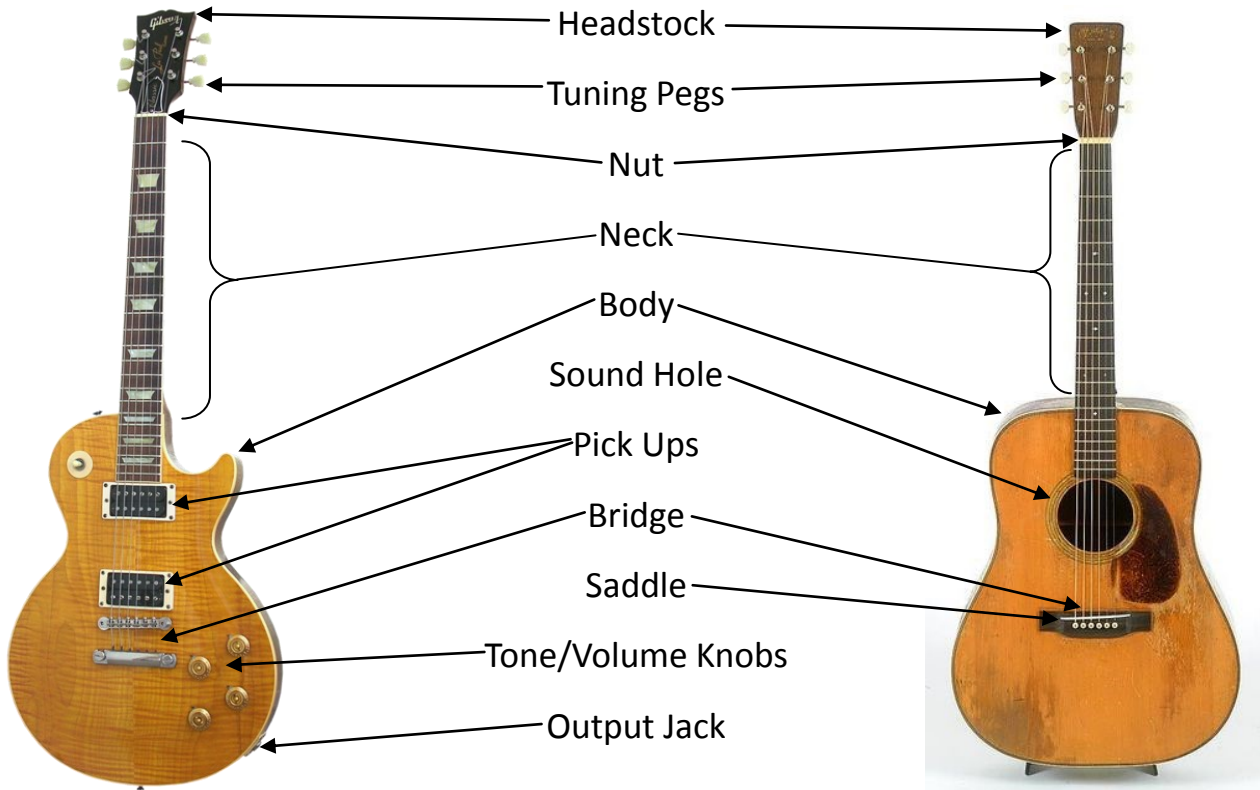


WELCOME TO THE GUITAR

No two guitars are exactly the same but they do share the same parts. Here's a list of part names. It's helpful to memorize them, but not absolutely necessary. Focus mostly on memorizing the fret and string numbers. These two areas are the ones your instructor will reference the most. Always remember:

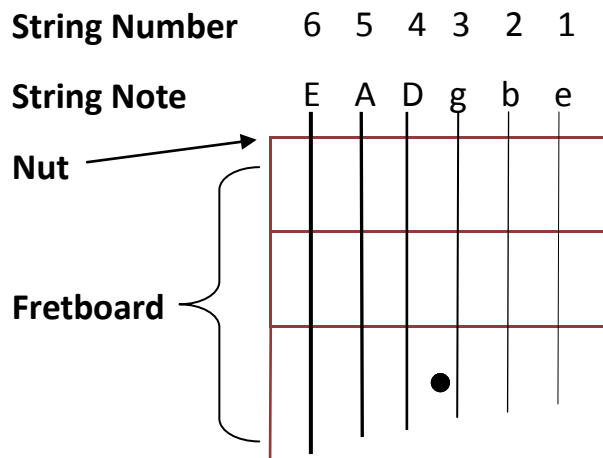
When you play your guitar, **PLAY LIKE YOU MEAN IT!**



STEP ONE: TUNE YOUR GUITAR

ALWAYS TUNE YOUR GUITAR BEFORE YOU BEGIN PLAYING

Purchase a tuner or download a free one on your tablet or phone. Whatever you choose, just make sure you use it properly.



FRET BOARD BASICS

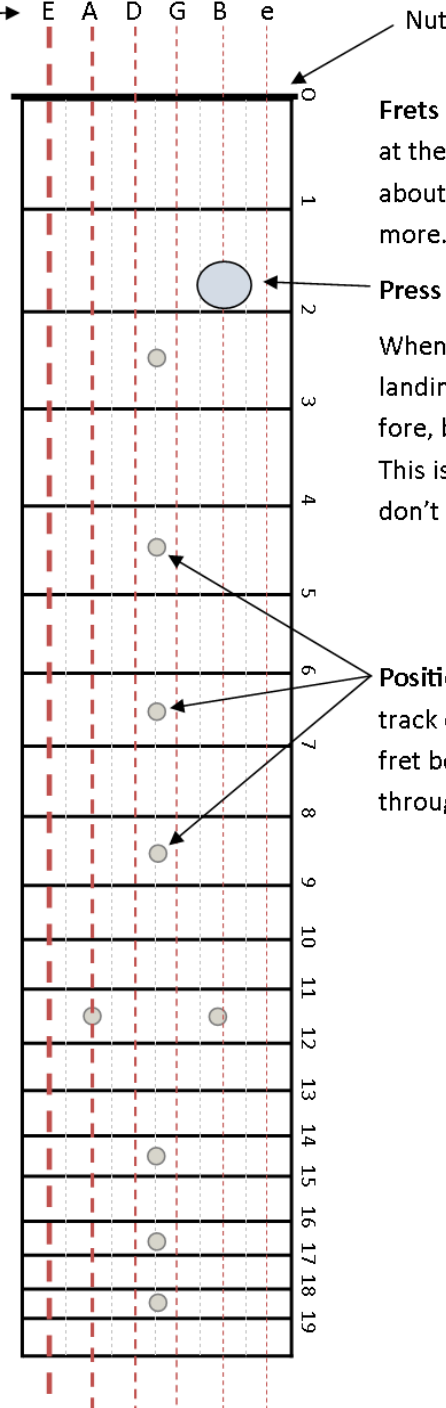
Strings / Fret Board / The Left Hand

String numbers → 6 5 4 3 2 1
 Standard Tuning → E A D G B e

Strings are numbered from 1 to 6. The low E string is the thickest string. The high e string is the thinnest one.

Clean and dry strings will perform far better than ones that have accumulated too much dirt and oil. Changing them often is recommended.

The Left Hand fingers are numbered from 1 to 4.



Frets are numbered beginning at the Nut. Most guitars have about 20 frets, but some have more.

Press Here

When pressing on a fret try landing your fingers right before, but never directly on top. This isn't always possible so don't "fret" if you can't do it!

Position Markers help you keep track of where you are on the fret board. They are spaced throughout the fret board.

PLAYING RHYTHMS

Rhythm applies to both chords and single notes. It is perhaps one of the most important parts of music, and also presents the biggest challenge for beginners. If you want to play chords, you practice chords. If you want to play notes you practice picking. However if you want to play MUSIC you practice RHYTHM! Focus on these key things:

- Whether playing chords or notes, the rhythm must always remain steady.
- It is best to use a metronome to help you stay on track.
- Start off slow, then challenge yourself by picking up the tempo.

Music is written using the symbols below. Use the [Music Symbols](#) page as a reference in case you forget what they mean. Don't worry about trying to understand everything today. If you practice regularly, all of these symbols will make perfect sense in no time. These are the key things to remember:

- Rhythm is something that steadily repeats.
- Poplar music is based on repetition, so it's important to work on your sense of rhythm.
- ALWAYS use a metronome when practicing rhythm.

RHYTHM PRE-EXERCISE

PLAY THE FOLLOWING THEN GO ON TO THE RHYTHM EXERCISES

The diagram illustrates four types of musical notes on a staff with a 4/4 time signature:

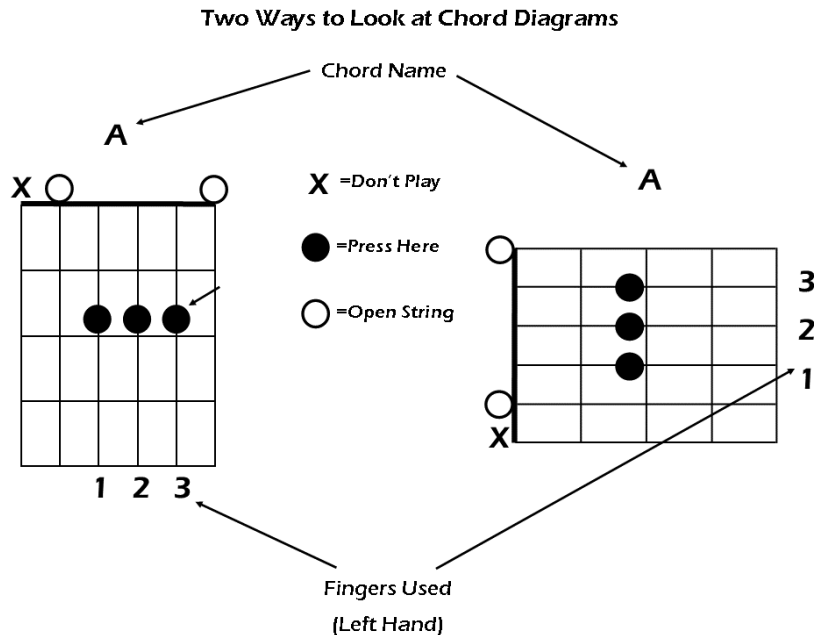
- Whole Note = 4 Beats:** A single note with a stem and a flag, occupying the entire measure. A '1' is written above the staff.
- Half Note = 2 Beats:** A note with a stem and a flag, occupying half the measure. Two such notes are shown side-by-side.
- Quarter Note = 1 Beat:** A note with a stem and a flag, occupying one-quarter of the measure. Four such notes are shown in a row.
- Eighth Note = 1/8 Beath:** A note with a stem and a flag, occupying one-eighth of the measure. Eight such notes are shown in a row, with a '3' written above the first one.

Below each note, there are small square symbols representing the picking pattern: a square for a downstroke and a 'V' for an upstroke.

PLAYING CHORDS

Chords are usually represented by diagrams called either chord boxes, charts, or grids just to name a few. The purpose of the diagrams is to show you how chords are formed. The grid represents the guitar fret board.

The figure below shows two ways chord boxes can be displayed.



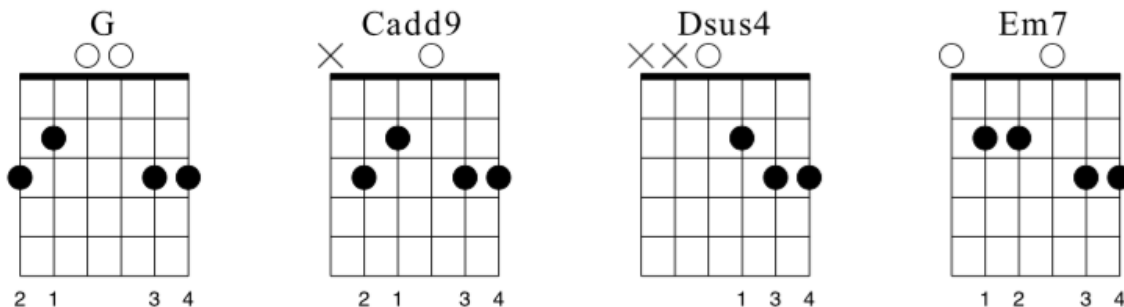
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When playing chords keep these things in mind:

- Be careful not to mute strings that should be heard.
- Be careful not to play strings that are marked by an X.
- The goal is to play them LOUD and CLEAR.

CHORD PRE-EXERCISE

PLAY THE FOLLOWING THEN GO ON TO THE CHORD EXERCISES



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PICKING NOTES ON THE GUITAR

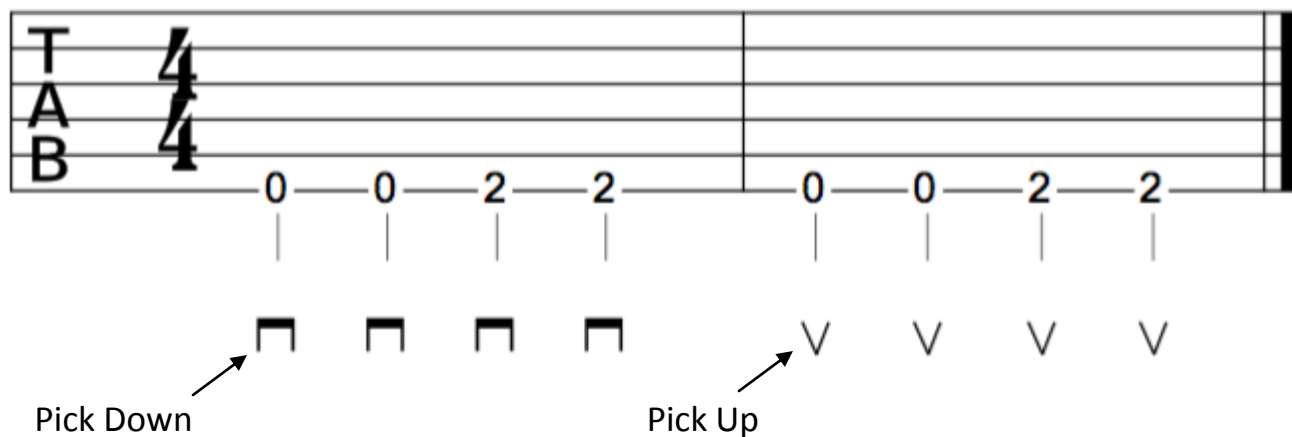
Hold a pick firmly between your thumb and the side of your index finger, while plucking the strings. Make sure the sounds you produce are nice and even without any buzzes or muting. These are the key things to remember:

- Keep the pick pointed toward the guitar.
- Use your wrist, not your elbow, to move the pick up and down.

When pressing down on a fret to play a note, remember these key things:

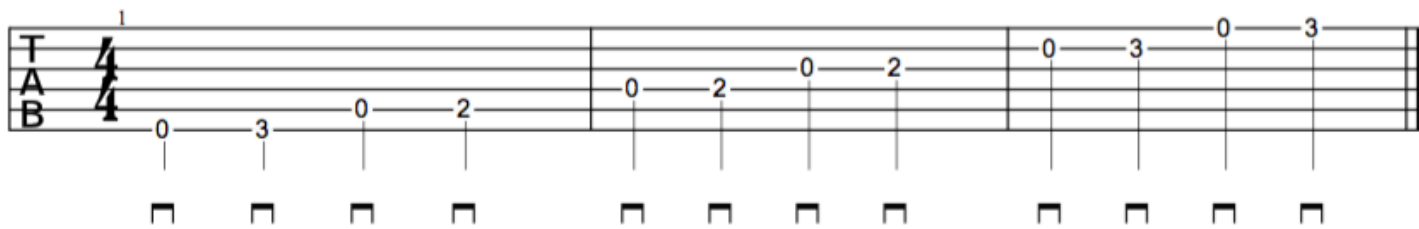
- Use the end of your finger tips (not where your finger prints are) to press down.
- Press close to the metal fret so you don't have to press as hard to get a clean sound.

PICKING SYMBOLS



PICKING PRE-EXERCISE

PLAY THE FOLLOWING THEN GO ON TO THE PICKING EXERCISES



PLAYING SCALES

Learning how scales work and how to play them all across the fret board is the foundation for understanding Music Theory. Scales help us understand Keys, Chords, Harmonies, Chord Progressions, and the list goes on and on. Understanding scales is not a requirement for playing music, however the guitar player who does will have an easier time figuring out the patterns that naturally appear on the fret board. Keep these things in mind when first starting out with music scales:

- It's not a race. Pace your self as you learn, and always use a metronome.
- Play scales as a warm up before you practice chords, picking, songs and so on.
- Strive for clean and steady notes instead of speed at first. You will gain speed in due time.

The first scale we will look at is the Major Scale in the key of E.

- Figure 1 shows it on one string (the 6th string).
- Figure 2 shows it across several strings.
- Figure 3 shows it across several strings in a higher octave.

SCALES PRE-EXERCISE

PLAY THE FOLLOWING THEN GO ON TO THE SCALE EXERCISES

Figure 1 shows the E major scale on the 6th string, starting at the 0th fret and ending at the 12th fret. The notes are E (0), G# (2), B (4), C# (5), E (7), G# (9), B (11), and E (12). Figure 2 shows the E major scale across several strings, starting at the 0th fret and ending at the 2nd fret. The notes are E (0), G# (2), B (4), C# (0), E (2), G# (4), B (1), and E (2). Figure 3 shows the E major scale across several strings in a higher octave, starting at the 2nd fret and ending at the 5th fret. The notes are E (2), G# (4), B (1), C# (2), E (4), G# (2), B (4), and E (5).

MUSIC SYMBOLS

- Used to display chords and chord progressions.
- Good for learning the basic structure of a song.
- Used for writing specific notes for all Keys.
- Good for understanding Music Theory.
- Used to point out specific frets to be pressed.
- Good for quickly playing your favorite guitar riffs.

Slash Notation

Traditional Notation

Tablature

RHYTHM SYMBOLS

Time Signature

4/4 = 4 Beats Per Measure

Quarter Note Gets 1 Beat

1 Measure

Repeat Sign

Rests

USE THIS KEY IF YOU GET STUCK