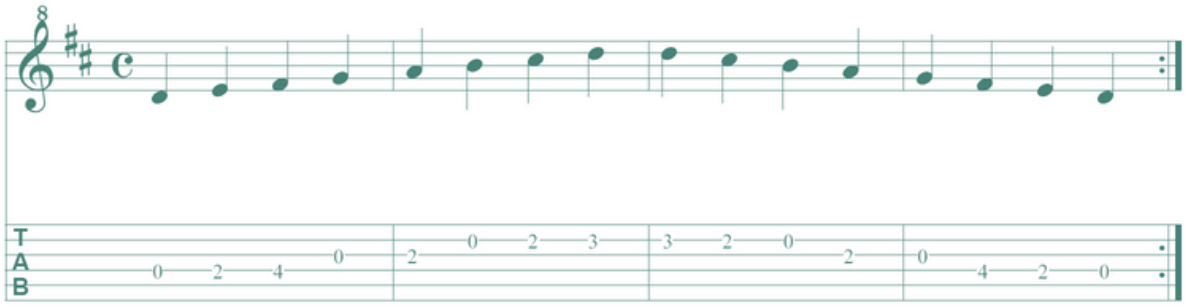
G MAJOR SCALE

The G major scale needs the note F raised by a semitone in order to conform to the major scale pattern. This is shown by a sharp(s) in the key signature, meaning every time you see the note F, play an F sharp.



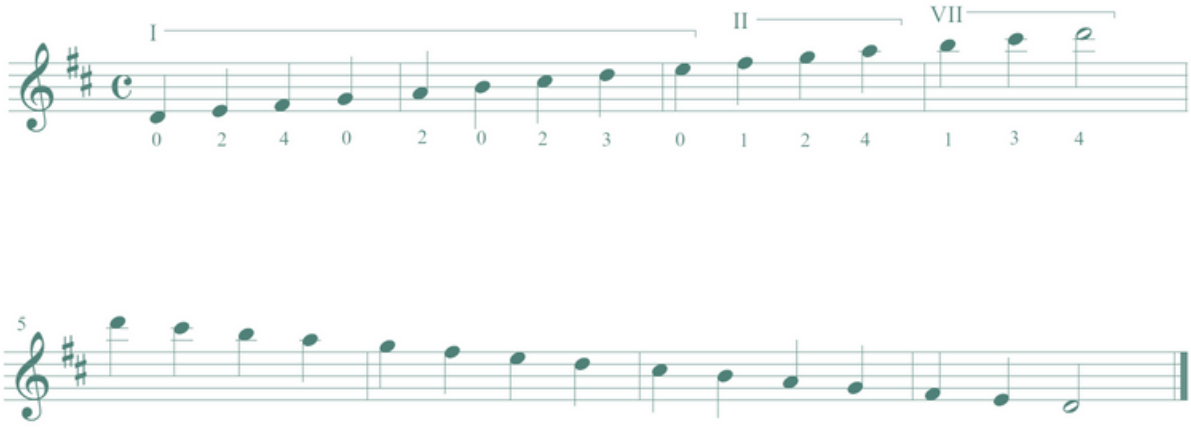
D MAJOR SCALE

The D major scale needs the notes F and C raised by a semitone in order to conform to the major scale pattern. This is shown by two sharps(s) in the key signature, meaning every time you see the notes F or C, play them sharp.



TWO OCTAVES

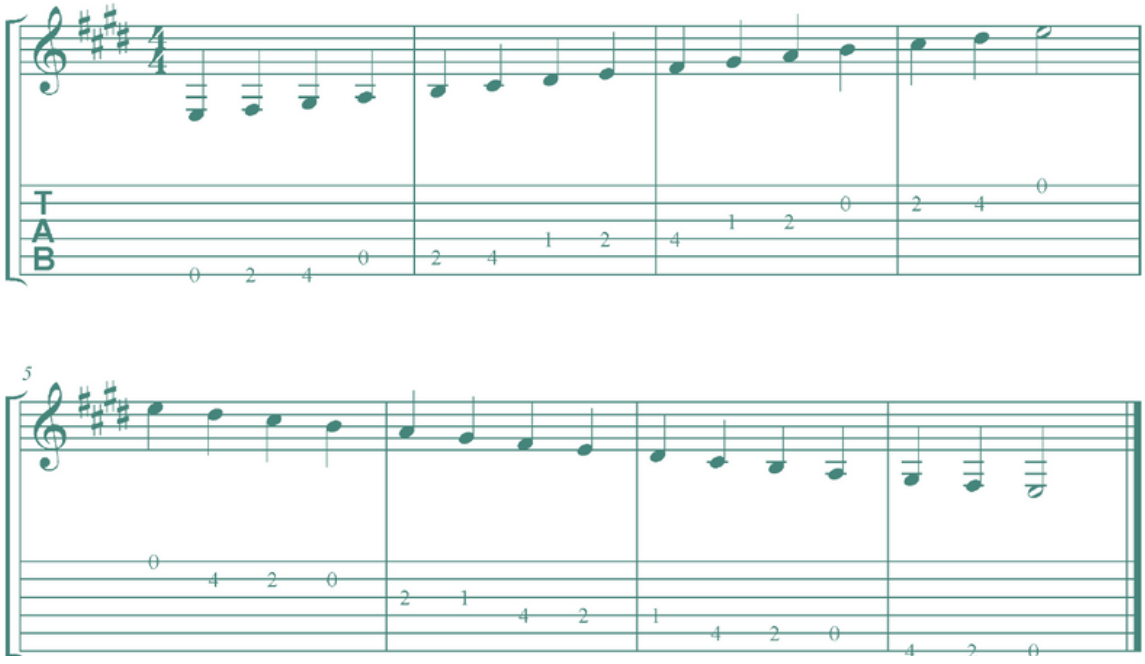
To play the second octave of the D scale, shift to second position as noted (II) and then to the seventh position.



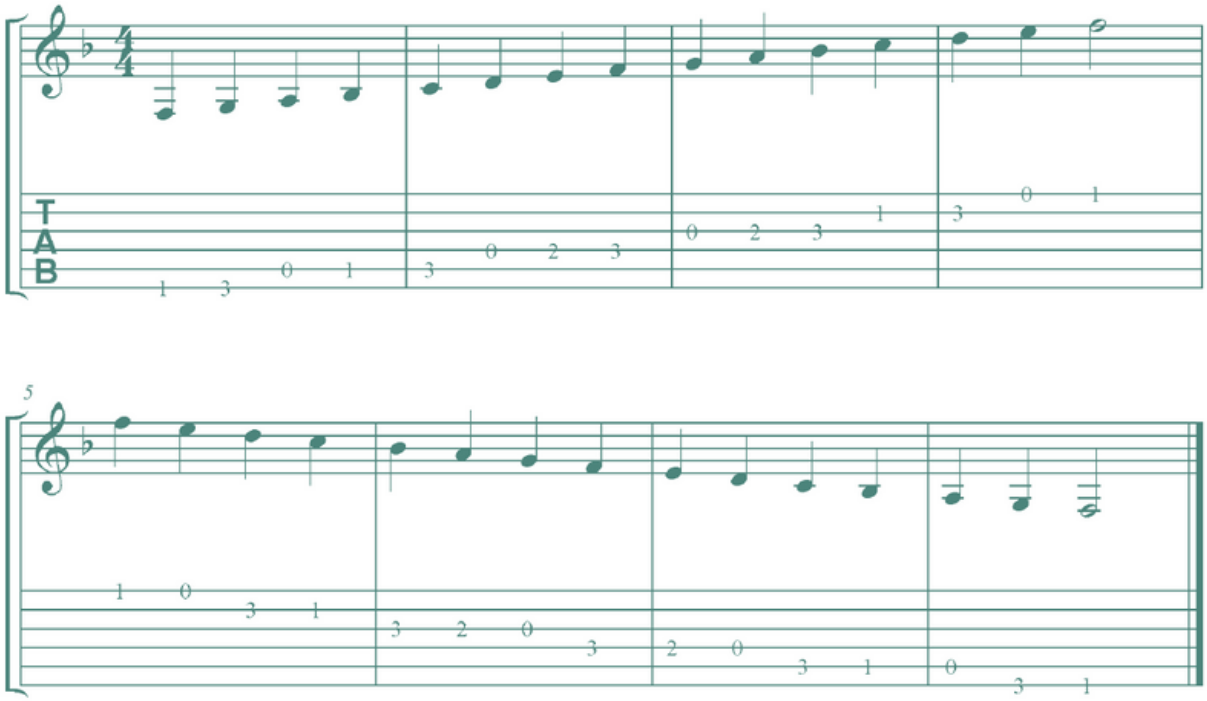
A MAJOR SCALE

In A major, F,C and G are sharped.

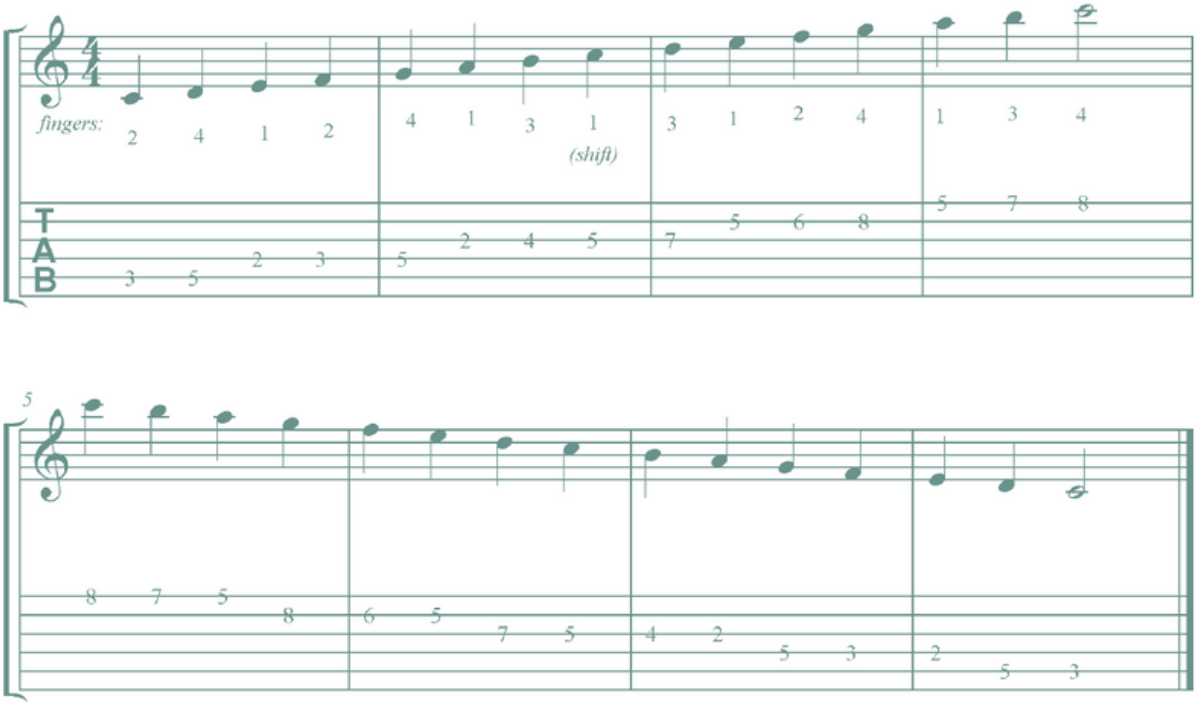
E MAJOR SCALE



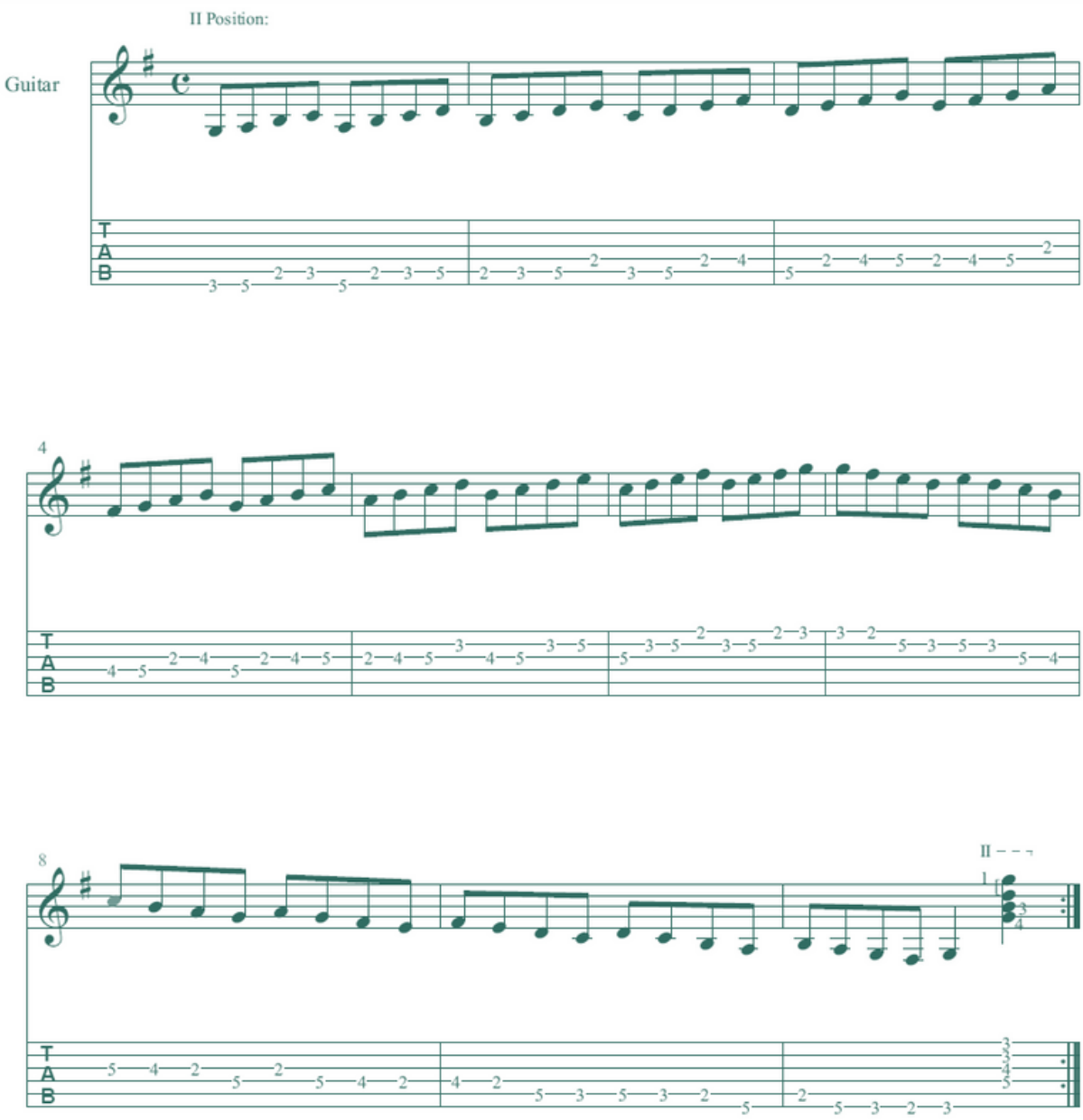
F MAJOR SCALE



C MAJOR SCALE 2ND POSITION

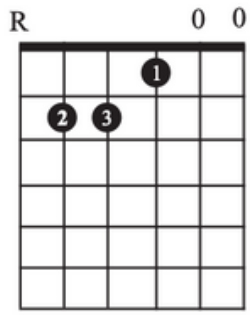


MAJOR SCALE WARM-UP

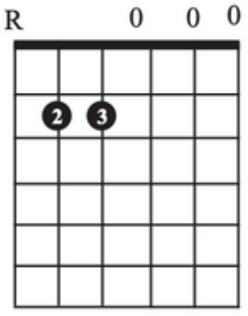


MORE CHORDS

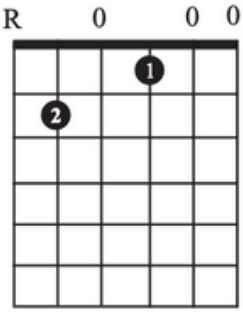
E



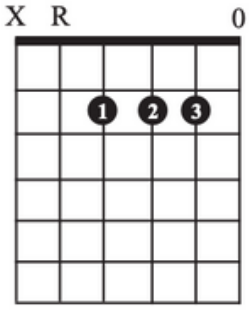
Em



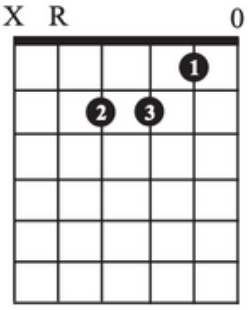
E7



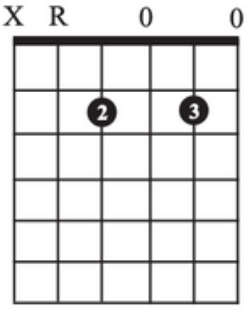
A



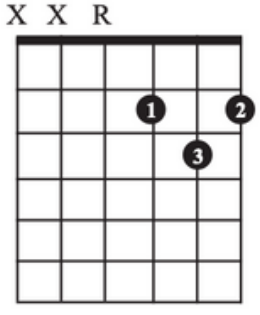
Am



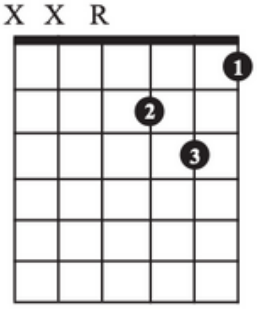
A7



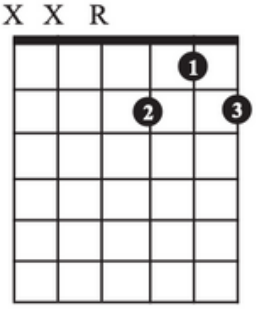
D



Dm

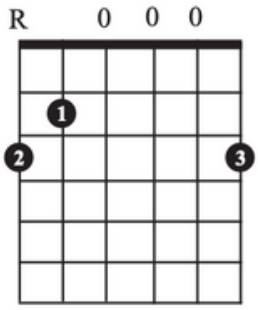


D7



MORE CHORDS

G



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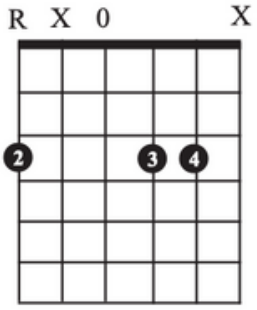

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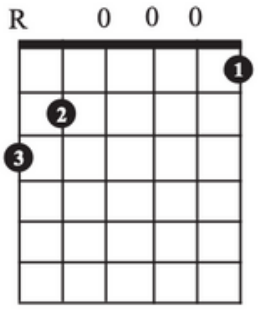

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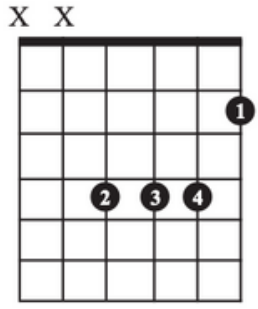
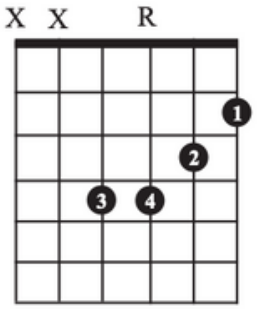


Bm



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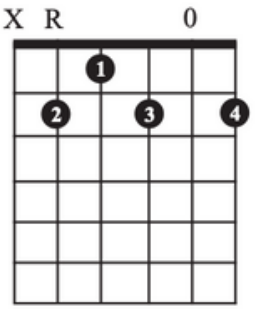

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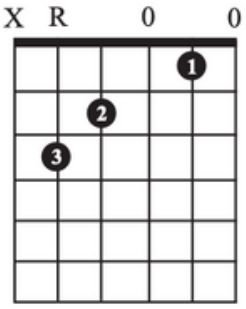
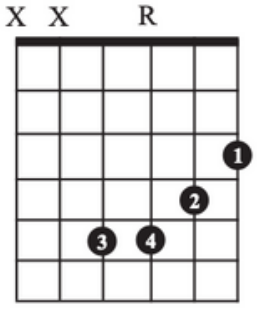


Cm



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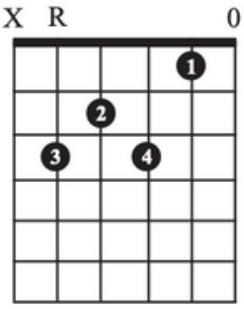
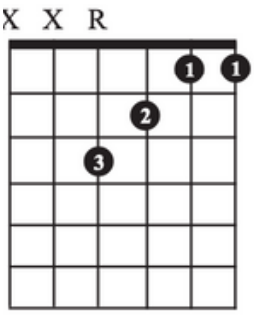


MORE CHORDS

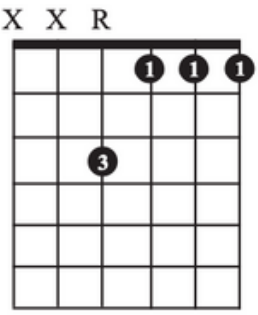
F

X X R



Fm

X X R



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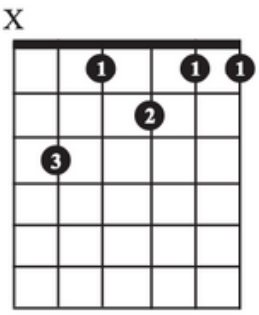
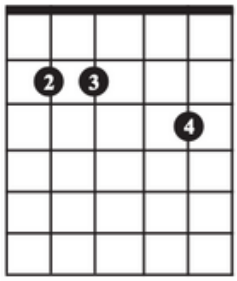
X



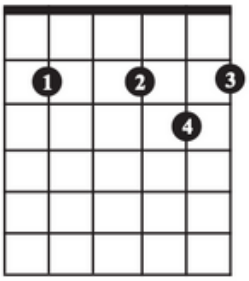
Em7

R 0 0



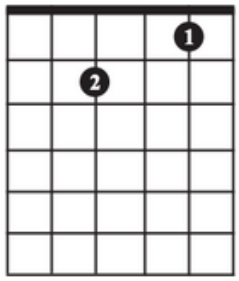
Bm7

X R 0



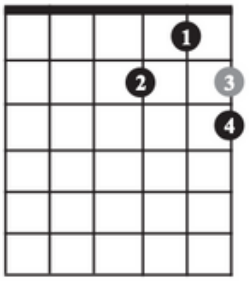
Am7

X R 0 0



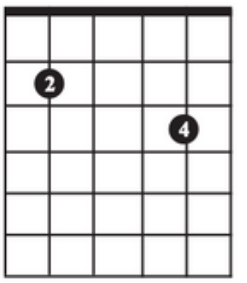
D7sus

X X R



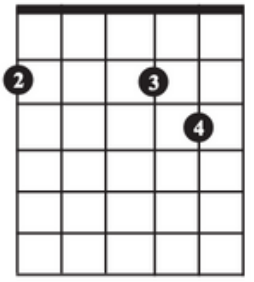
G/B

X 0 0 X



D/F♯

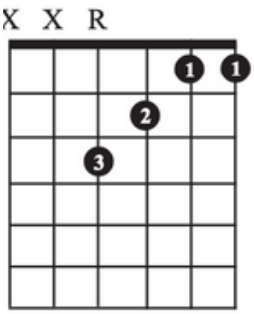
X 0 X



MORE CHORDS

F

X X R



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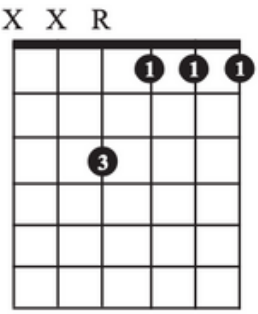
X X R



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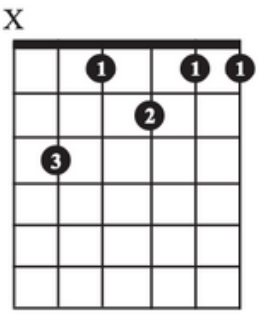

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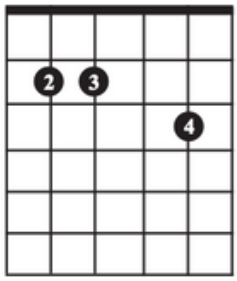

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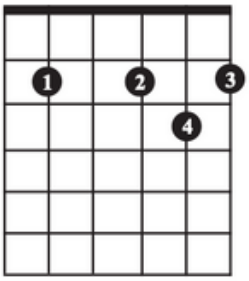
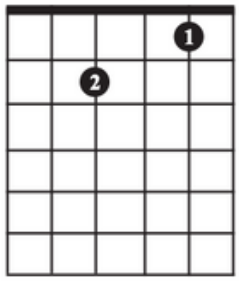


Am7

X R 0 0



D7sus

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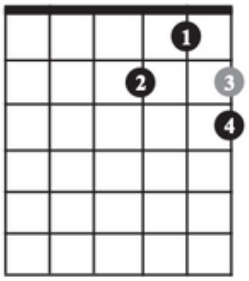

G/B

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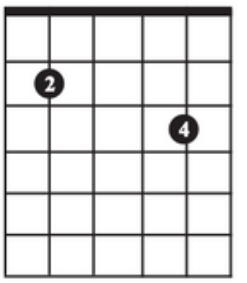
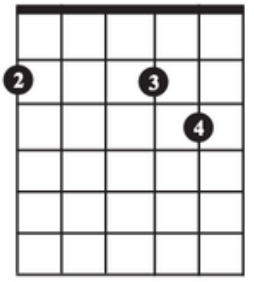


D/F♯

X 0 X



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