

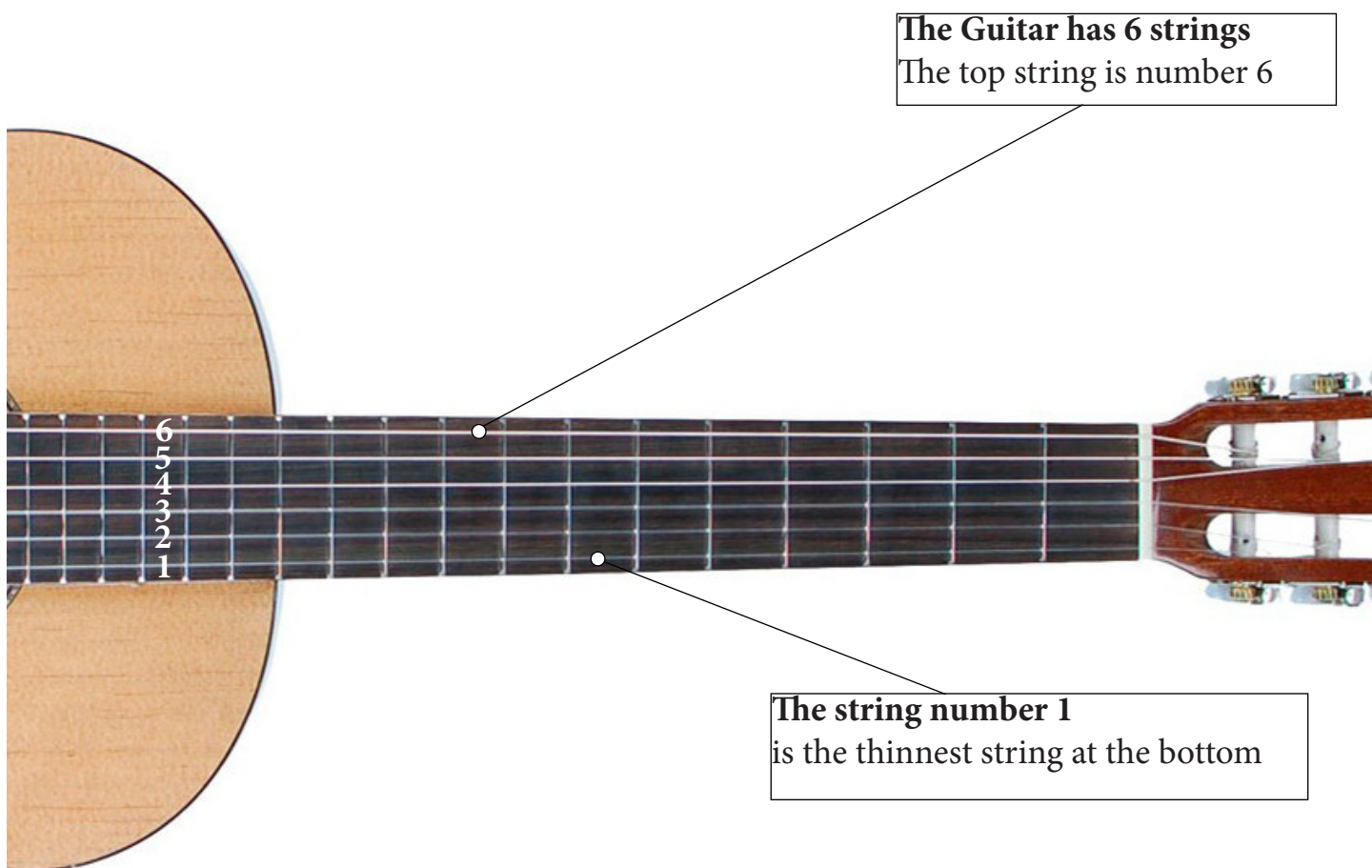
THE ESSENTIAL GUITAR

by
Victor M. Barba



THE CALIFORNIA MUSIC CONSERVATORY

HOW TO READ TABLATURE



TABLATURE

The tablature is a way of reading guitar in a very easy way. Using 6 lines and numbers is possible to read music. The 6 lines are representing the 6 strings in the guitar.



IMPORTANT!

Notice how the lines in the TAB, are backwards!

The string number 6 is at the BOTTOM, not at the top.

Because they are arranged by the sound. So in the TAB, the low sounding string is at the bottom (string 6)

and the high sounding string is at the top (string1)

The FRETS

The guitar has many frets. The vertical metal bars in the fretboard.

Fret No. 3

Fret No. 1

Fret No. 2

12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4

Do not press the frets!

When we play guitar, we don't touch the frets, we play between them.

Here!

In real life...

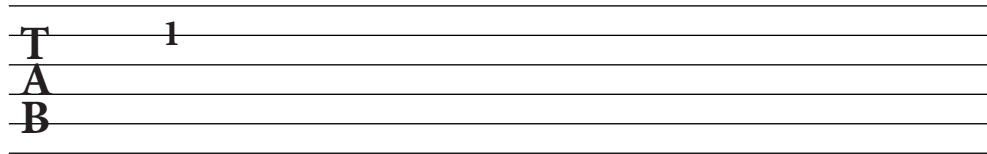
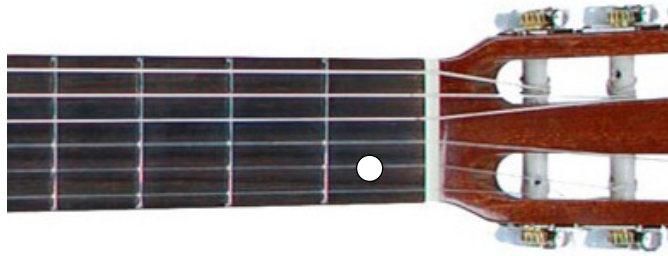
So in real life this is Fret No. 1 - String No. 2

To play this note, you need to strum the string.

With your thumb in your right hand, strum the string No. 2

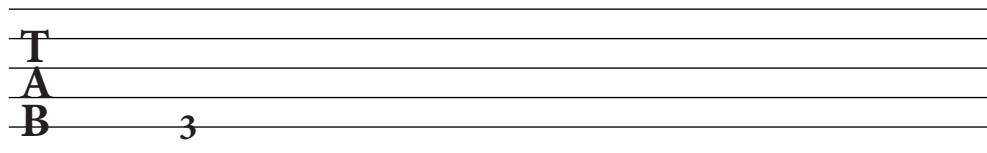
The note in the TAB

The same note would look like this in the TAB.



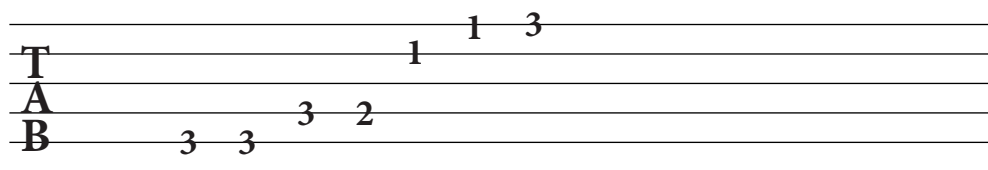
Another note

Another note, like C would be here.



It means, that you are playing the string No. 5,
and pressing the Fret No. 3.

A little song in a TAB would look like this...



And you read it from left to right.

Open strings.

But what happens when you have to play an open string, or a string without pressing any frets.

You then have to use the “0”

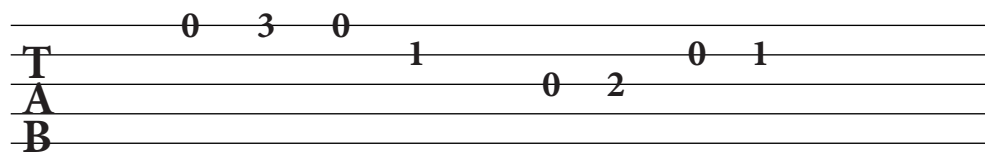


This means, that you are playing the String No. 6, open.

You do not press any frets at all.

You can see thi white dot, outside to the right. Do not press anything with your left hand. This is an open string.

Try to play this notes...



It should sound like a little song

If you can play these notes, it means that you understand how to read TAB.

It's not difficult, just remember it's backwards, and the numbers are the Frets, and the “0” is an open string.

Jingle Bells

	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 3	0	1 1 1	0 0 0	3 3 3	0	3
T			1 3						
A									
B									

	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 3	0	1 1 1	0 0 0	3 1 0	3	1
T			1 3						
A									
B									

Sample of TAB music

TAB
1-2-3-4 1-2-3-4 1-2-3-4 1-2-3-4

$\text{♩} = 100$

C

TAB
3 0 2 3 0 2 0 1

5 5 5 2

6 7 7 6

3 2 0 3

If you can play these sample, even if it's really slow, and note by note, then you understand how to read TAB.

From now on, you will see a lot of music using this method, and you will be able to play a lot of songs.

Practice every day and enjoy music.

THE CALIFORNIA MUSIC CONSERVATORY

HOW TO PLAY THE D CHORD

Two hands.

To play the D Chord, or any chord, you need two hands.



Left Hand.

In the left hand we use only four fingers.
The thumb is for support only.
We use the four for pressing the strings in the fretboard.



Right Hand.

The fingers in the Right Hand are with letters. We use all five.
We use the Right Hand for playing and strumming the strings.

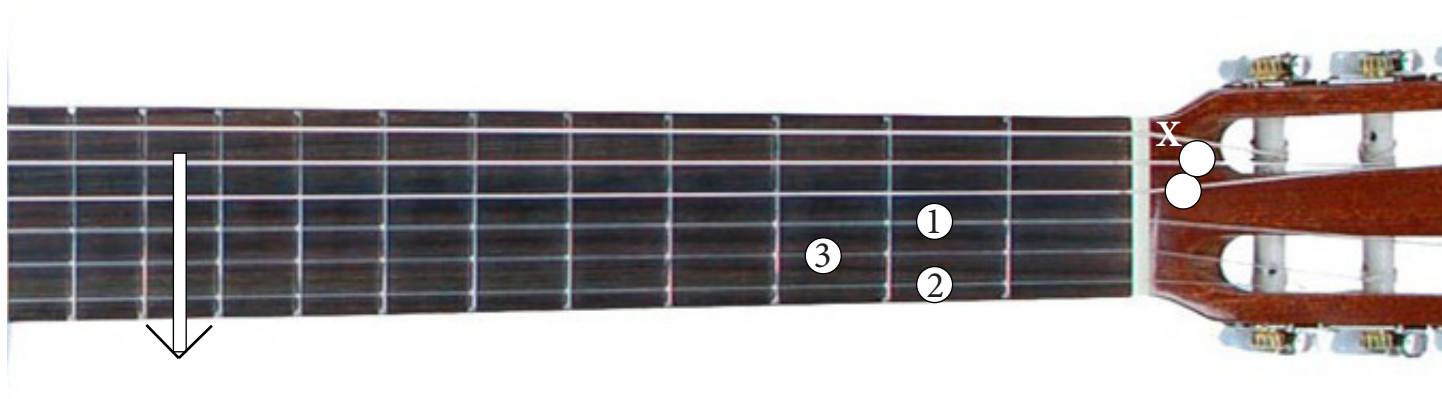
p = pulgar (thumb)
i = índice (index)
m = medio (middle)
a = anular (ring)
c = chico (pinky)

The D Chord

The D Chord is easy to play. You need 3 fingers.

Do not play the String No. 6.

When you press the strings, you can strum all the Strings except the No. 6.



The D Chord, look like this in TAB.

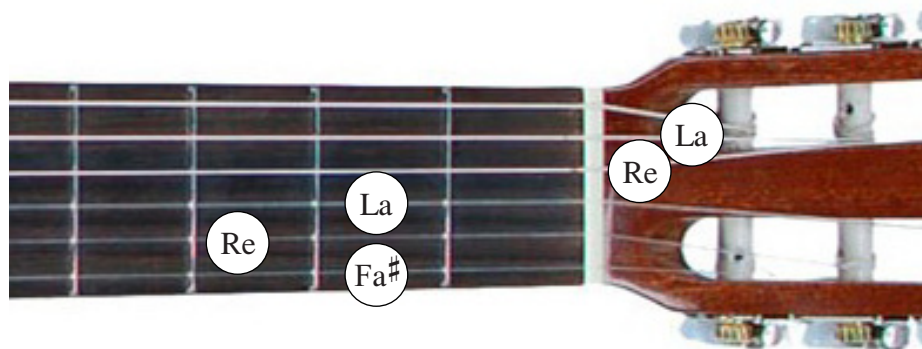
	2
T	3
A	2
B	0
	0

The D Chord

This Chord has 3 notes: Re - Fa[#] - La

or if we use letters, they are: D - F[#] - A.

When we press the strings, we are just pressing some of these three notes, see it here.



That is why we do not play the String number 6, because this String is "Mi" and this note does not belong to the D Chord. Notice how we only play the three notes from the Chord.

Exercises in the D Chord

Play one string at a time and repeat many times.

1

Play one string at a time and repeat many times.

2

One string and the Chord.

3

One by one.

4

One string and two times the Chord.

5

THE CALIFORNIA MUSIC CONSERVATORY

Twenty Easy Technique For Guitar

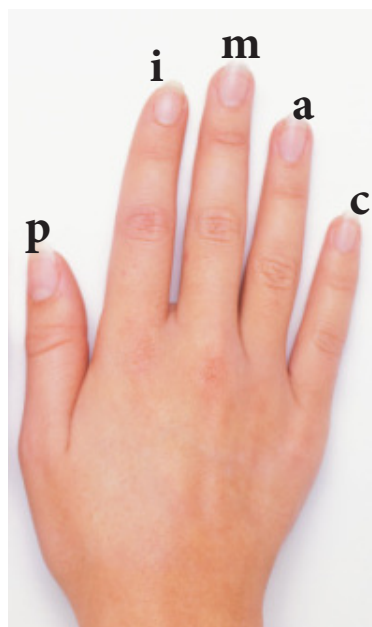
Two hands.

We need to use two hands to play the Guitar.



Left Hand.

In the left hand we use only four fingers.
The thumb is for support only.
We use the four for pressing the strings in the fretboard.



Right Hand.

The fingers in the Right Hand are with letters. We use all five.
We use the Right Hand for playing and strumming the strings.

p = pulgar (thumb)
i = índice (index)
m = medio (middle)
a = anular (ring)
c = chico (pinky)

Technique with open strings

You will have to repeat each technique many times. At least 10 to 20 times two or three times a day. In 20 days or a month you should see the difference.

1

p i p i | p i p i

When you play each string, make sure that you do not touch any other string. And always make a clear sound.

2

p i p i | p i p i

Now the strings in the middle. Use the Thumb and the index finger, and all the strings are open.

3

p i p i | p i p i

Now the strings in the middle. Use the Thumb and the index finger, and all the strings are open.

4

p i p i | p i p i

To play this use a "Pick" or you can use only the Thumb.

5

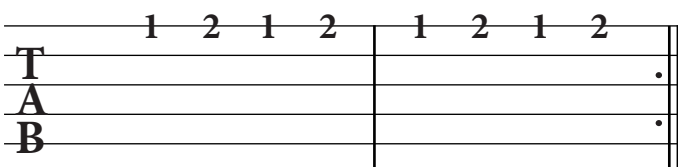
p m i m | p m i m

Technique for pressing strings

For this technique you can use a pick or the thumb. Just make sure you are using fingers one and two.

10 times is good. Three times a day.

6

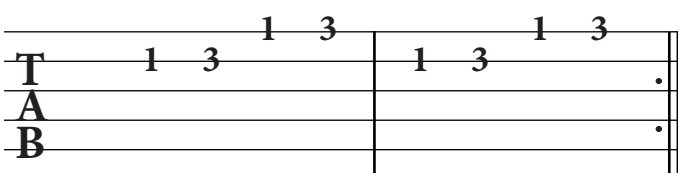


Exercise 6: A three-string exercise on strings T, A, and B. The notation consists of two measures. The first measure has a whole note on string T with fingerings 1 and 2, and a whole note on string A with fingerings 1 and 2. The second measure has a whole note on string B with fingerings 1 and 2, and a whole note on string T with fingerings 1 and 2. The exercise ends with a double bar line.

Now you can stretch your fingers. Use finger 1 and 3.

Or you can also use fingers 1 and 2.

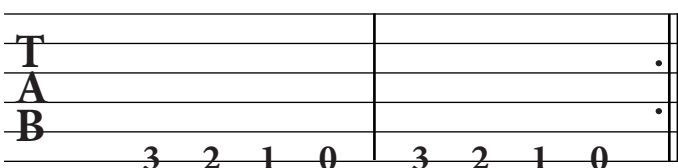
7



Exercise 7: A three-string exercise on strings T, A, and B. The notation consists of two measures. The first measure has a whole note on string T with fingerings 1 and 3, and a whole note on string A with fingerings 1 and 3. The second measure has a whole note on string B with fingerings 1 and 3, and a whole note on string T with fingerings 1 and 3. The exercise ends with a double bar line.

Now pressed strings with open. You can play this technique in any string. I will use String No. 6 for this one.

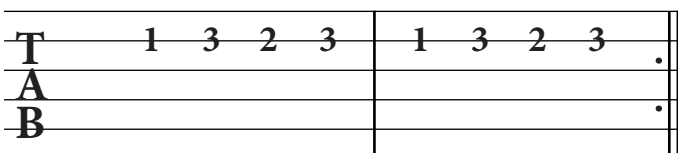
8



Exercise 8: A three-string exercise on strings T, A, and B. The notation consists of two measures. The first measure has a whole note on string T with fingerings 3, 2, 1, and 0, and a whole note on string A with fingerings 3, 2, 1, and 0. The second measure has a whole note on string B with fingerings 3, 2, 1, and 0, and a whole note on string T with fingerings 3, 2, 1, and 0. The exercise ends with a double bar line.

Make sure it sounds clear and try to play with an even timing. Rest your fingers if they hurt.

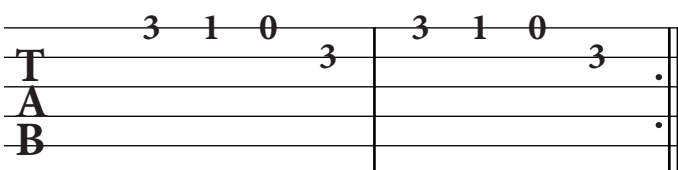
9



Exercise 9: A three-string exercise on strings T, A, and B. The notation consists of two measures. The first measure has a whole note on string T with fingerings 1, 3, 2, and 3, and a whole note on string A with fingerings 1, 3, 2, and 3. The second measure has a whole note on string B with fingerings 1, 3, 2, and 3, and a whole note on string T with fingerings 1, 3, 2, and 3. The exercise ends with a double bar line.

Play only the strings that you have to play. Make sure you don't touch any other string.

10

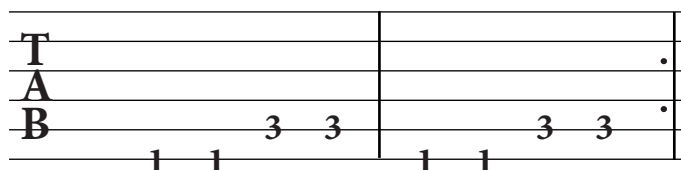


Exercise 10: A three-string exercise on strings T, A, and B. The notation consists of two measures. The first measure has a whole note on string T with fingerings 3, 1, 0, and 3, and a whole note on string A with fingerings 3, 1, 0, and 3. The second measure has a whole note on string B with fingerings 3, 1, 0, and 3, and a whole note on string T with fingerings 3, 1, 0, and 3. The exercise ends with a double bar line.

Technique for bass notes

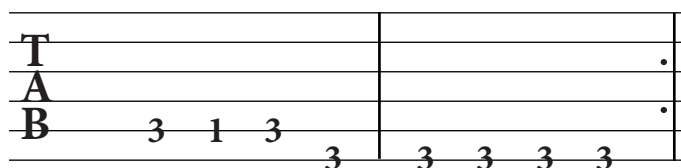
Use your thumb. Try to play fast. But always with a clear sound. First start slow and then go as fast as you can. 10 times or more.

11



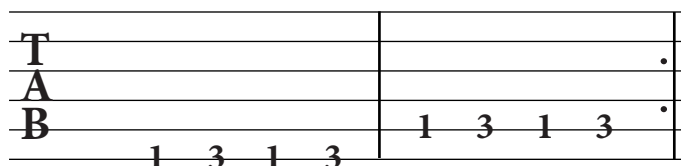
These will help you later if you want to play the bass, or some low notes in a song.

12



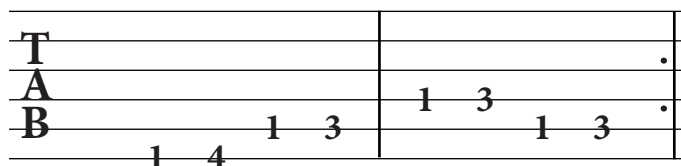
Remember, play clear. And when you can play it really nice, play it as fast as you can.

13



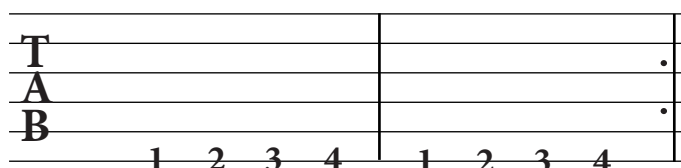
Now you really have to stretch those fingers. You can use the pinky, but it's hard. So use the 3rd finger to play the fret No. 4. Let go the first finger to reach the 4th Fret.

14



Use your pinky. Start really slow. If you get tired, relax and try again later.

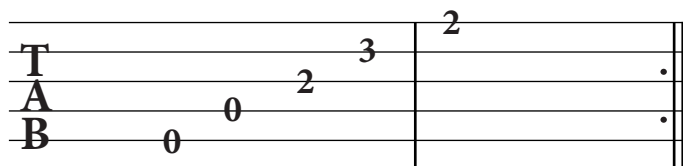
15



Technique in the D Chord

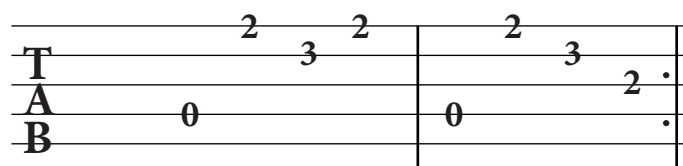
Play one string at a time and repeat many times.

16



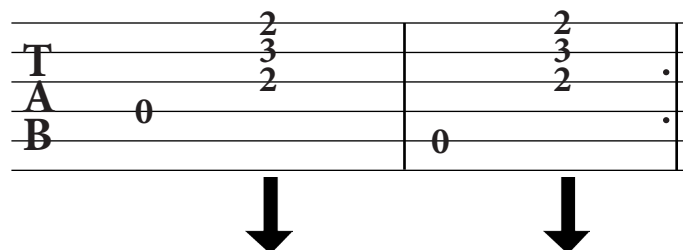
Play one string at a time and repeat many times.

17



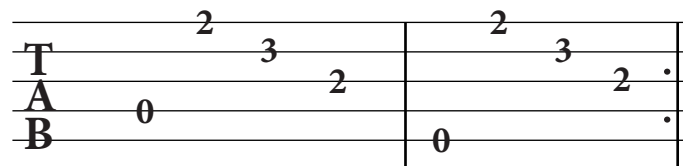
One string and the Chord.

18



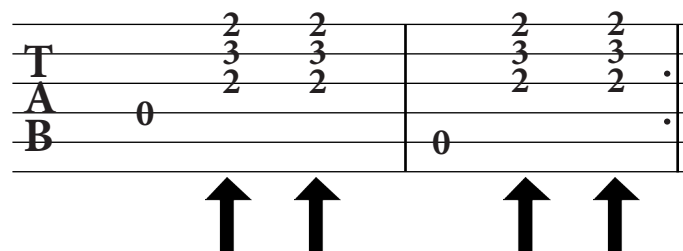
One by one.

19



One string and two times the Chord.

20



THE CALIFORNIA MUSIC CONSERVATORY

NAME OF NOTES FOR GUITAR

Seven Notes.

In music we have seven notes. These are the basic natural notes.

Do	Re	Mi	Fa	Sol	La	Si
----	----	----	----	-----	----	----

We use the real name of the notes. The original name from the Latin, the way it was invented around 1432 in Italy.

In the United States is used a system of letters instead of notes, we use both, letters and notes. The seven letters are from the alphabet.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Each letter represent one note. The corresponding letters and notes are like follow:

Do	is	C
Re	is	D
Mi	is	E
Fa	is	F
Sol	is	G
La	is	A
Si	is	B

The idea is that you learn both, the name of the notes and the letters. We use letters for Chords, and the name for single notes. Memorize them and you see how easy is to read music.

We use the letters to tell you the name of each string in the Guitar.
The Guitar has 6 strings, the TOP string is number 6 and it's E.



You have to memorize the name of each string. This will help you later to tune the Guitar, or change strings.

All Guitar have the same order of strings, Electric Guitars and Acoustic Guitars.

Notice that you have two strings that are “E”. One is low, string No. 6 and the other one is really high, the string No. 1.

Play each string and hear how it sounds. Say the letter as you play the string, like “This is the A string...” and play the A String.

The same strings with the name of the notes.



For some people might be easier to learn the name of the notes, and for other the letters. Whatever you learn is good, but you should know how to convert notes in letters or letters in notes.

Later as you learn more and more I am sure you will know both of them.

THE CALIFORNIA MUSIC CONSERVATORY

THE SEVEN NOTES IN THE GUITAR

Seven Notes.

In this lesson you are going to learn the seven notes in the Guitar,
and where you need to play each note.

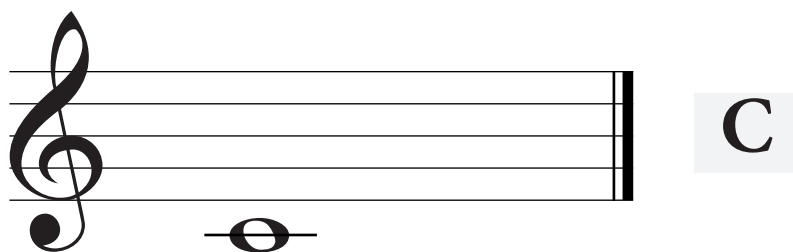
These notes are the basic seven notes and the basic position.

The seven notes are:

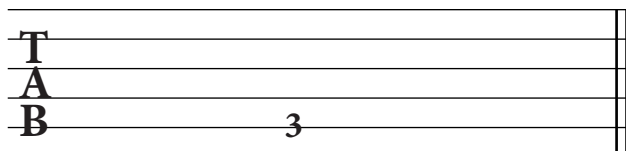
Do	Re	Mi	Fa	Sol	La	Si
----	----	----	----	-----	----	----

Do

The first note is “**Do**” or “**C**”.
This note looks like this in music,
is the middle C.
Notice how it has a little line
across the actual note.
And we are using a Whole Note.

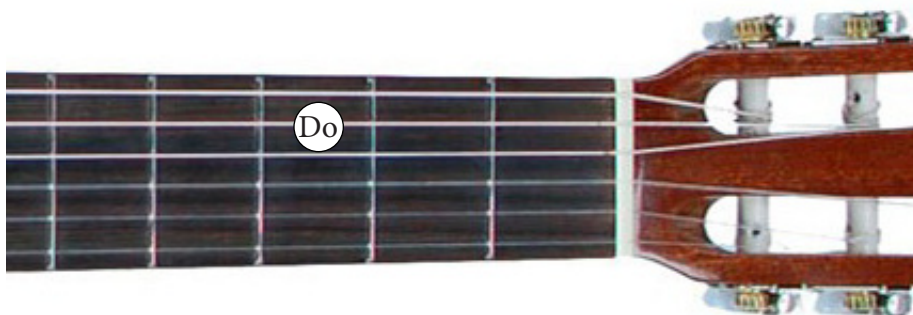


It looks like this in TAB



And you can play this
note, by pressing the
String No. 5 in the Fret
No. 3.

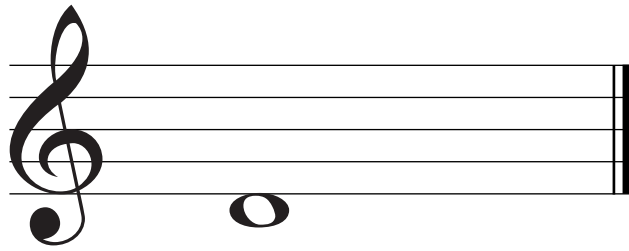
Play the note “**Do**” now.



When you play a note, make sure it
sounds clear and clean.

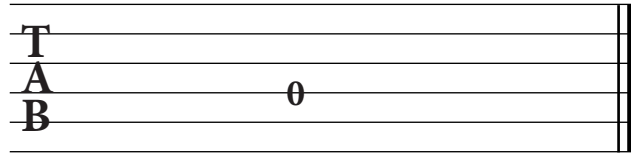
Re

Next we have a “**Re**” or “D”.
This note is right below the staff
and it is touching the first line.
We are also using a Whole Note.



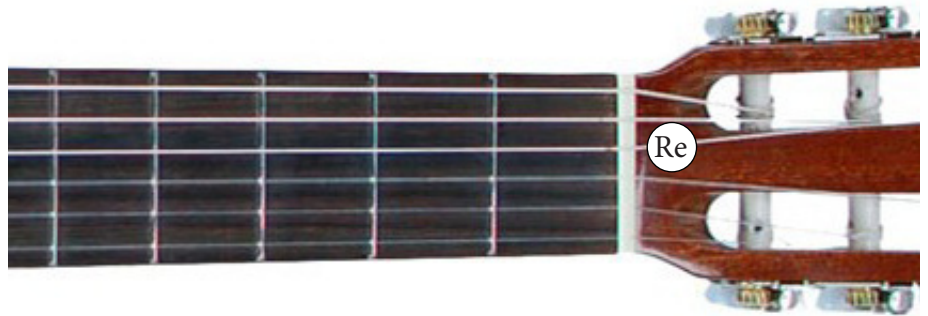
D

In the TAB you use the “0”
because it is an open string.



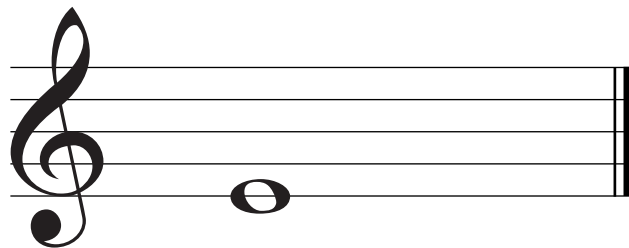
Play this note open, by
playing the String No. 4
and do not press any Fret.

Play the note “**Re**” now.



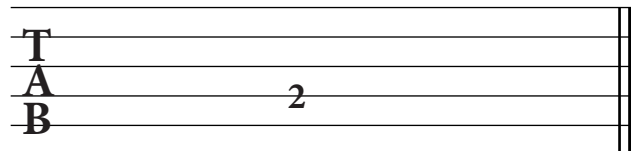
Mi

The third note is “**Mi**” or “E”.
This note is right on top of the
first line of the staff.
The Whole Note last 4 counts.



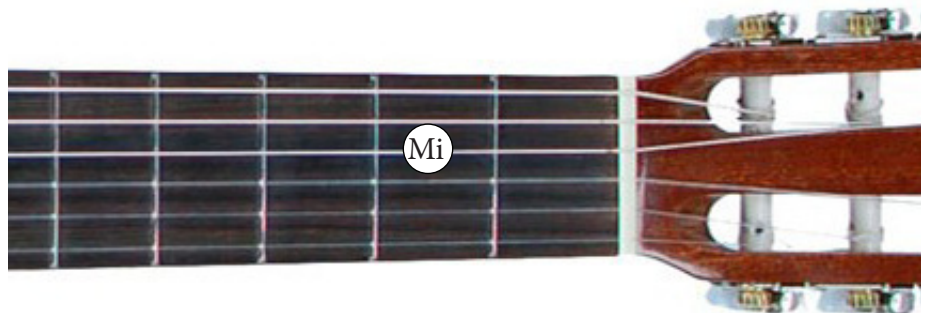
E

In the TAB it's a number 2,
because you press the Fret
No. 2



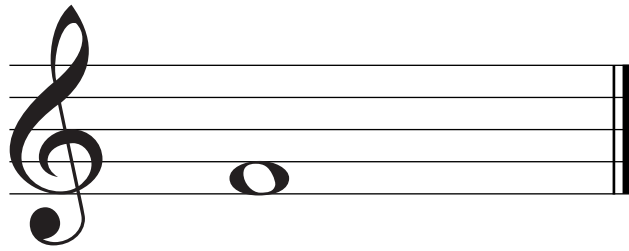
And you can play this
note, by pressing the
String No. 4 in the Fret
No. 2.

Play the note “**Mi**” now.



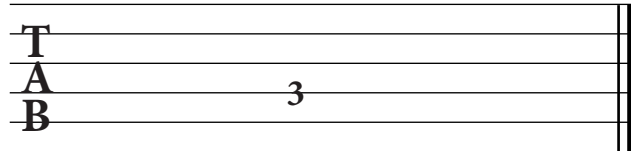
Fa

Note No. 4 is “**Fa**” or “F”.
This note is in the first space, between the lines one and two.
And we are using a Whole Note.

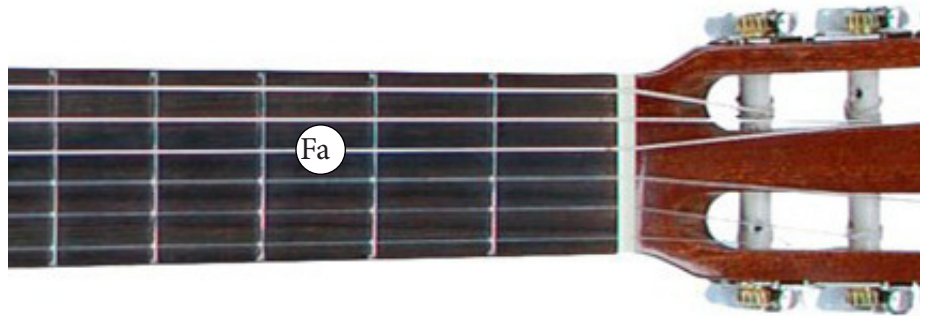


F

It looks like this in TAB,
it has a number 3.



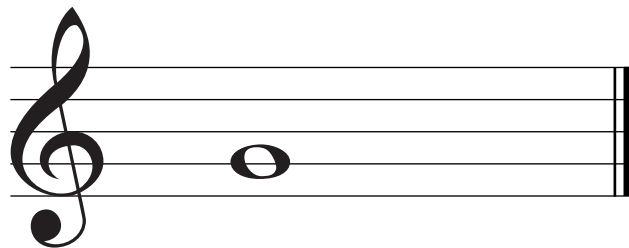
And you can play this
note, by pressing the
String No. 4 in the Fret
No. 3.



Play the note “**Fa**” now.

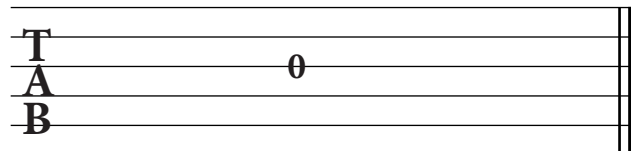
Sol

Note No. 5 is “**Sol**” or “G”.
Is in the second line of the staff.
Also with a Whole Note for this
example.

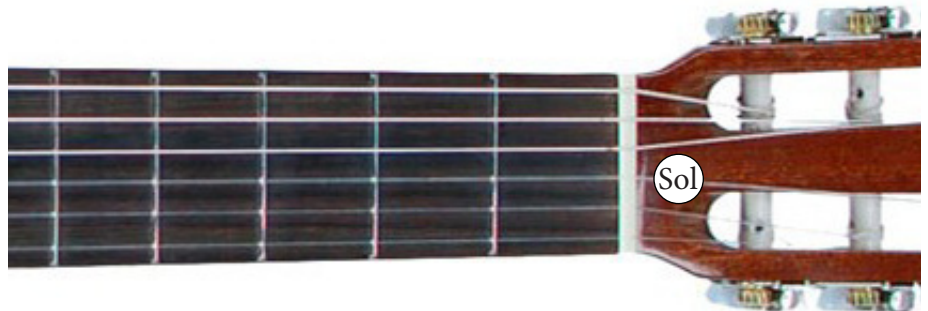


G

Notice that in the TAB
is a “0” or open string in
the 3rd line.



Play this note open, by
playing the String No. 3
and do not press any Fret.

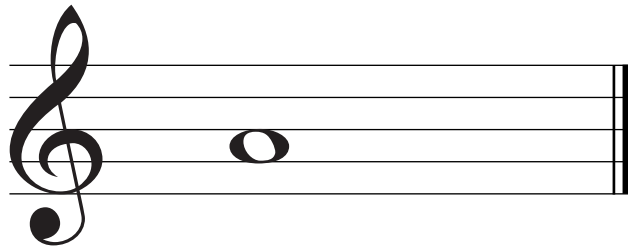


Play the note “**Sol**” now.

La

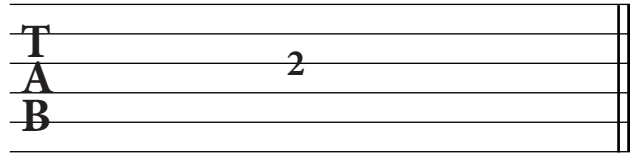
Note 6 is “**La**” or “A”.

This note is in the second space of the Staff with a Whole Note.



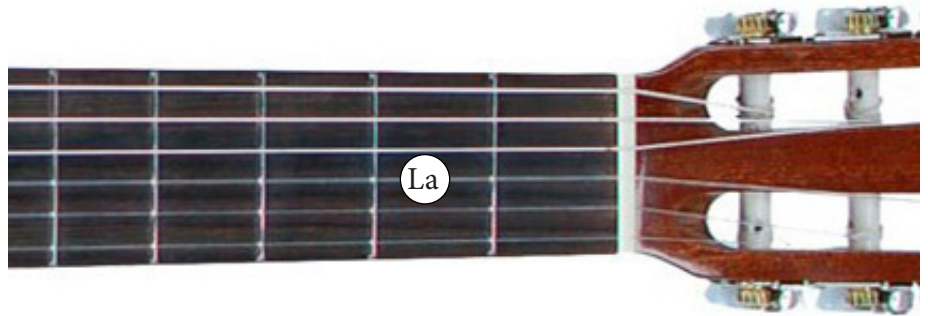
A

The TAB is a number 2 in the 3rd line.



And you can play the A, by pressing the String No. 3 in the Fret No. 2.

Notice how the notes are starting to sound higher. Play the note “**La**” now.

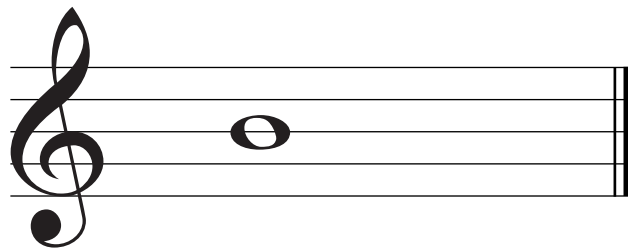


Si

Note 7 is “**Si**” or “B”.

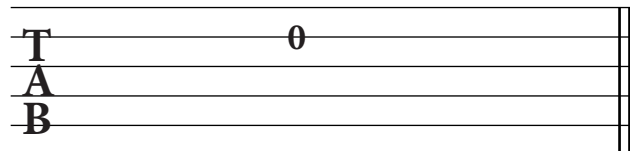
This note is right in the middle of the Staff, in the third line.

I am using a Whole Note for display.



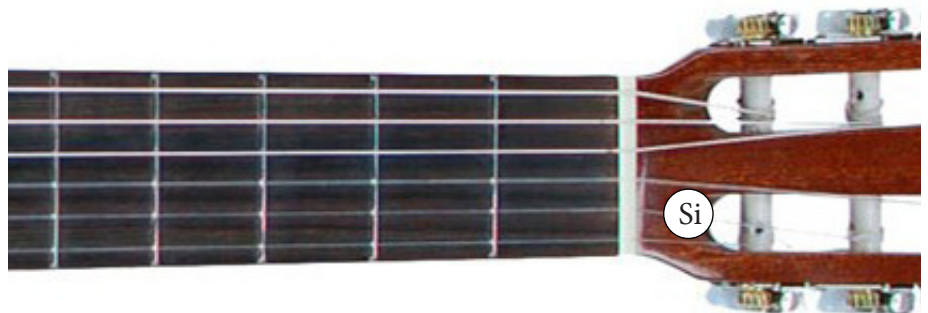
B

The “Si” is also an open string, so we use a “0” in the TAB.

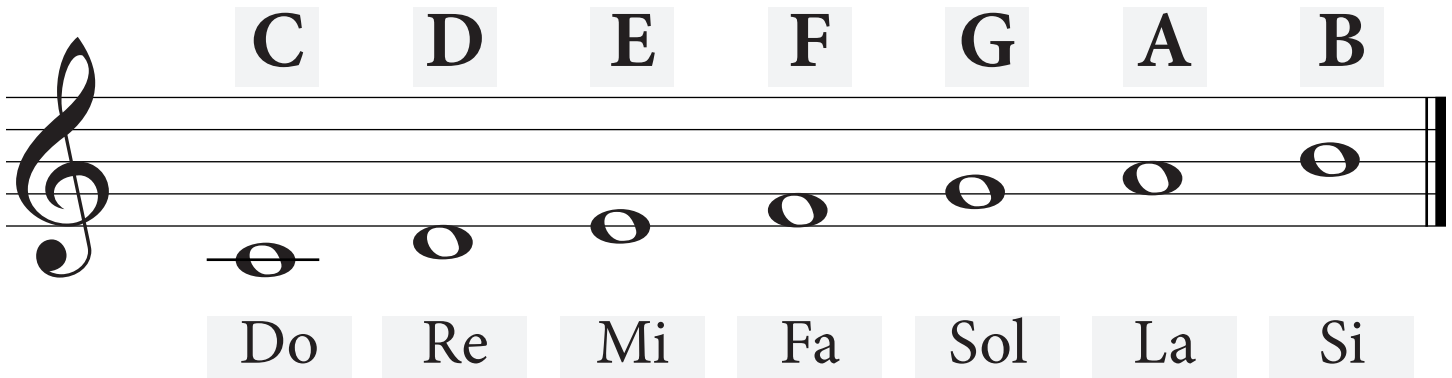


Play this note open, by playing the String No. 2 and do not press any Fret, remember, “**Si**” is open.

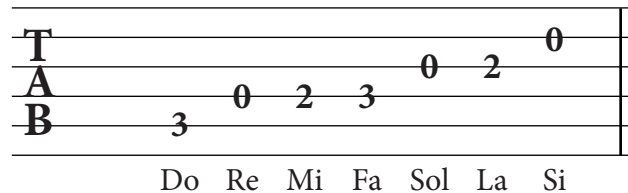
Play the note “**Si**” now.



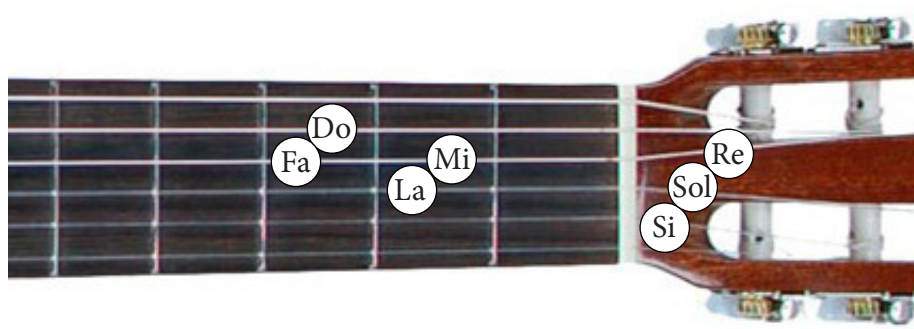
The seven notes in music



The seven notes in TAB



The seven notes in the Guitar



Learning the seven notes and where you need to play each note in the Guitar, is one of the very basic things you have to know first.

Knowing the notes will help you understand music better, and later will help you to read music.

Practice every day and enjoy music!

THE CALIFORNIA MUSIC CONSERVATORY

BASIC MUSIC THEORY

10 Music Theory Symbols.

Learning music theory will help you understand music better.

Music Theory is important because it tells you the name of all the symbols we use to write music.

Music is like learning another language.

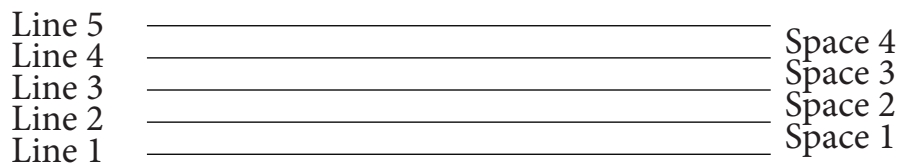
In this lesson you will learn 10 basic symbols.

No. 1 - The Staff

The Staff is where we write all the notes and symbols in music. Is the basic lines you see every time you see a sheet music.

The Staff has five lines and four spaces.

The first line is the bottom one.



When we read music, we read from bottom to top and from left to right.

Normal letters you read from top to bottom, but music is from bottom to top. That is why the first line is the bottom.

We read music from bottom to top

No. 2 - The Treble Clef

In order to know the name of the notes, we need to have a key, or a symbol that let us know which line has each name.

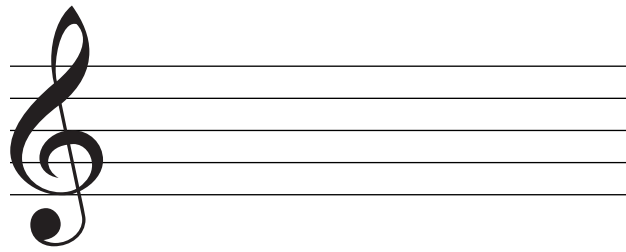
Because there are so many notes and only five lines, the notes changes in the line, depending in which clef we are using.

There are many clefs, for low and high notes.



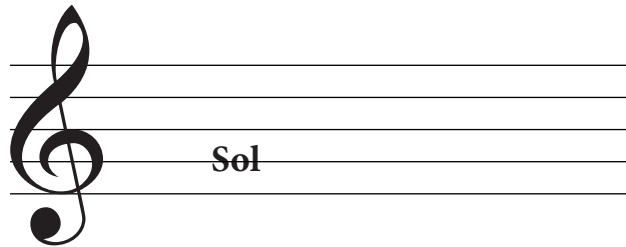
The Treble Clef

We usually place the Treble Clef right at the beginning to the left of the Staff, like so:



Just by doing this, now we can tell if a line is C, or F, or any note.

Notice how the Treble Clef has a curvy line around the second line of the Staff. This tell us that the second line is “**Sol**” or G.



No. 3 - Time Signature

To read music we need the time. Every note must be play in a certain time, or “Tempo”.

The Tempo is very important in music.

To measure the tempo or timing in music, we need some kind of numbers to divide the time in little parts.

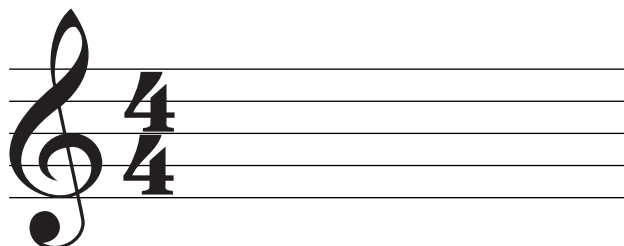
The most commun is the four by four. Diving time in four parts.

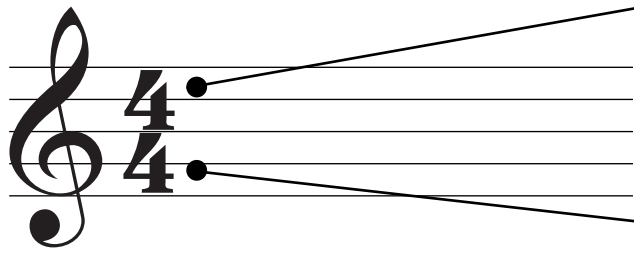
We place the numbers right after the Treble clef.

One number on top of the other.

4
4

Time Signature





The TOP number tells you how many notes you need in each measure.

The BOTTOM number tells you what kind of notes you need in each measure.

You always need a combination of the two numbers. One to tell you if you need 3 notes, or 5 or 2 notes per measure, and the other to tell you what kind of notes, if they are Half Notes, or Quarter Notes or Eighth Notes.

Using these two numbers you can write any kind of music.

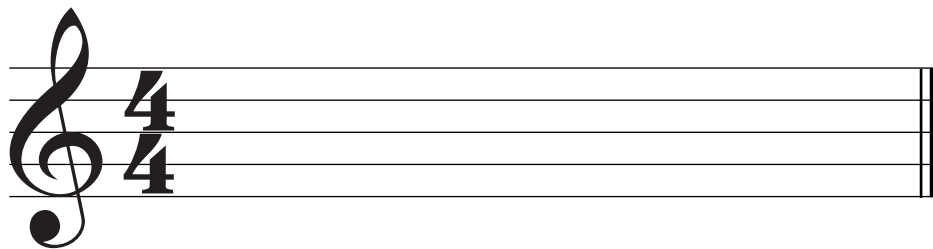
No. 4 - Double Bar Line

At the end of the music, we always use a Double Bar Line, to know when the song is over.

A Double Bar Line has two vertical lines. One thick and one thin. The Double Bar Line always goes at the end of the musical piece.



Double Bar Line



Notice how little by little, and adding more music symbols, we can start to see how we can actually read and write music.

No. 5 - The Whole Note

Now we have the notes. The notes are the symbols that actually make you produce some sounds.

There are many notes. Some lasting long time, and some notes are very short, lasting really little.

The note that last four counts is the Whole Note.



The Whole Note



Now this example is a real piece of music.

This note is “Sol” or G, because it’s in the second line.

The Treble Clef is telling us that because of the curvy line around the second line.

The Time Signature is telling us that we need four notes lasting one count each note, so we can put one note that last four counts and we have the same time.

No. 6 - The Whole Rest

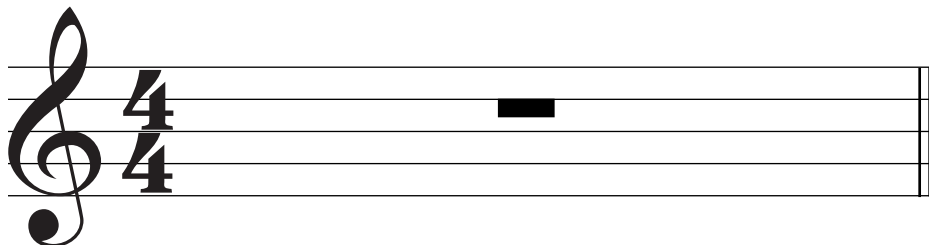
Sometimes we don’t need a sound, we need a silence, or a rest in music. Music is made with sounds and silences.

Each note has a rest lasting the same as the note.

The Whole Rest is a little thick line.



The Whole Rest



We usually place the Whole Rest in the center of the measure. Under the 4th line of the Staff.

No. 7 - The Half Note

The Half Note last two counts.

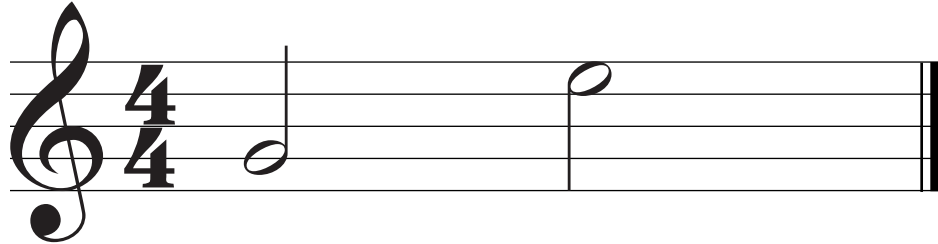
It's a little oval with a stem. The stem can be up or down.

You need two Half Notes to have the same time as one Whole Note.

You can put the notes anywhere in the Staff.



The Half Note



In this example we have two Half Notes.

The first one is a “Sol” and it has the stem going up.

The second one is a “Mi” and the stem is going down, because it is lower.

Notice that now you need two notes to complete one whole measure.

You need four counts, according to the Time Signature, because each Half Note lasts for two counts, you just need two Half Notes.

No. 8 - The Half Rest

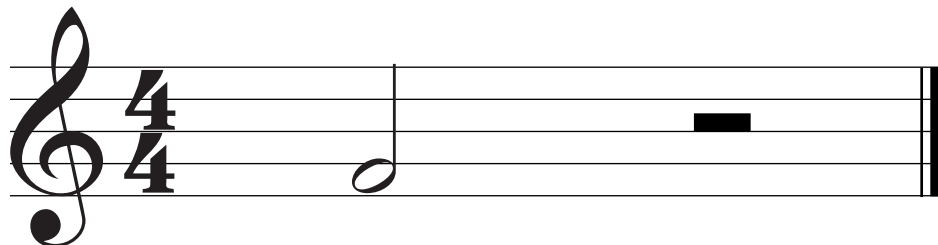
The Half Rest lasts two counts, just like the Half Note.

It looks the same as the Whole Rest, but we place it in a different position.

In this example we have a “Fa” and a Half Rest.



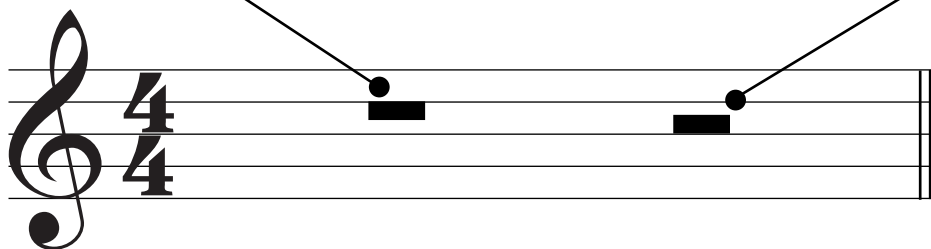
The Half Rest



Notice how the Half Rest is resting on top of the 3rd line, is different than the Whole Rest.

A Whole Rest is hanging from the 4th line, like a lamp lighting the WHOLE room.

A Half Rest is on top of the 3rd line, the middle line. Both rests are in a different position.



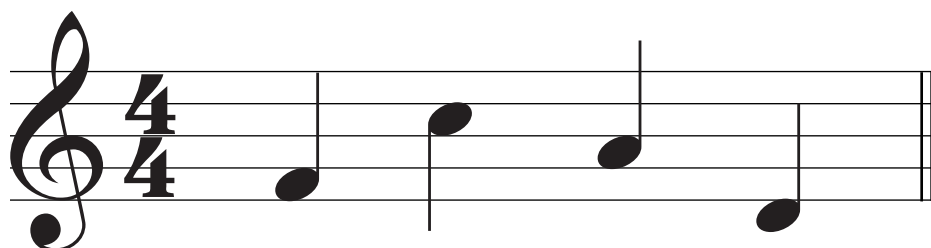
No. 9 - The Quarter Note

The Quarter Note last 1 count. It looks like a Half Note but filled in black. The Quarter Note can have the stem up or down also.

You need four of these notes to complete one full measure. Each note last one count.



The Quarter Note



Here you see four notes. Because the TOP number is telling you 4. And the bottom number is telling you that each note must be a 1/4 or a Quarter Note. So these are Quarter Notes, so you need 4 of these notes.

This is a perfect example of a full measure in 4/4 times.

The first note is “Fa” then we have a “Do” and a “La” and the last note is a “Re”.

We know that because of the Treble Clef.

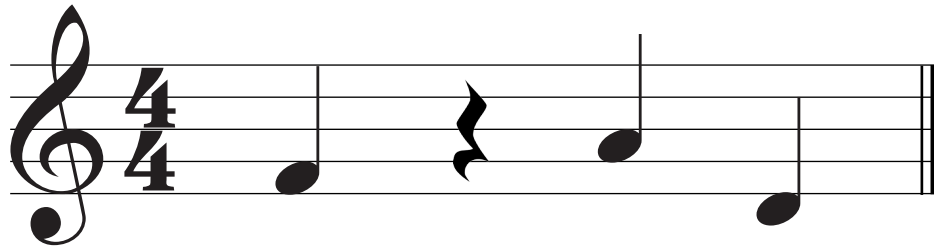
And this is how you start reading music.

No. 10 - The Quarter Rest

The Quarter Rest last 1 count, and it's a funny looking symbol, very popular in music. It looks like this:



The Quarter Rest



You can take one note away and put one rest in its place. Either way you need four symbols, each one lasting one count.

With these combination of Whole, Half and Quarter notes and the rests, you can create millions of possibilities and song, that's why music is so great and beautiful.

You need to learn these 10 Music Theory symbols and next time you see a sheet music, you will understand it a little better.

Keep learning more and practice every day!

In this lesson

- 1 - The Staff
- 2 - The Treble Clef
- 3 - Time Signature
- 4 - Double Bar Line
- 5 - The Whole Note
- 6 - The Whole Rest
- 7 - The Half Note
- 8 - The Half Rest
- 9 - The Quarter Note
- 10 - The Quarter Rest

THE CALIFORNIA MUSIC CONSERVATORY

THE SEVEN NOTES IN THE PIANO

Seven Notes.

In this lesson you are going to learn the seven notes in the Piano or Keyboard, and where you need to play each note.

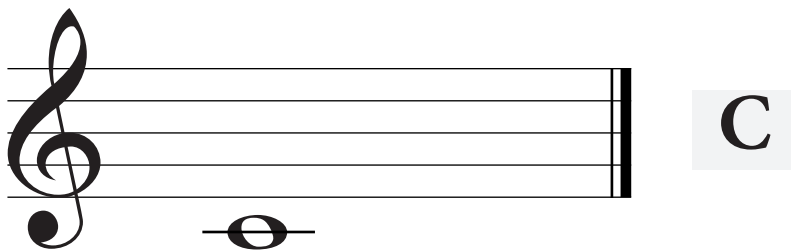
These notes are the basic seven notes and the basic position.

The seven notes are:

Do	Re	Mi	Fa	Sol	La	Si
----	----	----	----	-----	----	----

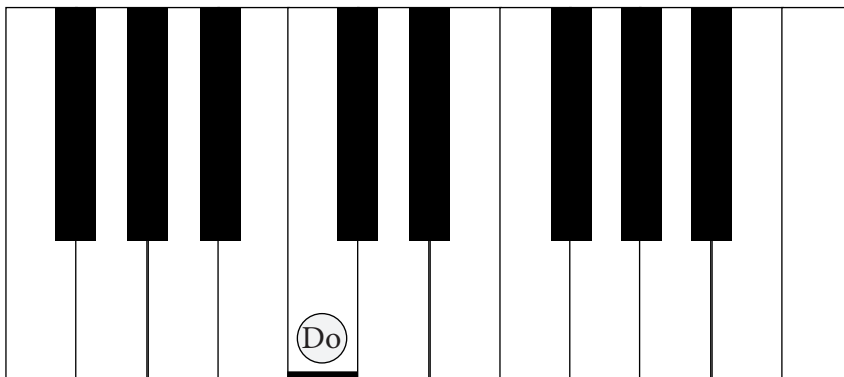
Do

The first note is “**Do**” or “**C**”.
This note looks like this in music,
is the middle C.
Notice how it has a little line
across the actual note.
And we are using a Whole Note.



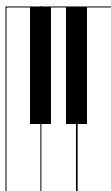
And you can play this
note, in the white key, to
the left of the group of two
black keys

Play the note “**Do**” now.

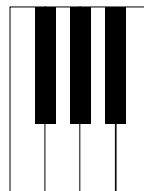


To understand the keyboard or the piano better, you need to see the
black keys. You can see group of black keys, arranged in order of 3
black keys, and 2 black keys. 3 - 2 - 3 - 2 and so on.
Do you see them? Great!

Group of 2 black keys
and 3 white keys.



Group of 3 black keys
and 4 white keys.



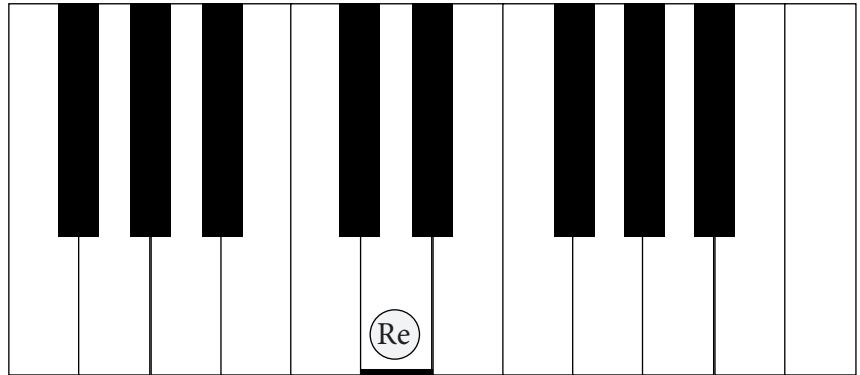
Re

Next we have a “**Re**” or “D”.
This note is right below the staff
and it is touching the first line.
We are also using a Whole Note.



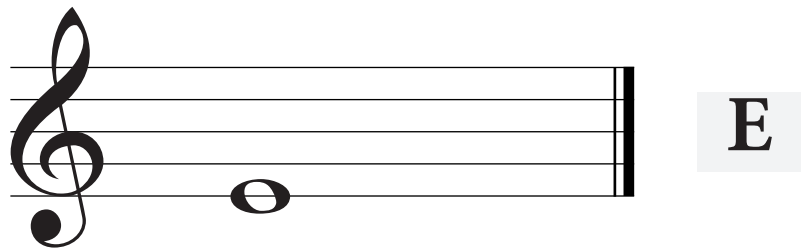
And you can play this
note, in the white key, in
the middle of the group of
two black keys

Play the note “**Re**” now.



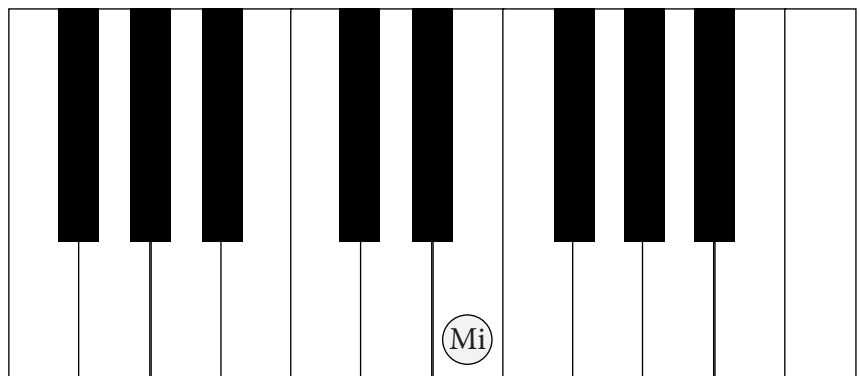
Mi

The third note is “**Mi**” or “E”.
This note is right on top of the
first line of the staff.
The Whole Note last 4 counts.



And you can play this
note, in the white key, to
the right of the 2 black
keys.

Play the note “**Mi**” now.

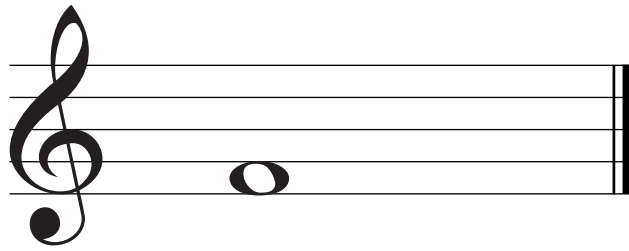


Fa

Note No. 4 is “**Fa**” or “F”.

This note is in the first space, between the lines one and two.

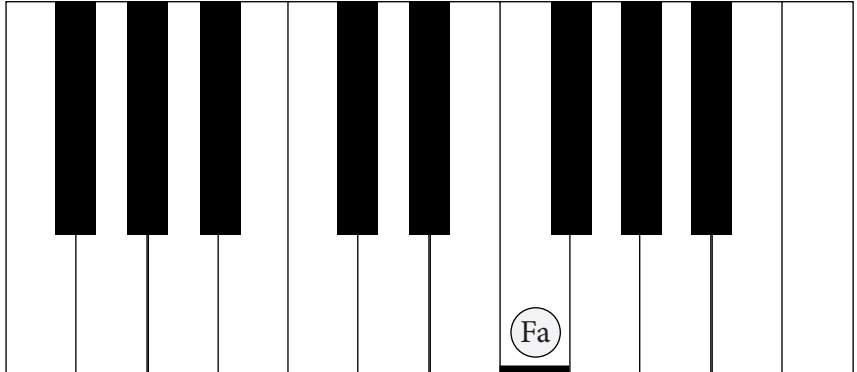
And we are using a Whole Note.



F

And you can play this note, in the white key, to the left in the group of 3 black keys.

Play the note “**Fa**” now.

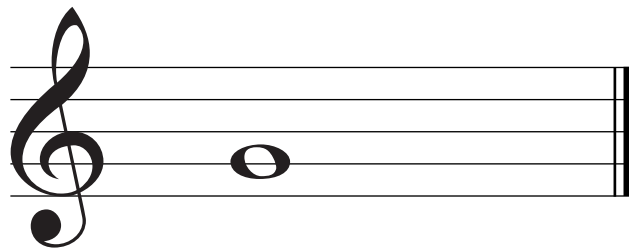


Sol

Note No. 5 is “**Sol**” or “G”.

Is in the second line of the staff.

Also with a Whole Note for this example.

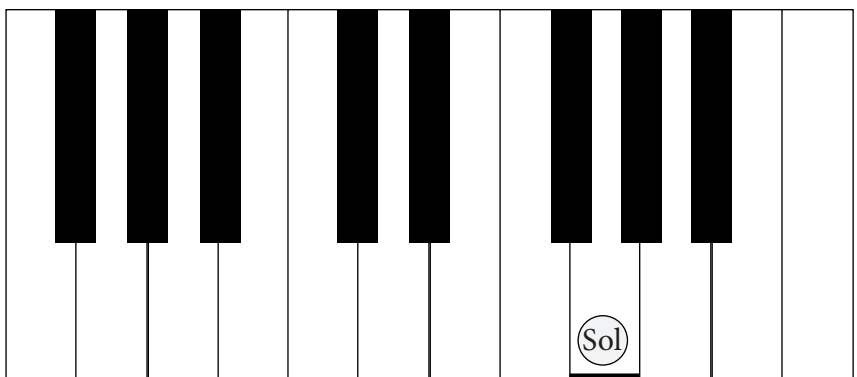


G

In the group of 3 black keys, you have 4 white keys. One on the left, and one on the right.

In the middle there are two white keys. “**Sol**” is the one on the left, in the center. See the picture.

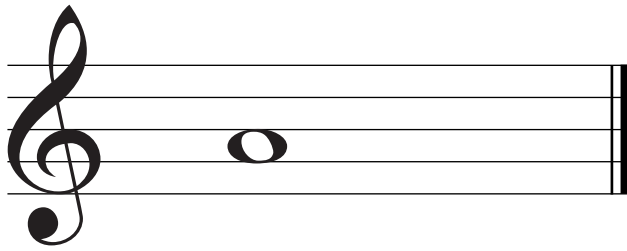
Play the note “**Sol**” now.



La

Note 6 is “**La**” or “A”.

This note is in the second space of the Staff with a Whole Note.

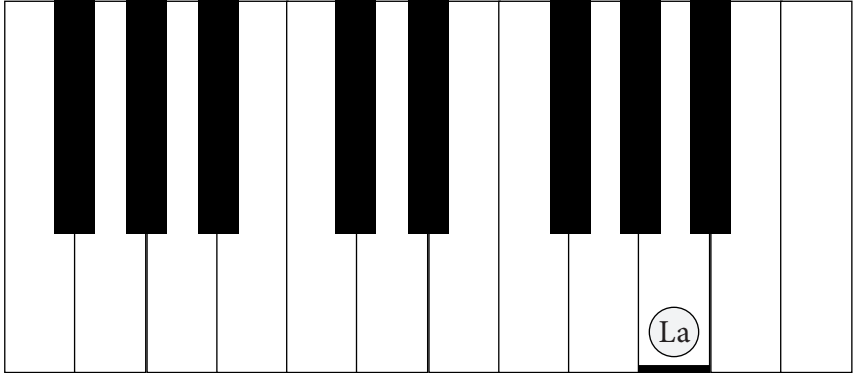


A

In the group of 3 black keys, you have 4 white keys. One on the left, and one on the right.

In the middle there are two white keys. “**La**” is the one on the right, in the center. See the picture.

Play the note “**La**” now.

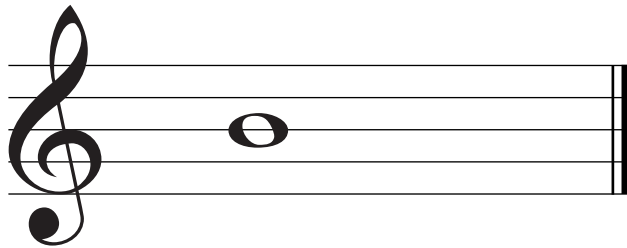


Si

Note 7 is “**Si**” or “B”.

This note is right in the middle of the Staff, in the third line.

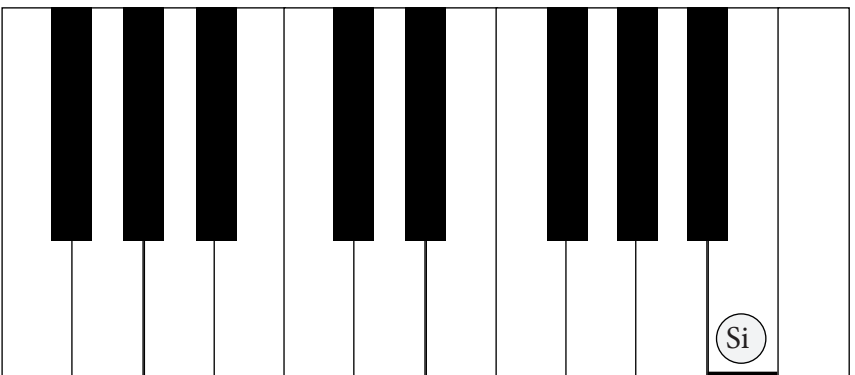
I am using a Whole Note for display.



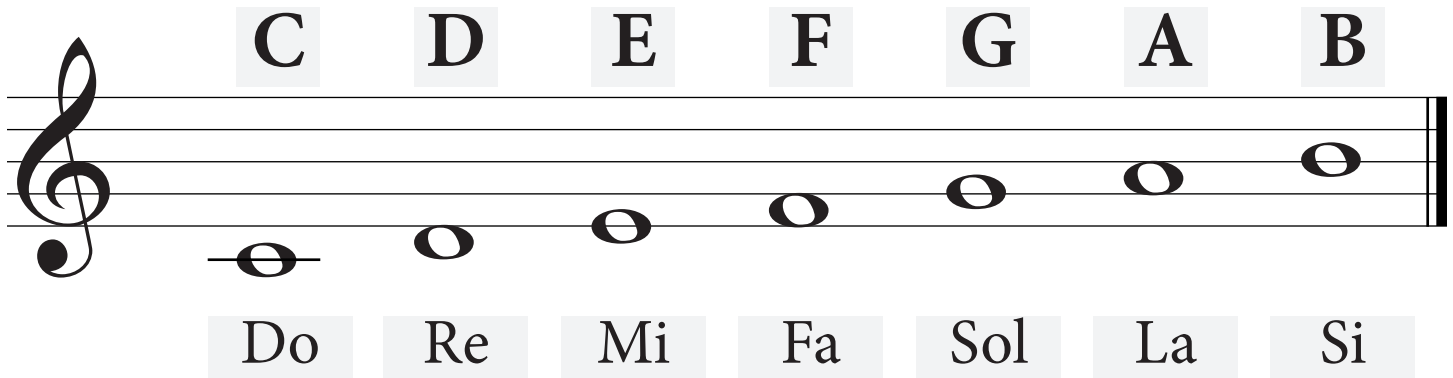
B

And you can play this note, in the white key, to the right in the group of 3 black keys.

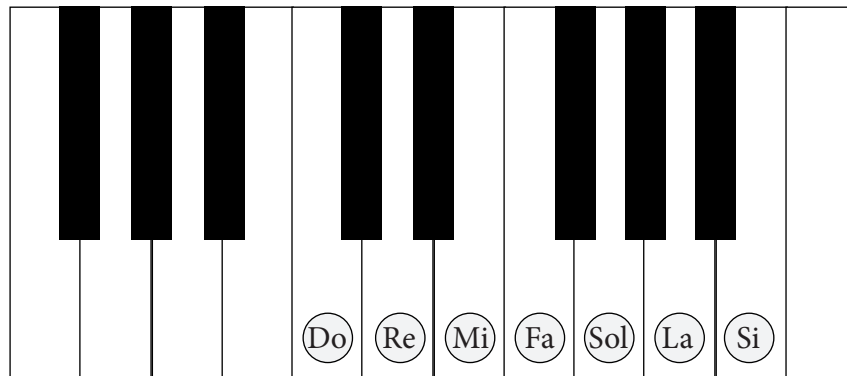
Play the note “**Si**” now.



The seven notes in music



The seven notes in the Piano



Learning the seven notes and where you need to play each note in the Piano or Keyboard, is one of the very basic things you have to know first.

These notes work in any instrument that has a keyboard like piano, organ, accordion, synthesizer, keyboard all of them.

Knowing the notes will help you understand music better, and later will help you to read music.
Practice every day and enjoy music!

THE CALIFORNIA MUSIC CONSERVATORY

10 FIVE FINGERS TECHNIQUE FOR PIANO

Five fingers.

The first position in piano, is very important. You need to use all your five fingers. These exercises are for the right hand only, for super beginners or little kids, 4 to 5 years old.

First lets see your right hand, and identify each finger with a number.



Right Hand.

Your thumb is the number 1. Your pinky is number 5. To play correctly, you need to use the right fingers.

Correct Position.

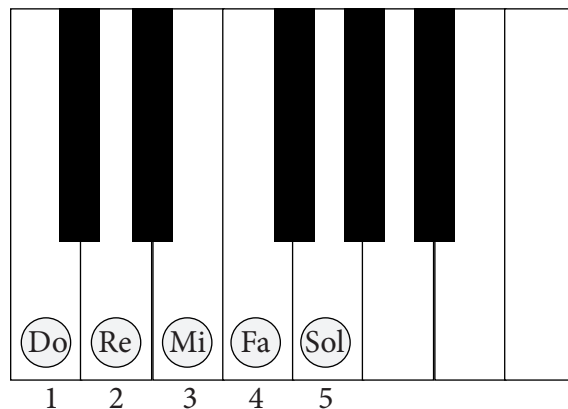
Your hand must be in a curvy position, like if you were holding a ball.

You need to have all five fingers touching the white keys in the piano.

Practice this position as you play each technique.



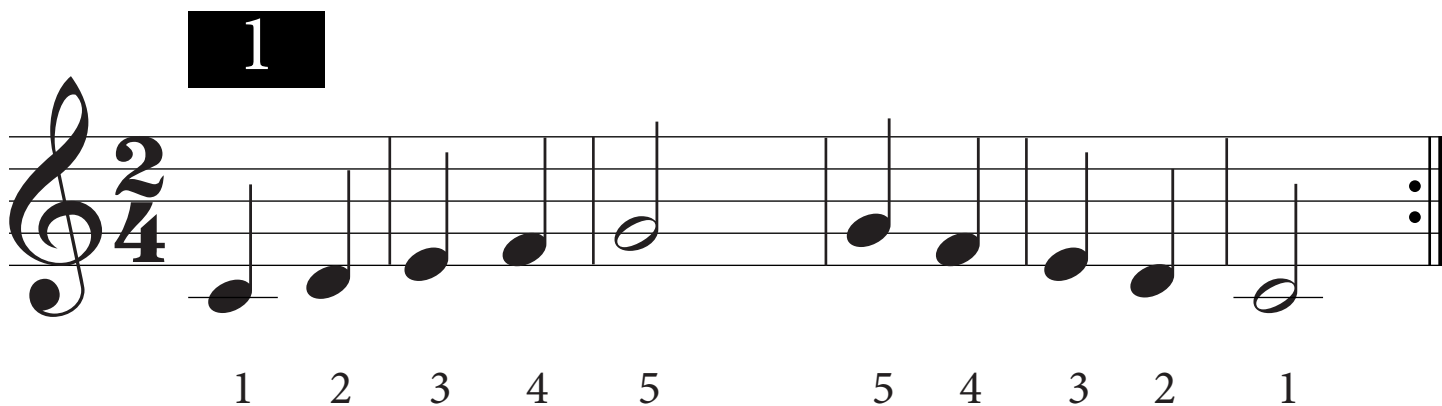
To play these you will need a little help from a teacher,
or you need to have some little knowledge in music.
All the notes you need to play are only five notes:



The first one is just the five notes, going up, starting in
“Do” all the way to “Sol”. and then going down from
“Sol” and finish in “Do”.

Use the correct fingers.

If you don't know the notes too well, you can use the
numbers. This way is easier.



Can you play this first exercise? Once you play it cor-
rectly, repeat it many times. at least 10 times.

You can do this two or three times a day for a week.

Make sure you play this one perfect, before going to
number 2.

Once you can play the first one fine, all the others should be very easy, it's almost the same, we just change the order of the notes (numbers) a little.

2

1 2 1 2 3 5 4 3 2 1

You see how easy. Now lets play a little jump.

3

1 5 1 5 1 1 4 3 2 1

Practice the pinky in this technique. Keep your hand curvy and place it inside the keys.

4

5 4 5 4 3 3 4 5 3 1

I hope is not too difficult. This is a tricky one. Take your time and play slowly, one note at a time.
If it's too hard, play other numbers and come back to this one later.

5

1 3 2 4 5 5 4 5 2 1

Notice how all of them end in “Do”

6

1 2 3 1 5 5 1 3 5 1

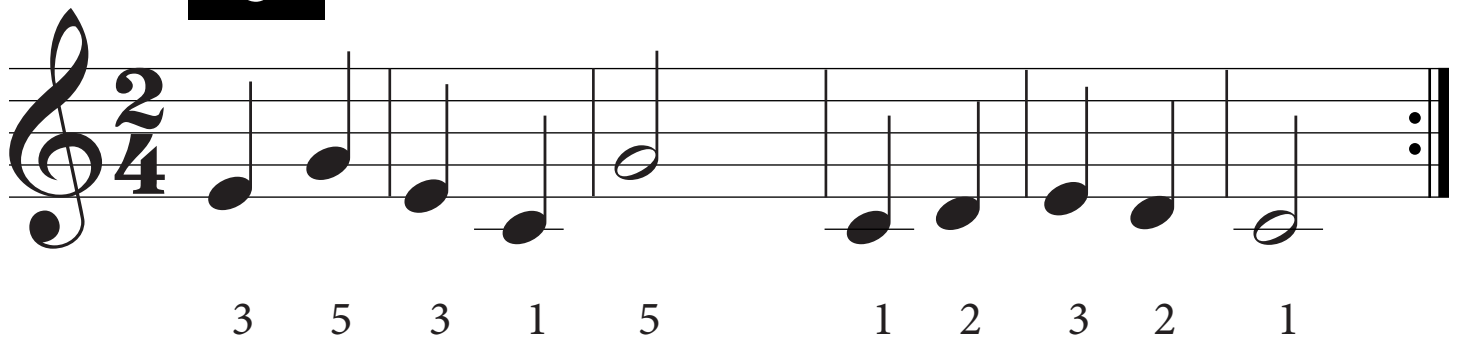
Going down. This should be easy. Each black key last 1 count. Each white key last two counts.

7

5 4 3 4 3 2 3 2 1

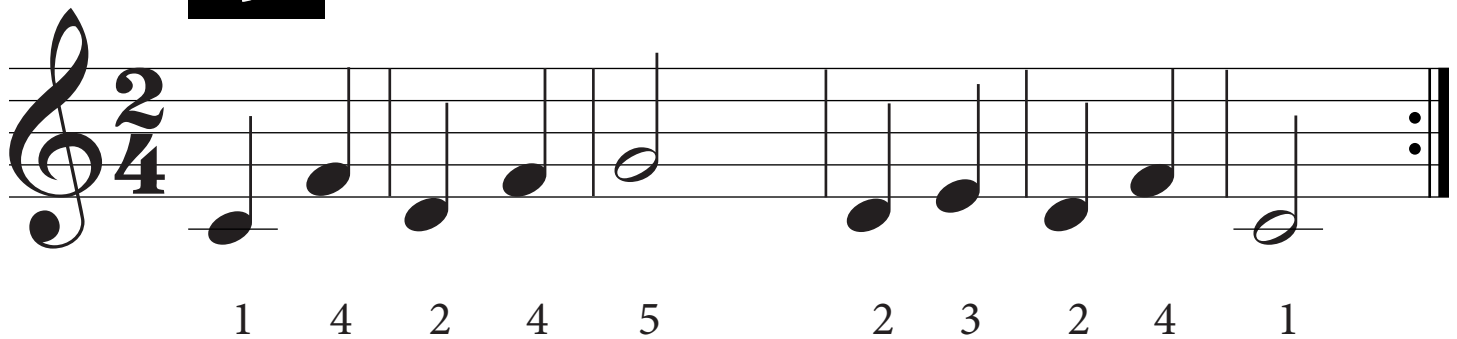
Each technique is different. You can have many combinations, the idea is to exercise all the fingers. You don't have to play them fast. But you need to play the steady.

8



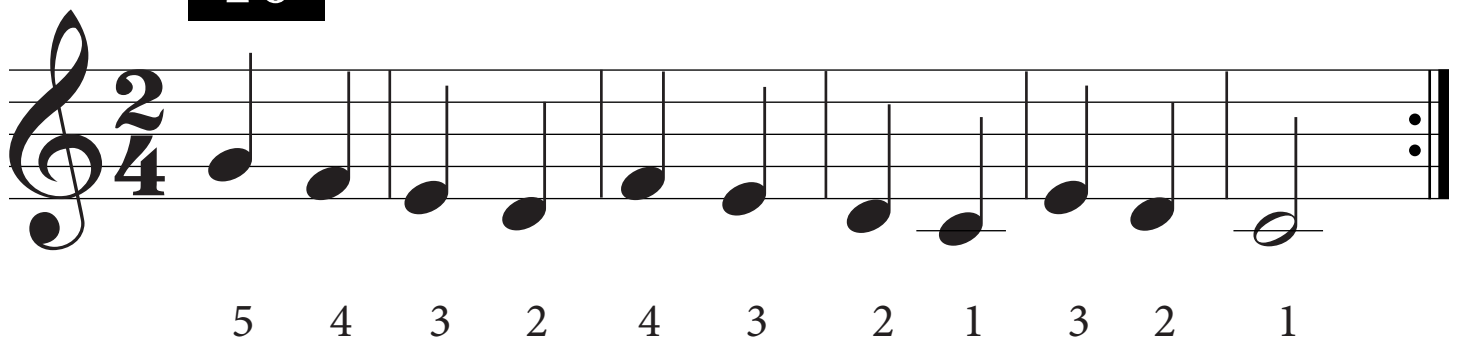
Another tricky one. I know you can do this.

9



A lot of notes. It's not too hard. I hope you can play this one really nice. You are doing great!

10



I hope you enjoy these 10 technique for Piano.

Play each of them many times, until you feel comfortable with all of them. Play it at least 10 times in a row. Then practice each 2 or three times per day.

If you do this your fingers will be strong.

When you are learning piano, you need to play scales, chords and many more things. Choose a time to practice and at least practice for :30 minutes or more.

Try to play several times a day.

See you in the next Little Lesson!

THE CALIFORNIA MUSIC CONSERVATORY

HOW TO PLAY THE A CHORD

Two hands.

To play the A Chord, or any chord, you need two hands.



Left Hand.

In the left hand we use only four fingers.
The thumb is for support only.
We use the four for pressing the strings in the fretboard.



Right Hand.

The fingers in the Right Hand are with letters. We use all five.
We use the Right Hand for playing and strumming the strings.

p = pulgar (thumb)
i = índice (index)
m = medio (middle)
a = anular (ring)
c = chico (pinky)

The A Chord

The A Chord is easy to play. You need 3 fingers.

Fingers 1, 2 and 3.

When you press the strings, you can strum all the Strings.

Play with an even strumming.



The A Chord, looks like this in TAB.

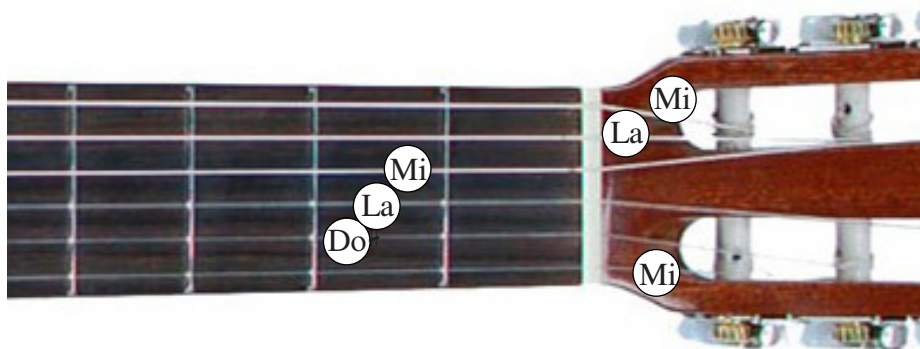
	0
T	2
A	2
B	2
	0
	0

The A Chord

This Chord has 3 notes: La - Do[#] - Mi

or if we use letters, they are: A - C[#] - E.

When we press the strings, we are just pressing these 3 notes in all six strings.



You can play all the strings and you will be playing these three notes, "La-Do[#]-Mi" You can strum the strings from top to bottom or from bottom to top.

As long as you play these 3 notes you are playing the A Chord.

Exercises in the A Chord

Play one string at a time to play the basic A Chord.

1

Play one string at a time and repeat many times.

2

One string and the Chord.

3

One by one.

4

One string and two times the Chord.
Play strumming up, with your fingers.

5

THE CALIFORNIA MUSIC CONSERVATORY

HOW TO TUNE THE GUITAR

Tuning the Guitar.

There are 4 ways of tuning the Guitar.

- 1 - By Ear**
- 2 - By Reference**
- 3 - With a piano or keyboard.**
- 4 - With an electronic tuner**

1- By Ear.

You need to have a good ear, a lot of music experience, and a lot of practice. Great musicians that's how they do it. They just pick a Guitar and as they play the strings they can actually "hear" each note and they can tell if it's in tune or not.

This way is in another lesson.

2 - By Reference.

Similar to tuning the Guitar by ear. You need to hear at least one note, and then play other notes to match the one that you know. We can teach you how to tune the Guitar in this way, is not that difficult, but still you need to have a good ear.

This way is in another lesson.

3 - With a piano or keyboard.

By knowing the notes in the Guitar, you find the same notes in the Piano or Keyboard and they have to sound the same, you need to have good ear for this as well. And you need to have a Piano or Keyboard, so this way is not hear also.

Is in another lesson.

4 - With an electronic tuner.

This is probably the easiest way of tuning the Guitar. You need to have a tuner. If you do, I will show you how to tune the Guitar using an electronic tuner.

Electronic Tuners.

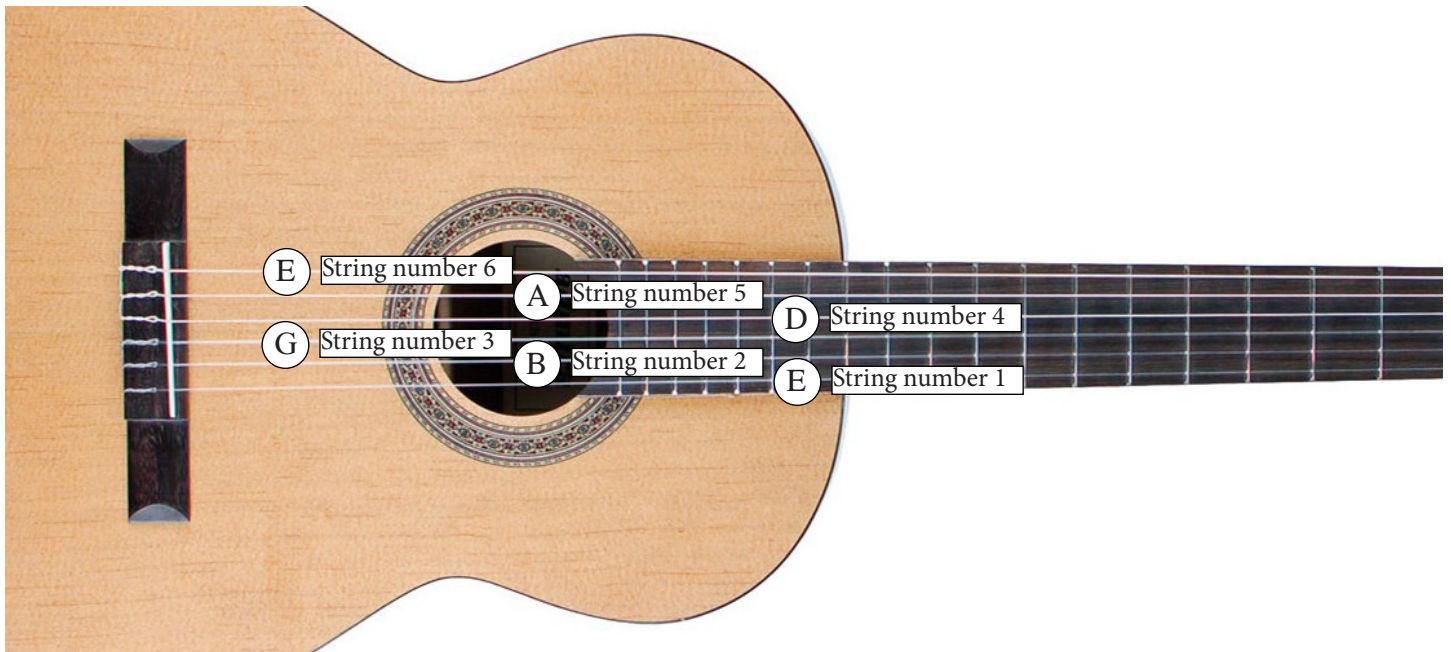
There are many tuners out there. Range from \$6.00 or \$7.00 dollars to \$20.00 or more. (in 2018)

You can get one just with the basic needs. Here are some example of how they look.



Any tuner is fine. They all do pretty much the same. They have a sensor that will listen to the sound of the string and detect the frequency, and display it. So if the string sounds like “E” the tuner will show “E” in the screen.

To tune the Guitar, you need to know the letters in each string.
All the strings have different letter, except for the first and sixth.



The string number 6 is E low.
The string number 5 is A.
The string number 4 is D.

The string number 3 is G.
The string number 2 is B.
The string number 1 is E high.

Place tuner.

Place the tuner close to the Guitar, so it can “pick” up the sound. Make sure it’s on.

If you have a clip on tuner, put it like this...



Lose the strings.

You have to make sure the strings are not too tight, if they are, they may break.

String number 6.

Always start with the lowest sounding string.

String number 6. because it’s really difficult to break.

Order of the notes.

The notes have the same order all the time. There are 12 notes.

C	C [#]	D	D [#]	E	F	F [#]	G	G [#]	A	A [#]	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

After those twelve sounds, you have another twelve like this...

C	C [#]	D	D [#]	E	F	F [#]	G	G [#]	A	A [#]	B	C	C [#]	D	D [#]	E	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

and so on...

As soon as you play an OPEN string, without pressing anything with your left hand, only play or strum the string number 6 with your right hand.

Look at the tuner, it must show a letter.

Is it F, or E or D[#] or any letter.

The tuning pegs.

Use the pegs to tight or lose the strings. The pegs look like this.



Make sure is the correct string.

Sometimes the strings are in the wrong order, or put in the wrong place. Make sure you turn the peg just a little bit to notice that you are tightinh the right string.

Higher.

If you tight the string the sound should go higher, the tighter the string the higher the sound. And the number should go up, changing the let-ters.

Peg 6.

Let's tune the string number 6.



C	C [#]	D	D [#]	E	F	F [#]	G	G [#]	A	A [#]	B	C
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1

Play the string, what letter is showing, if it's showing "A" then is number 10. Is wrong. Because string number 6 must be low "E"

1) lower to go to "E" 5

Or it can go higher to...

how do we know exactly where? It's easy. If the string is too tight almost ready to break, then we must lose the string, go lower. Because if it's too tight then it's too high. So it should be lower.

Notice how the order of the notes is always the same, so you should go: A-G[#]-G-F[#]-F and then E.

If the string is too loose, or too low, then we must go the other way and start tightening the string, so we can go higher to find the E.

It can take a little practice. That is way is good to start with a thick string so you don't break it.

Tuners don't have a number under the note, but some of them have a little needle or something telling you if you are going high or low. Most of them usually "Green" means is in tune, "Red" is NOT in tune.



This shows "A" the String Number 5. If it shows "A" and you are tuning the String number 5, then, the string is in tune.

CAREFUL!

Always be careful, if you feel the string is too tight, STOP!
Lose the string and start again, go slowly and turn the pegs little by little every time

Tune each string!

Takes time, specially for new guitars.
Tune each string one by one, from 6 to 5 to 4 to 3 to 2 to the last one, the thinnest string, string number 1.

String No. 6.

This should sound really low.



String No. 5.

Lower then E.



Imagine is number 5. Make sure the tuner shows E

This should be like 10, higher then 5.

10

String No. 4.

This is also a low sounding string.



D

Now we are going higher to 15

15

String No. 3.

Now we go to medium sound.



G

Then to 20, notice how it's the same distance from string to string.

20

String No. 2.

This should be high sound.



B

This is not the same distance, is only 4, so we are going to 24. Remember, the numbers are just so you have an idea. This are not musical numbers.

24

String No. 1.

This string is really high.



E

And finally the last string to tune, we are going to 29, that's really high.

29

If you play the strings from top to bottom, all of them, they should sound from low to high, Low is the top strings, and high is the bottom strings, is backwards, but it's okay.

The Guitar must be in tune all the time, other wise it sounds bad.

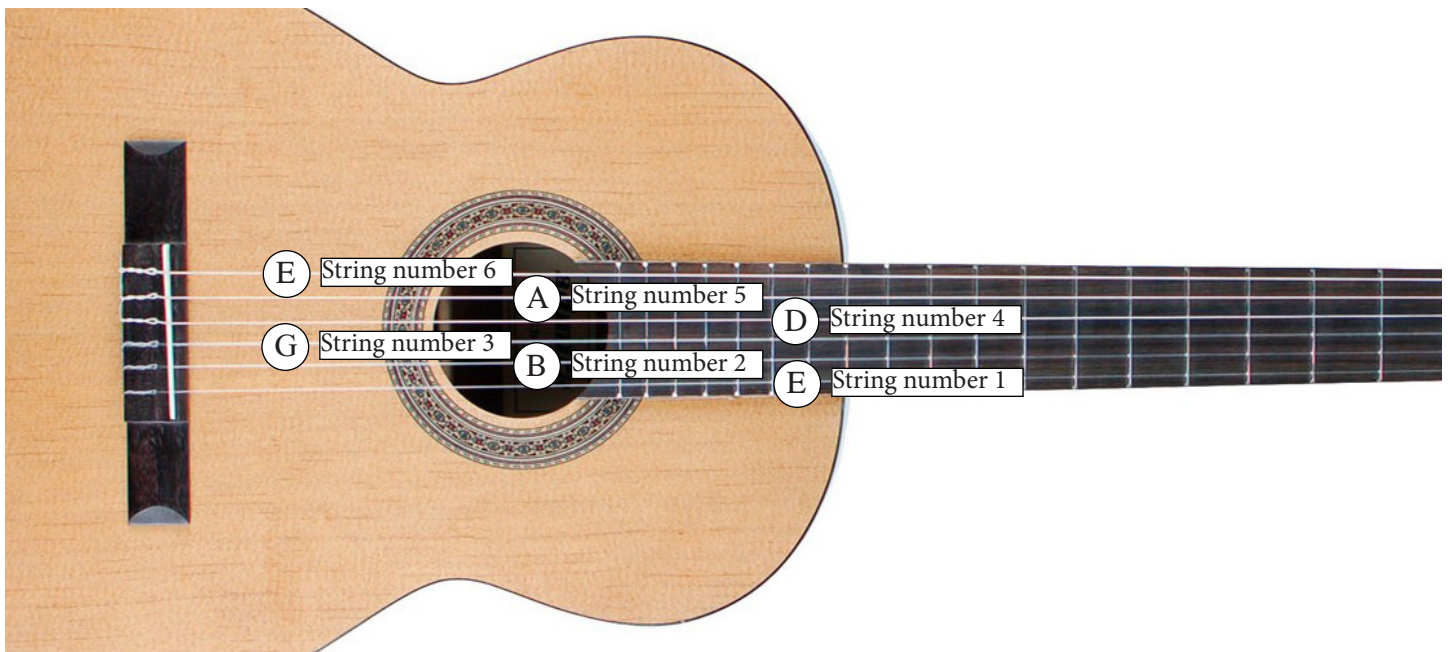
New Guitars or new Strings must be tune almost every day, for a month or so, until the Strings get the right tension.

After that they can stay in tune longer.

Always is a good idea see someone tune the Guitar at least once, to have a better idea. Use your ear, and be careful not to break the strings, specially the number 1.

Now double check each string, play it one by one and you should see the tuner showing the correct letters in the correct order.

E - A - D - G - B - E



I hope you can now tune your Guitar. Like everything in life, you need to practice a little and experiment, if you break a string, well... put another one and start all over again!

Don't give up, and practice, you should now be ready to play wonderful songs in your Guitar, in your tuned Guitar I should say.

THE CALIFORNIA MUSIC CONSERVATORY

HOW TO PLAY THE Em CHORD

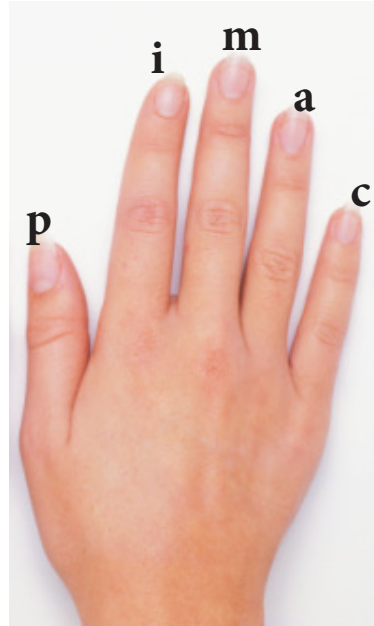
Two hands.

To play the Em Chord, or any chord, you need two hands.



Left Hand.

In the left hand we use only four fingers.
The thumb is for support only.
We use the four for pressing the strings in the fretboard.



Right Hand.

The fingers in the Right Hand are with letters. We use all five.
We use the Right Hand for playing and strumming the strings.

p = pulgar (thumb)
i = índice (index)
m = medio (middle)
a = anular (ring)
c = chico (pinky)

Em.

Em means E minor. The little “m” in front of the Capital letter means “minor”. It’s a minor chord.

The Em Chord

The Em Chord is very easy to play. You need 2 fingers.

When you press the strings, you can strum all the Strings.



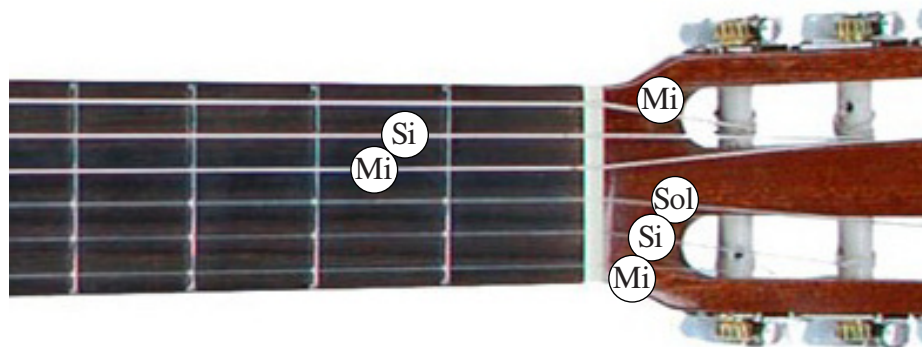
The Em Chord, looks like this in TAB.

	0
T	0
A	0
B	2
	2
	0

The Em Chord

This Chord has 3 notes: Mi - Sol - Si
or if we use letters, they are: E - G - B.

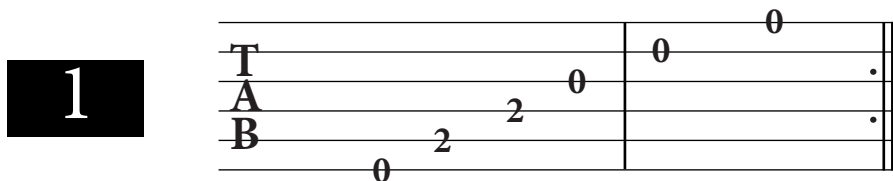
When we press the strings, we are pressing these three strings, and repeating some of them.



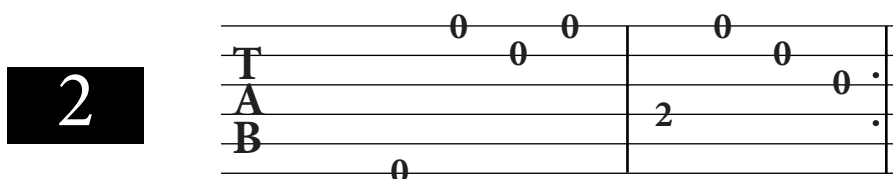
In all the strings you are playing one of the notes in the Chord. Notice how you press the two fingers in the fret number 2. Also by playing the bottom 3 strings you can also play the Em Chord, because it has the three notes that you need.

Exercises in the Em Chord

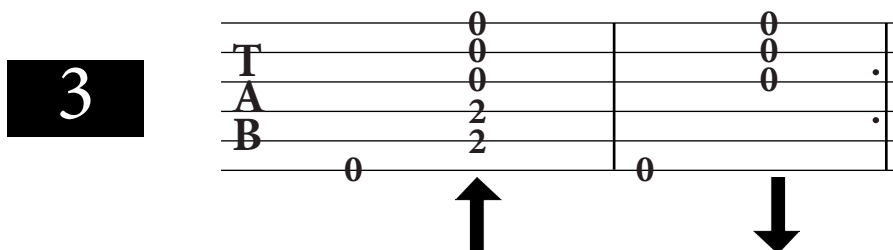
Play one string at a time and repeat many times.



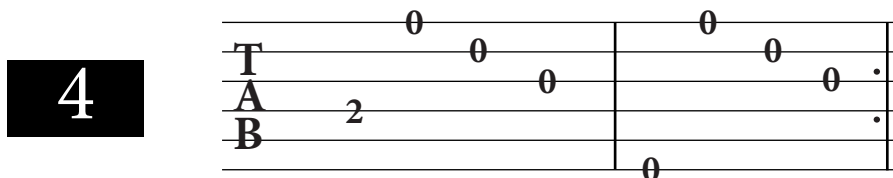
Play one string at a time and repeat many times.



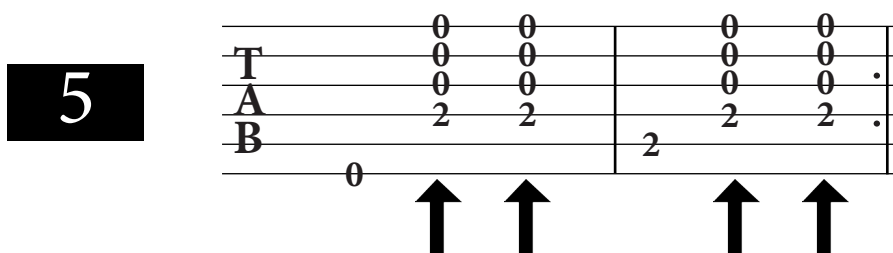
One string and the Chord.



One by one.



One string and two times the Chord.



THE CALIFORNIA MUSIC CONSERVATORY

10 Chords Progressions For Piano

Two hands.

Let's learn the numbers for the fingers in both hands.



Left Hand.

Numbers are 1 to 5.
Thumb is 1, pinky is 5



Right Hand.

It's the same for both hands
Thumb is 1, pinky is 5

Chords.

A Chord is when you play three or more notes at the same time.
The notes must be different, like: Do-Mi-Sol (C-E-G).
You need Chords to create the accompaniment of a song.
We write Chords using letters, like; The F Chord, or G, or E.

Progressions.

A progression is a series of Chords in a certain order.
Like: C - G - F - G
Or: F - Dm - F - G - C
Usually we repeat a progression, and a progression is 2 or 4
Chords, sometimes 5 or 6. You don't have a progression with 30
Chords that is not normal.

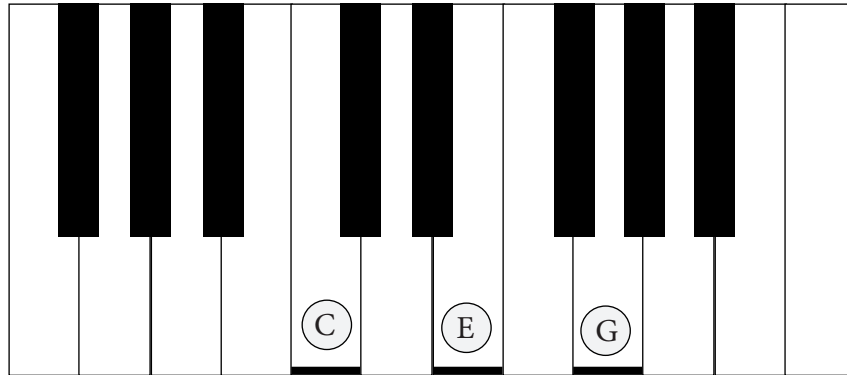
Minor Chords.

There are Major and minor Chords. a minor Chord has a little "m"
after the capital letter, like: Dm or Am (D minor or A minor)

Let's play the C Chord

The C Chord has 3 notes: Do-Mi-Sol. or C-E-G.

When we play this 3 notes we are playing the C Chord.



We usually play these three notes with the RIGHT HAND.

Then with the Left Hand we just play one note, usually the BASS of the Chord, or the first note of the Chord, in this case C.

1 **Moderato** CMC_12-1
Easy Music School

Right Hand plays the Chord, 3 notes: C-E-G

Piano

Left Hand plays one note "C"

The musical notation shows a piano exercise in 4/4 time. The right hand plays a C chord (C-E-G) in the treble clef, and the left hand plays a single C note in the bass clef. The exercise consists of four measures, each containing a whole note chord in the right hand and a whole note bass note in the left hand. The notes are labeled 'C' above the right hand and 'C' below the left hand. The tempo is marked 'Moderato'.

Repeat a lot of times. You can watch the video and repeat along with the video, so you can keep the timing.

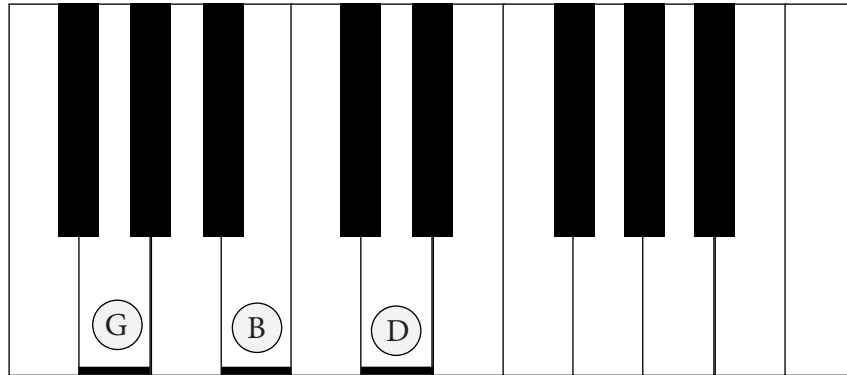
One Chord is NOT a progression. And when you see the Capital letter "C" on top of the Chord, is to tell you the name of the Chord.

As you can see a Chord last 4 counts, because we are using Whole Notes, one Chord on each measure.

Let's play the G Chord

The G Chord has 3 notes: Sol-Si-Re. or G-B-D.

When you play this 3 notes you are playing the G Chord.



CMC_12-2

2

Moderato

Easy Music School

Piano

Notice how you are playing 3 notes, and the notes are one on top of the other, just like the C Chord.

Notice also that the Bass line is in the note G. because G is the bass note for the G Chord.

Right Hand: Plays the G Chord

Left Hand: Plays the G note, the bass or "Root" of the Chord.

Your First Progression: C - G

Now that you know at least two Chords, you can play a progression. Switch from C to G, and from G to C.

CMC_12-3

3

Moderato

C - G

Easy Music School

Piano

C-G

This is the same progression, C-G. The difference is in the order of the notes in the Chord. For this we use an inversion of the Chord.

Understanding Inversions

A Chord has 3 notes. C-E-G. and this is the basic order of the Chord. If we change the order, like: E-G-C, is the same Chord, because it has the same notes, but in a different order, you are inverting the Chord, so it is an inversion.

Look in the G Chord, and you can see the notes are B-D-G, an inversion of the G Chord. because the basic order for the G Chord is G-B-D.

CMC_12-4
Easy Music School

4 **Moderato**

Piano

C-G

Still the same progression with a different rhythm. Now we are using Half Notes instead of Whole Notes. And also an inversion for the C Chord. and another inversion for the G Chord.

CMC_12-5
Easy Music School

5 **Moderato**

Piano

C - G

The same progression with another rhythm. Now we use Quarter Notes and Half Notes.

CMC_12-6

Easy Music School

6

Moderato

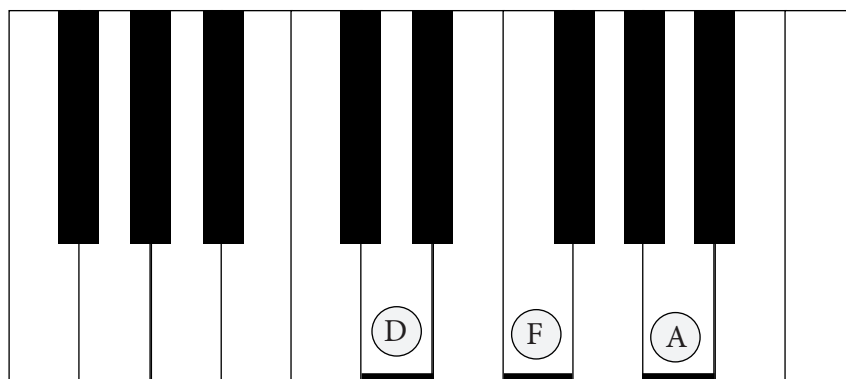
Piano

Let's play the Dm Chord

The Dm Chord has 3 notes: Re-Fa-La. or D-F-A.

When you play this 3 notes you are playing the Dm Chord.

Remember the little "m" stands for minor, So Dm is D minor.



C - Dm - Dm - G

This progression has three Chords in four measures. Notice that you have Dm, twice. So the actual progression is: C - Dm - Dm - G

CMC_12-7

Easy Music School

7

Moderato

Piano

C - Dm - G - G

Now let's play this progression, is similar to the last one. Always watch the video so you see the actual notes you need to play. Notice that the bass line is moving, from one note to another.

CMC_12-8

Easy Music School

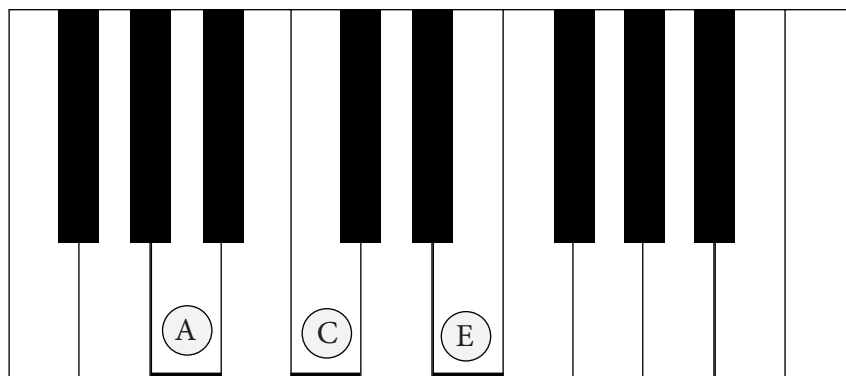
8 **Moderato**

Piano

The musical notation for exercise 8 is in 4/4 time, marked Moderato. It consists of four measures. The first measure is for the C chord (C4, E4, G4), the second for Dm (D4, F4, A3), the third for G (G4, B4, D5), and the fourth for G (G4, B4, D5). The bass line moves from C3 to D3 to G2 to G2. The treble clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The piano part is indicated by a large bracket on the left.

Let's play the Am Chord

The Am Chord has 3 notes: La-Do-Mi. or A-C-E.
When you play this 3 notes you are playing the Am Chord.



C - Am - Dm - G

This progression is very popular. Thousands of songs can be played using this progression. Learn it well.

CMC_12-9

Easy Music School

9 **Moderato**

Piano

The musical notation for exercise 9 is in 4/4 time, marked Moderato. It consists of four measures. The first measure is for the C chord (C4, E4, G4), the second for Am (A3, C4, E4), the third for Dm (D4, F4, A3), and the fourth for G (G4, B4, D5). The bass line moves from C3 to A2 to D3 to G2. The treble clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The piano part is indicated by a large bracket on the left.

C - Am - Dm - G

Notice that is the same progression, but now we are using inversions of the Chords. Is easier then jumping all over with the Chords in root position. The rhythm is the same, Quarter, Quarter, Half.

CMC_12-10

10 **Moderato** Easy Music School

Piano

C Am Dm G

There are many progressions, this is just the beginnig of learning Chords. With this 10 progressions you have learned 4 Chords. C - Dm - Am and G

Keep learning more and enjoy music all the time.