



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

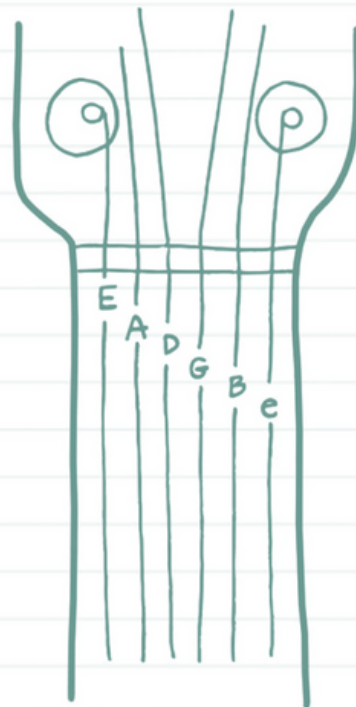
Ate

Dynamite

Good

Bye

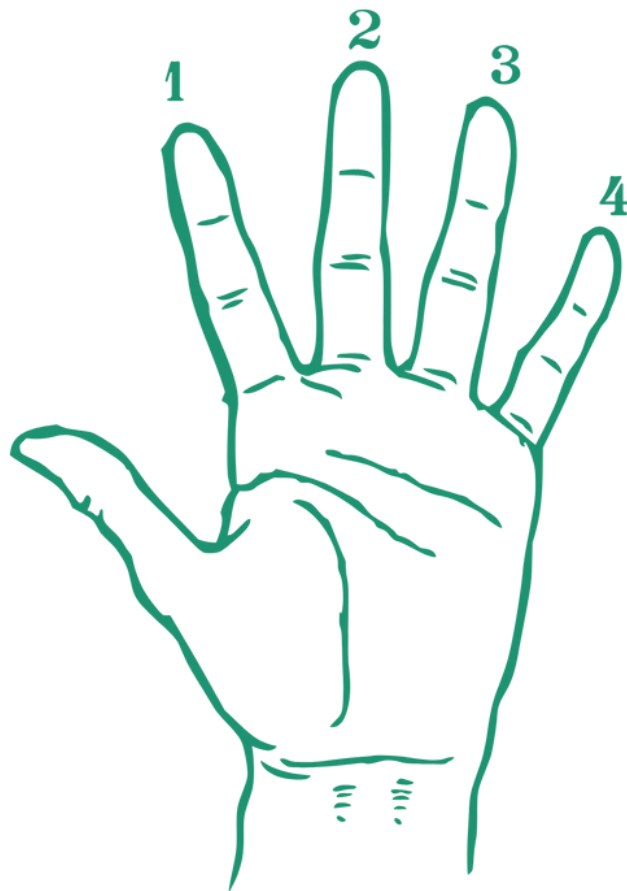
Eddie



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

E — 0 3 5 — 0 3 6 5 — 0 3 5 — 3 0 —
A —
D —
G —
B —
E —

SEVEN NATION ARMY

E — 7 — 7 — 10 — 7 — 5 — 3 — 2 —
A —
D —
G —
B —
E —

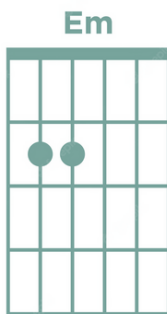
SHAPE OF YOU

E —
A —
D —
G — 2 0 2 2 0 2 2 0 2 4 2 0
B —
E —

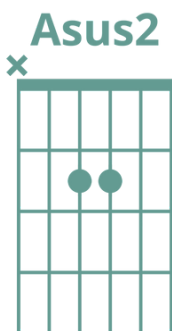
FIRST THREE CHORDS

E minor - Asus2 - Am9

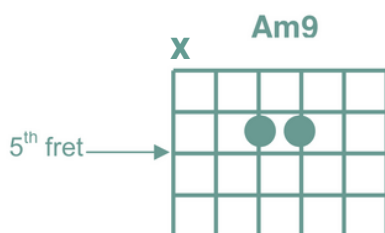
Place your fingers on the chord, strum it, and then lift all your fingers off the fret board slightly, but keeping them in the same cluster shape of the chord hovering slightly over the frets. Practice off and on, off and on. This gets you used to coming off chords and getting back on them quickly and 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.**

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)

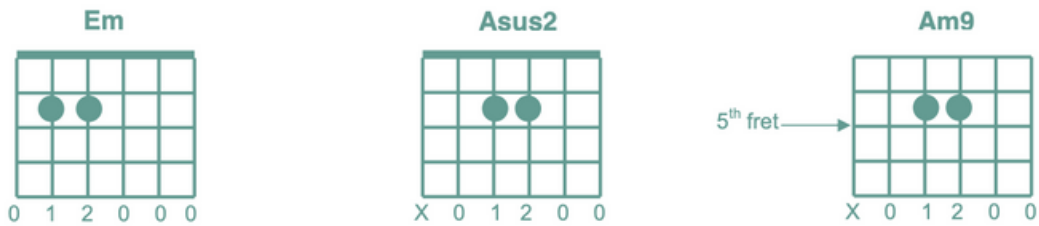
Let's break it down to make it easier to get it rolling – first play the red sections on their own, then at the end put it all together.

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

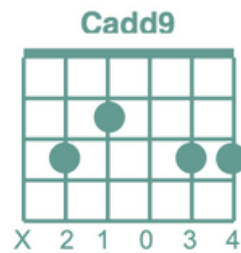
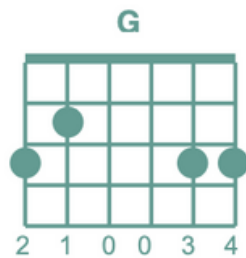


The next two chords will be a little trickier. The A crams three fingers onto one fret. The C requires quite a stretch!



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

C
H
O
R
U
S

Am **C**
Next to me Ooh, ooh, ooh
Am **C**
Next to me Ooh, ooh
Am **C**
Next to me Ooh, ooh, ooh

C
H
O
R
U
S

Am **C**
You will find him, you'll find him next to me

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

C
H
O
R
U
S

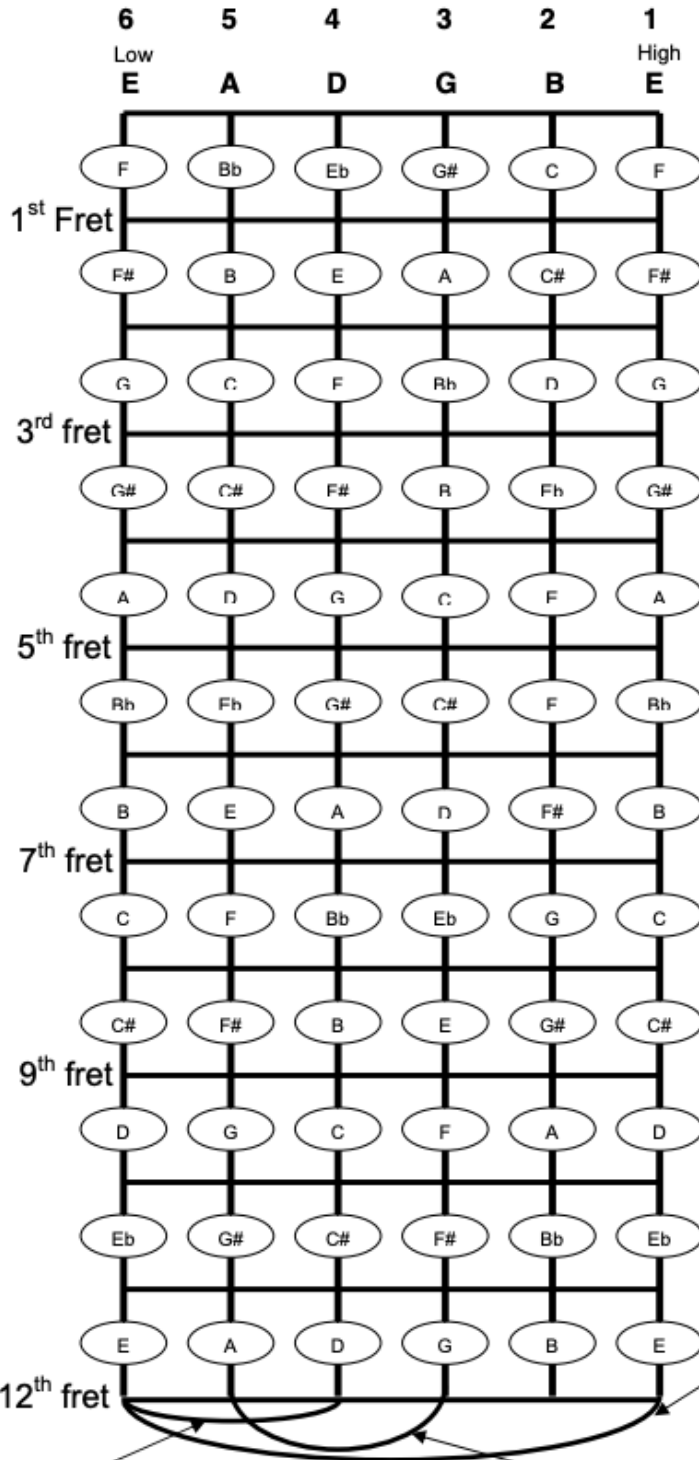
Em **C**
But all the promises we make
Em **C**
From the cradle to the grave
G **C** **G** **C**
When all I want is you

C
H
O
R
U
S

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.

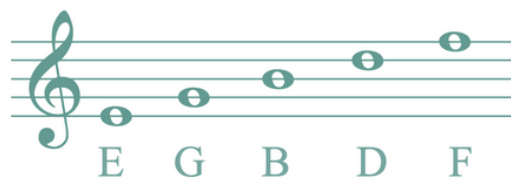
A and G strings are related – from any note on the A string go 2 strings down and 2 frets over, you have the same note an octave higher on the G string.

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 Good Boy Does Fine or
Empty Garbage Before Dad Flip



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



Semibreve = 4 beats



Minim = 2 beats



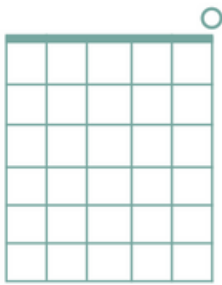
Crotchet = 1 beat



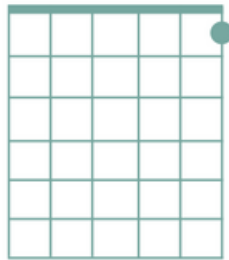
Quaver = 1/2 beat

NOTES ON FIRST STRING

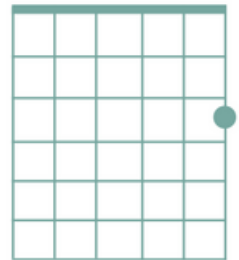
The open first string sounds the note E, shown here in a fretboard diagram and as notation. The first finger on the first fret is F, the third finger on the third fret is G.



E



F



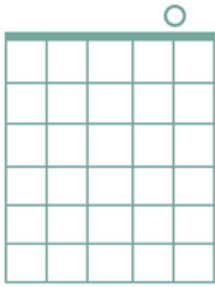
G

1ST STRING EXERCISE

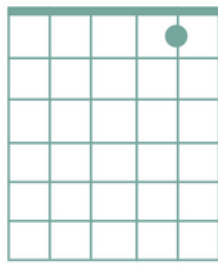


NOTES ON SECOND STRING

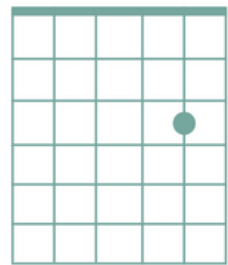
The open second string sounds the note B, the first finger on the first fret is C, the third finger on the third fret is D.



B



C



D

2ND STRING EXERCISE



SONG: ODE TO JOY

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

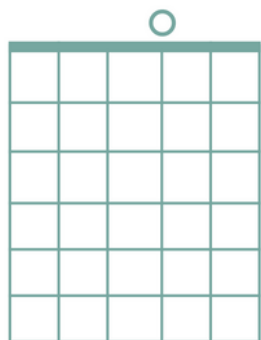


Play through the notes above using the B string and high E string. Then, play through the version below - ignoring the chord letters - which is a longer version. Finally, practice strumming the correct chord on the correct beat. If a bar doesn't have a chord above it, then continue playing the notes.

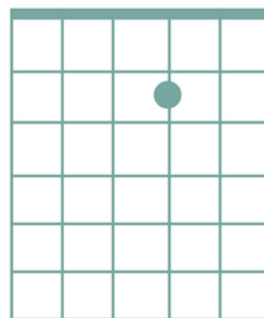
Musical notation for a longer version of 'Ode to Joy' in C major, 4/4 time, with chord letters above the notes. The notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3. Chord letters are: C, G, C, G, C, F, C, G, C, G, C, G, C, F, C, G, C. Measure numbers 5, 9, and 13 are indicated at the start of their respective lines.

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

G C G C G

Fingers: 0 0 3 3 0 0 3 1 1 0 0

4 D G D

7 G

10 C G C G D G

SONG: KING WENCESLAS

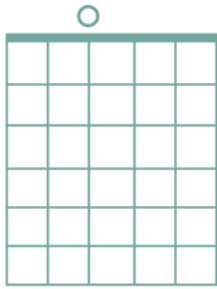
English Traditional

Fingers 1 3 0 2 0 2 0 1

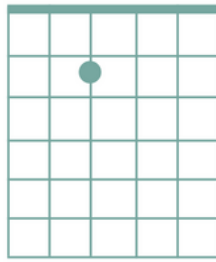
3 1 0 3 1 0 0

NOTES ON FOURTH STRING

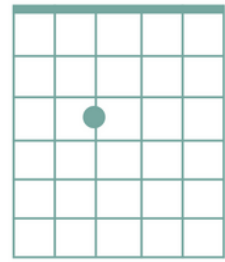
The open fourth string sounds the note D, the second finger on the second fret is E, the third finger on the third fret is F.



D



E



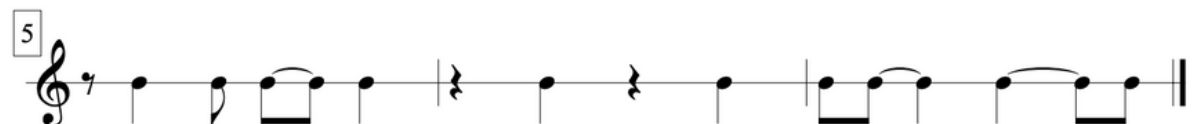
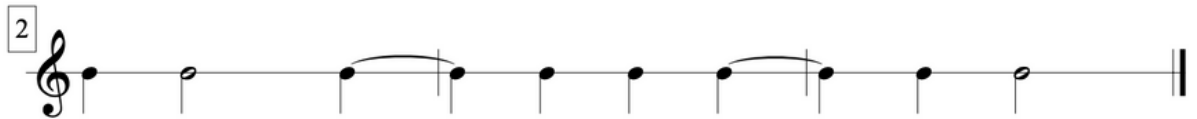
F

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

Guitar

fingers: 0 0 0 2 2

6

12

SONG: KING WENCESLAS

fingers: 1 3 0 1 0 3

6

12

SONG: SCARBOROUGH FAIR



Musical score for Scarborough Fair, featuring four staves of music in 3/4 time. The notes are: Staff 1: Dm (C4), E4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5; Staff 2: F (C4), G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5; Staff 3: F (C4), G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5; Staff 4: Dm (C4), E4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5. Chord symbols are placed above the notes.

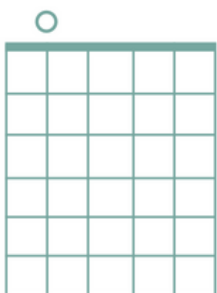
SONG: PHAROAH MUSIC



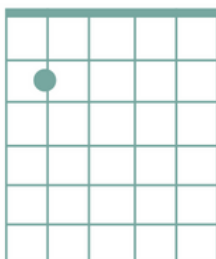
Musical score for Pharaoh Music, featuring two staves of music in 4/4 time. The notes are: Staff 1: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6; Staff 2: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6. Fingerings are indicated below the notes: 0 2 3 2 0 0 2 3 2 2 3 0 0 2 3 2 0.

NOTES ON FIFTH STRING

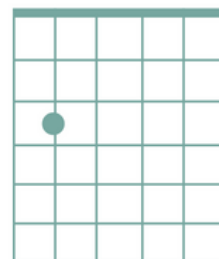
The open fifth string sounds the note A, the second finger on the second fret is B, the third finger on the third fret is C



A



B



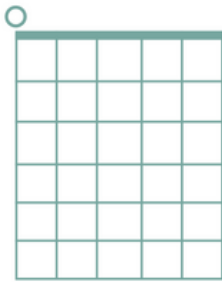
C

5TH STRING EXERCISE

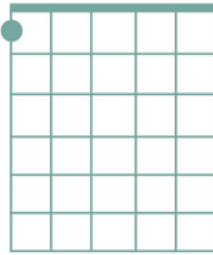


NOTES ON SIXTH STRING

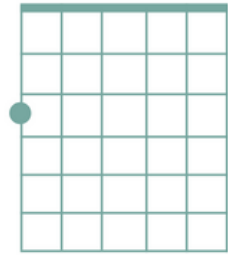
The open sixth string sounds the note E, the first finger on the first fret is F, the third finger on the third fret is G.



E



F



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 horizontal lines represent the strings of the instrument, and the numbers indicate the fret on which it is played. You will most likely see tablature added underneath standard notation.

Strings:

1
2
3
4
5
6

T
A
B

Frets

3 0 2 3 | 0 2

C MAJOR SCALE

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

fingers: 3 0 2 3 0 2 0 1

T
A
B

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

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.

Key Signature

The first musical example shows the G major scale in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The scale is written as a single line of music with quarter notes. A circled sharp sign is placed above the first F note, and another circled sharp sign is placed above the second F note. Below the staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with three strings labeled T (Treble), A (Middle), and B (Bass). The diagram shows fingerings for the scale: T (0-2-3-2), A (0-2-4-0), and B (3-0-2-3). The fretboard is divided into four measures corresponding to the notes of the scale.

The second musical example shows the G major scale in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The scale is written as a single line of music with quarter notes. Below the staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with three strings labeled T (Treble), A (Middle), and B (Bass). The diagram shows fingerings for the scale: T (0-3-1-0), A (2-0-4-2), and B (0-3-2-0). The fretboard is divided into three measures corresponding to the notes of the scale.

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.

The image shows the D major scale in treble clef, starting on D4. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The scale is written in a single line of music. Below it is a fretboard diagram for the guitar, with strings labeled T (Treble), A, B, and B. The fretboard shows the following fret numbers for each string: T: 0, 2, 4, 0, 2, 0, 2, 3, 0, 1, 2, 4, 1, 3, 4; A: 2, 0, 2, 3, 3, 2, 0, 2, 0, 4, 2, 0; B: 0, 2, 4, 0, 2, 0, 2, 3, 0, 1, 2, 4, 1, 3, 4.

TWO OCTAVES

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

The image shows the D major scale in treble clef, starting on D4. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The scale is written in a single line of music. Below it is a fretboard diagram for the guitar, with strings labeled T (Treble), A, B, and B. The fretboard shows the following fret numbers for each string: T: 0, 2, 4, 0, 2, 0, 2, 3, 0, 1, 2, 4, 1, 3, 4; A: 2, 0, 2, 3, 3, 2, 0, 2, 0, 4, 2, 0; B: 0, 2, 4, 0, 2, 0, 2, 3, 0, 1, 2, 4, 1, 3, 4.

A MAJOR SCALE

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

Musical notation for the A major scale, first line. The treble clef is on a staff with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). The notes are A2, B2, C#3, D3, E3, F#3, G#3, A3. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with strings labeled T, A, B. The fret numbers are: 0-2-4-0 for strings T, A, B; 2-4-1-2 for strings 5, 4, 3, 2; 0-2-3-0 for strings 1, 2, 3, 4; 2-4-5-4 for strings 5, 4, 3, 2.

Musical notation for the A major scale, second line. The treble clef is on a staff with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). The notes are B3, C#4, D4, E4, F#4, G#4, A4, B4. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with strings labeled T, A, B. The fret numbers are: 2-0-3-2 for strings T, A, B; 0-2-1-4 for strings 5, 4, 3, 2; 2-0-4-2 for strings 1, 2, 3, 4; 0 for string 5.

E MAJOR SCALE

Musical notation for the E major scale, first line. The treble clef is on a staff with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are E2, F#2, G#2, A2, B2, C#3, D3, E3. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with strings labeled T, A, B. The fret numbers are: 0-2-4-0 for strings T, A, B; 2-4-1-2 for strings 5, 4, 3, 2; 4-1-2-0 for strings 1, 2, 3, 4; 2-4-0 for strings 5, 4, 3.

Musical notation for the E major scale, second line. The treble clef is on a staff with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are F#3, G#3, A3, B3, C#4, D4, E4, F#4. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with strings labeled T, A, B. The fret numbers are: 0-4-2-0 for strings T, A, B; 2-1-4-2 for strings 5, 4, 3, 2; 1-4-2-0 for strings 1, 2, 3, 4; 4-2-0 for strings 5, 4, 3.

F MAJOR SCALE

First system of musical notation for the F Major Scale. It consists of a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature and a bass clef staff labeled 'TAB'. The treble staff shows the first four measures of the scale: F2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), Bb2 (quarter), C3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), and F3 (half). The bass staff shows the corresponding fret numbers: 1, 3, 0, 1, 3, 0, 2, 3, 0, 2, 3, 1, 3, 0, 1.

Second system of musical notation for the F Major Scale. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff labeled 'TAB'. The treble staff shows the continuation of the scale: G3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), Bb3 (quarter), C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), and G4 (half). The bass staff shows the corresponding fret numbers: 1, 0, 3, 1, 3, 2, 0, 3, 2, 0, 3, 1, 0, 3, 1.

C MAJOR SCALE 2ND POSITION

First system of musical notation for the C Major Scale in 2nd position. It consists of a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature and a bass clef staff labeled 'TAB'. The treble staff shows the first four measures of the scale: C3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), B3 (quarter), and C4 (half). The bass staff shows the corresponding fret numbers: 3, 5, 2, 3, 5, 2, 4, 5, 7, 5, 6, 8, 5, 7, 8. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 2, 4, 1, 2, 4, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 2, 4, 1, 3, 4. A '(shift)' is noted under the first measure of the second measure.

Second system of musical notation for the C Major Scale in 2nd position. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff labeled 'TAB'. The treble staff shows the continuation of the scale: D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), and D5 (half). The bass staff shows the corresponding fret numbers: 8, 7, 5, 8, 6, 5, 7, 5, 4, 2, 5, 3, 2, 5, 3.

MAJOR SCALE WARM-UP

II Position:

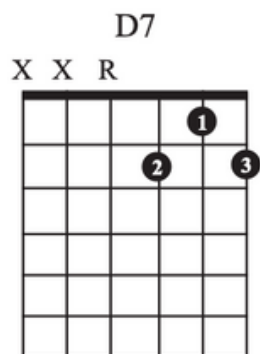
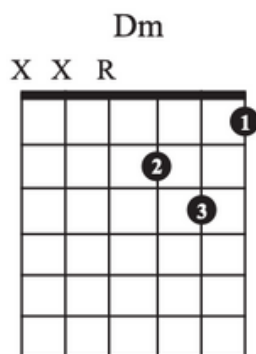
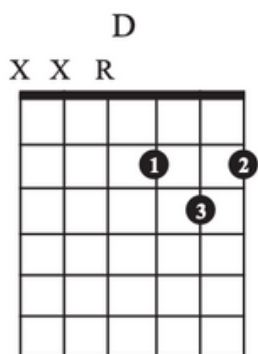
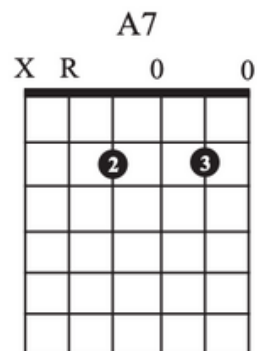
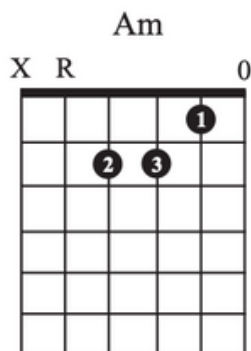
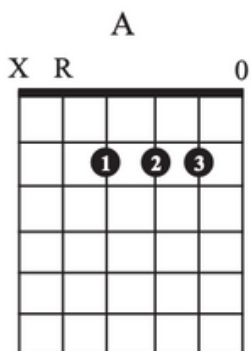
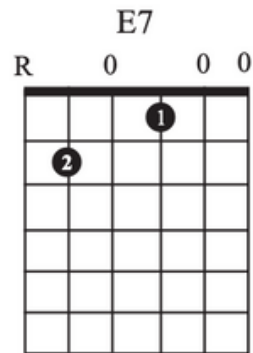
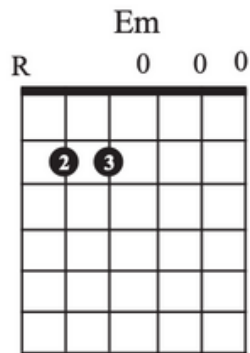
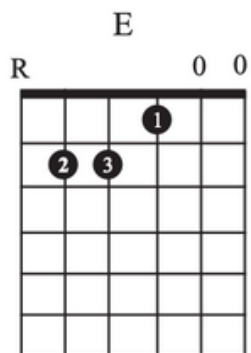
Guitar

The first system of notation consists of a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written on a single staff with eighth notes. Below the staff is a three-line guitar tablature with fret numbers: 3-5-2-3-5-2-3-5-2-3-5-2-4-5-2-4-5-2-4-5-2.

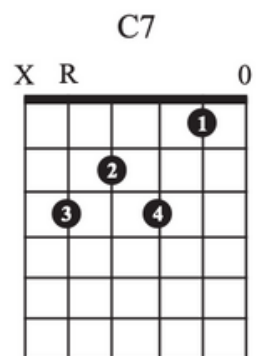
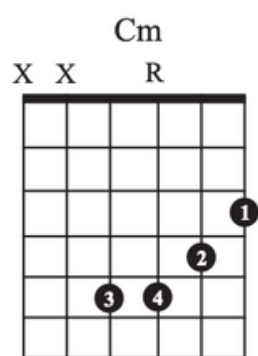
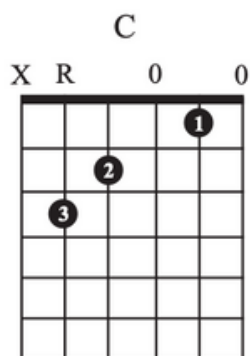
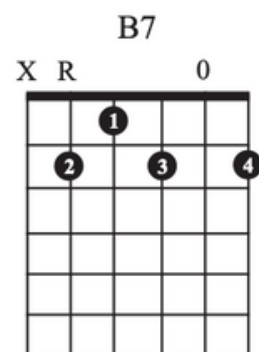
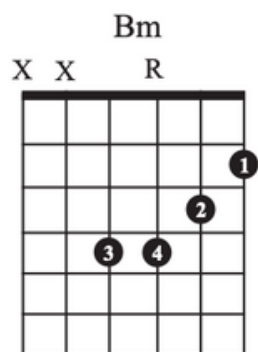
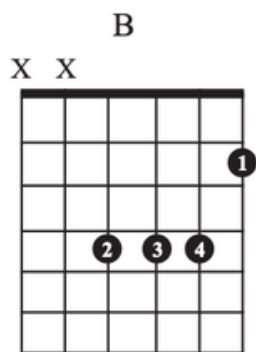
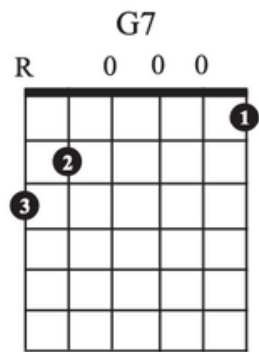
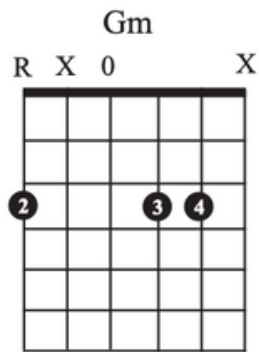
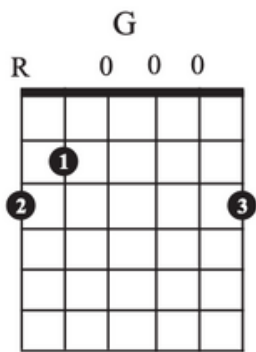
The second system of notation continues the melody from the first system. The treble clef and key signature remain. The melody is written on a single staff with eighth notes. Below the staff is a three-line guitar tablature with fret numbers: 4-5-2-4-5-2-4-5-2-4-5-3-4-5-3-5-5-3-5-2-3-5-2-3-3-2-5-3-5-3-5-4.

The third system of notation concludes the major scale warm-up. The treble clef and key signature remain. The melody is written on a single staff with eighth notes, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots. Below the staff is a three-line guitar tablature with fret numbers: 5-4-2-5-2-5-4-2-4-2-5-3-5-3-2-5-2-5-3-2-3. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots, and a 'II' marking above the staff.

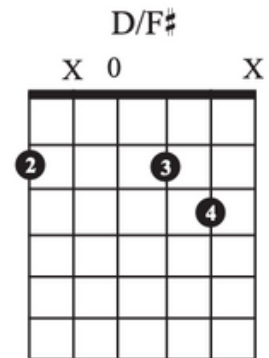
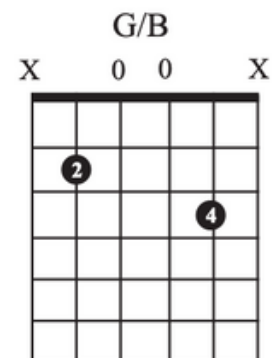
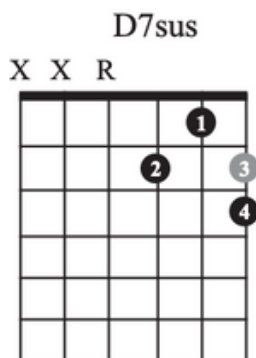
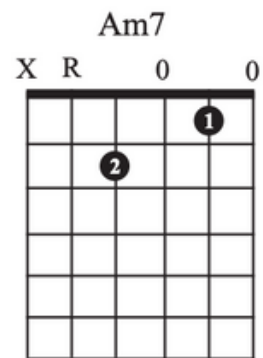
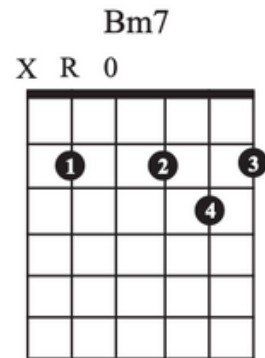
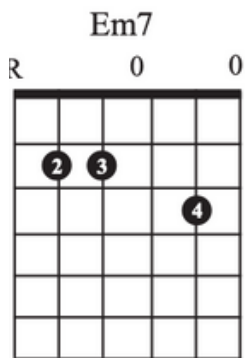
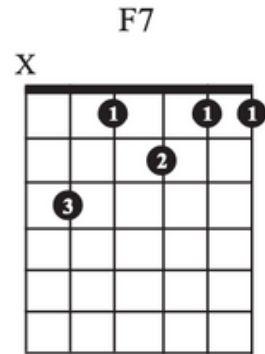
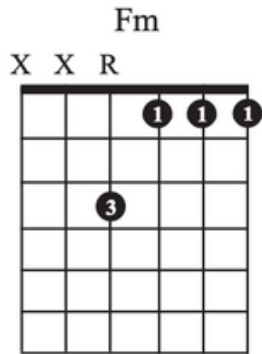
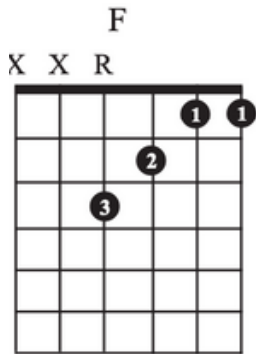
MORE CHORDS



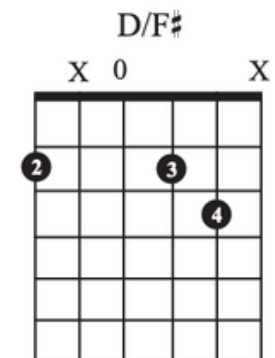
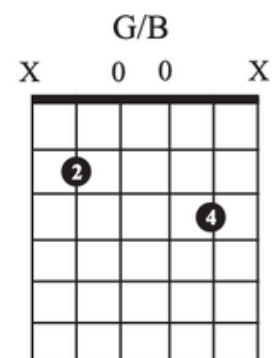
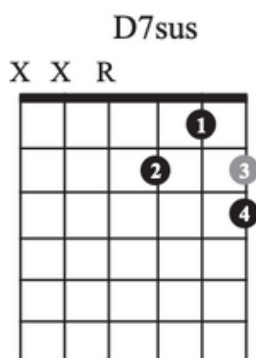
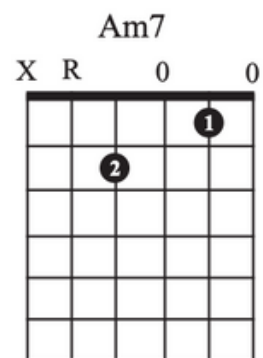
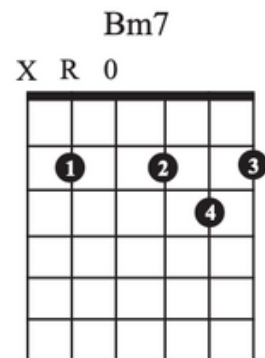
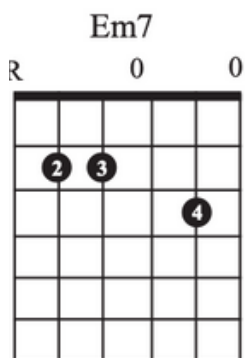
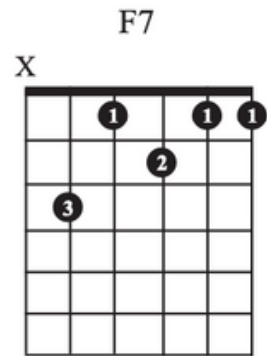
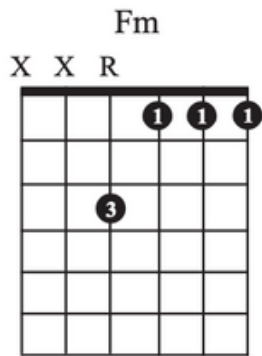
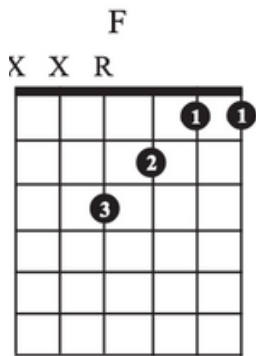
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