

The Songwriter Toolbox

by

Cal Williams Jr

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Welcome

Welcome to 'The Songwriter Toolbox' and thank you for choosing my book. In Chapter 1 of this book you will learn how to maintain a healthy creative mind to build an inspirational flow of songwriting. You will also learn how to apply foundation lyric writing techniques to construct a story into a working song structure. With unique and exciting songwriting techniques including Song Mapping, Lyrical Phrasing and the Mental Diet you will begin to create strong and emotive Song Stories.

In Chapter 2 you will discover how to add chords to your lyrics by using a melodic group of chords known as Chord Families. These chords provide a musical background to your words and start you on the road to creative original songwriting. By constructing a simple three chord song and then graduating to writing songs with the seven chords of the complete Chord Family in any musical key you will begin to write your first original songs. In addition to the happy and confident major keys, you will also construct songs within the sad and gentle minor keys to add diversity of emotion to your original compositions.

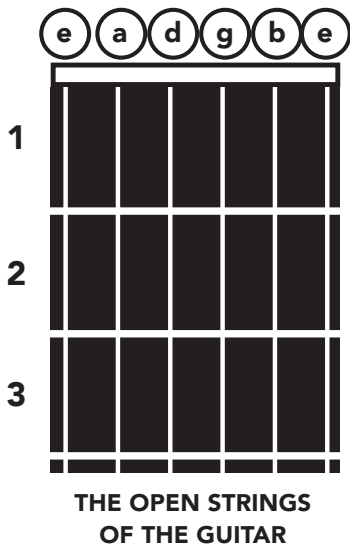
The Songwriter Toolbox has been designed to guide your inspiration with great songwriting advice and fun and practical exercises to motivate and structure your songwriting process to create original and exciting compositions.

I really hope you enjoy learning my guitar method and that it helps you to travel further in the musical direction you desire.

Cheers,

Cal Williams Jr



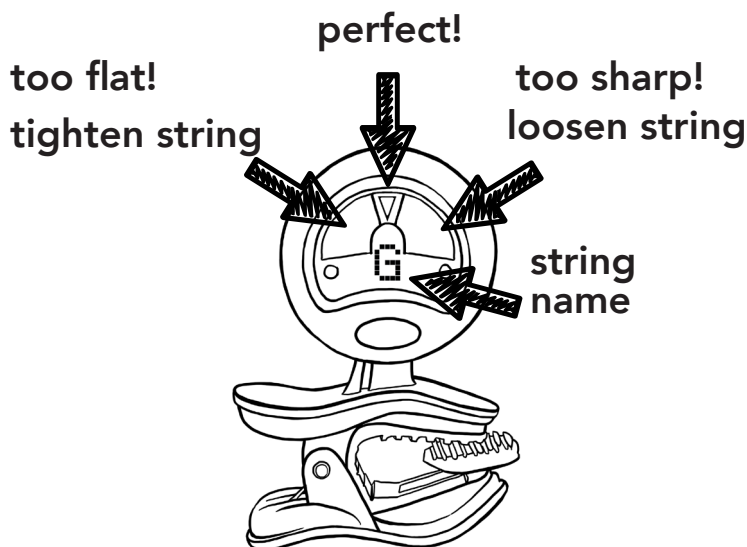


How to Tune Your Guitar

Before you tune your guitar you first need to establish the individual string names of the guitar. By facing the body of your guitar towards you, you can read the order of the open strings of the guitar from left to right as the notes **E A D G B E**. You can remember the order of open string notes by the mnemonic **Eddie Ate Dynamite Good Bye Eddie**. Accurately tuning your guitar to these notes is essential for playing all of the scales and chords that you will study in this book. You can now look at the concept of how to tune your guitar.

The Clip-On Tuner

Tuning your guitar is achieved by turning the Tuning Pegs on the head of your guitar until the desired note is reached. On a correctly strung instrument, the bass **E**, **A** and the **D** strings of the guitar can be tightened by turning the tuning peg anti-clockwise and loosened by turning the tuning peg clockwise. For the treble **g**, **b** and **e** strings, on the other side of the headstock, you can tighten the strings by turning the tuning peg clockwise and loosen the strings by turning the strings anti-clockwise. Tuning the guitar is achieved by tightening the string to raise the pitch of the note or loosening the string to lower the pitch of the note. When using an electronic tuning device you will raise or lower the pitch of a string to correctly register with one of the corresponding **E A D g b e** open string notes on the tuner, as shown below. The easiest and most commonly used method for tuning the guitar is to use a clip-on digital tuner that attaches to the head of the guitar and tunes the strings through the pitch vibrations of the strings.



How to Read Tablature

Tablature is a system for reading and writing music that provides an alternative to learning conventional music notation. Guitar tablature (also known as Tab) effectively replaces the classical notation of placing notes on musical staves, with a note system specifically designed for modern guitar. Tab works by using six lines on a diagram to represent each of the six strings on the guitar. The numbers on the Tab lines correspond with the fret number to be played. Tab is a universally accepted system for quickly and easily learning popular songs and to notate original compositions.

As you can see in the Tab diagram below, each of the open strings of the guitar are represented by six individual parallel lines.

Open Guitar Strings in Tablature

e string	e -----
b string	b -----
g String	g -----
D String	D -----
A String	A -----
E String	E -----

When reading Tablature it is important to be aware that Tab is essentially written upside down with the bass E string on the bottom line and the high E string on the top line. This is contrary to the physical location of the strings where the top string (i.e. the one closest to the player) is the bass E string and the bottom string (i.e. furthest from the player) is the treble E string. To compensate for the geographically upside down nature of Tab, it helps to remember that the fattest string (i.e. the bass E string) is located at the bottom of the Tab. A good way to visualise this is to think of Tab as a glass of water where the heaviest string (i.e. the bass E string) sinks to the bottom and the lightest string (i.e. the treble E string) floats to the top.

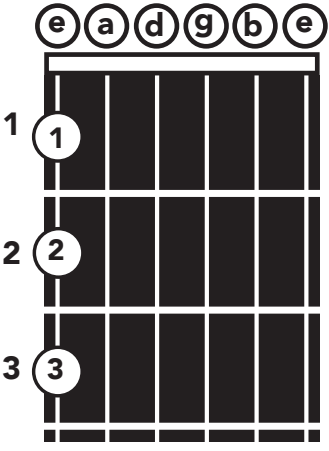
Due to the fact that Standard Tablature does not indicate which finger to use, I have designed this book to show you the correct fingers to apply by using a combination of finger numbers, tablature and fretboard diagrams. As Tab also does not always indicate the rhythm for the piece of music, I have numbered the beats below the Tab diagrams to indicate the correct timing of notes.

It is important to remember that, even with these minor considerations, Tab is still the best way for guitar players to quickly and easily work out popular songs by accessing the large number of legal Tab sites available on the internet and to notate their original compositions quickly and accurately.

On the next page, you will look at how Tab relates to the fretboard diagrams on each individual string and, thereby, begin to familiarise yourself with using the tablature system for playing notes on your guitar.

Guitar Tablature for E, A and D Strings

To help you to understand how to read Tablature, you can now look at some examples of Tab and how to relate the numbers on the Tab to the strings of the guitar. The six individual horizontal lines of Tab represent the six separate strings of the guitar with the bass E string corresponding with the bottom line and the high E string represented by the top line. The numbers on the Tab lines indicate the fret number for each individual note. The 'O' number means that you play the open string with no fretting finger.



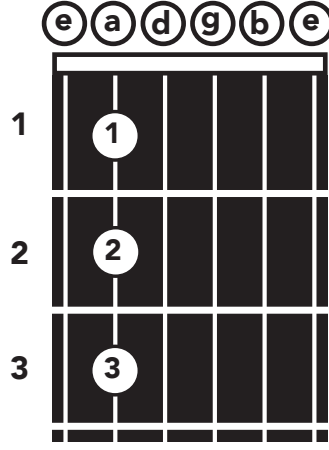
The diagram shows a section of the guitar fretboard with six strings. The strings are labeled at the top as e, a, d, g, b, e from top to bottom. The frets are numbered 1, 2, and 3 on the left. On the bottom string (E), the first, second, and third frets are marked with circled numbers 1, 2, and 3 respectively.

E String Tablature

```

e|-----|
b|-----|
g|-----|
D|-----|
A|-----|
E|--0-----1-----2-----3-----|
    
```

In this Tab diagram, once the initial open string is played, you can fret and play the first 3 frets of the bass E string, consecutively, with your index, middle and ring fingers.



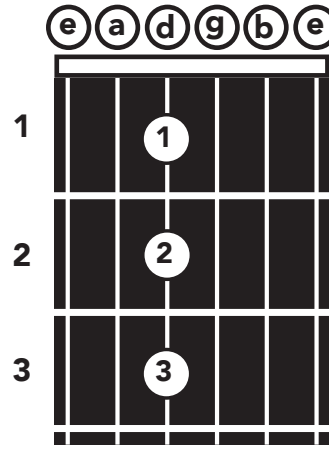
The diagram shows a section of the guitar fretboard with six strings. The strings are labeled at the top as e, a, d, g, b, e from top to bottom. The frets are numbered 1, 2, and 3 on the left. On the second string from the bottom (A), the first, second, and third frets are marked with circled numbers 1, 2, and 3 respectively.

A String Tablature

```

e|-----|
b|-----|
g|-----|
D|-----|
A|--0-----1-----2-----3-----|
E|-----|
    
```

In this Tab diagram, once the initial open string is played, you can fret and play the first 3 frets of the bass A string, consecutively, with your index, middle and ring fingers.



The diagram shows a section of the guitar fretboard with six strings. The strings are labeled at the top as e, a, d, g, b, e from top to bottom. The frets are numbered 1, 2, and 3 on the left. On the third string from the bottom (D), the first, second, and third frets are marked with circled numbers 1, 2, and 3 respectively.

D String Tablature

```

e|-----|
b|-----|
g|-----|
D|--0-----1-----2-----3-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|
    
```

In this Tab diagram, once the initial open string is played, you can fret and play the first 3 frets of the bass D string, consecutively, with your index, middle and ring fingers.

Guitar Tablature for G, B and E Strings

Once you have learnt how to relate the Tab lines to the **E**, **A** and **D** strings of the guitar, you can then apply Tab to the remaining three treble strings of the guitar, namely the **g**, **b** and **e** strings. you have learnt, Tab numbers indicate the fret numbers and the individual parallel lines represent the corresponding guitar strings. The 'O' symbol indicates that you play an open string that is not fretted by any finger.

G String Tablature

```

e|-----|
b|-----|
g|---0-----1-----2-----3-----|
D|-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|
            
```

In this Tab diagram, once the initial open string is played, you can fret and play the first 3 frets of the treble G string, consecutively, with your index, middle and ring fingers.

B String Tablature

```

e|-----|
b|---0-----1-----2-----3-----|
g|-----|
D|-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|
            
```

In this Tab diagram, once the initial open string is played, you can fret and play the first 3 frets of the treble B string, consecutively, with your index, middle and ring fingers.

E String Tablature

```

e|---0-----1-----2-----3-----|
b|-----|
g|-----|
D|-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|
            
```

In this Tab diagram, once the initial open string is played, you can fret and play the first 3 frets of the treble E string, consecutively, with your index, middle and ring fingers.

How to Read a Fretboard Diagram

Now that you have tuned your guitar and learnt how to read Tablature, you can study an important guitar notation device for reading scales known as the Fretboard Diagram. The Fretboard Diagram is displayed face-on with the left-hand side string representing the bass E string and the right-hand side string representing the treble E string. When playing scales, the notes in a scale diagram are designed to be read so that every note is played on each individual string in a downward motion, with 'down' being towards the guitar body, before moving on to the next string located to the immediate right.

The circled numbers on a chord diagram indicate the individual finger placement on the fretboard in terms of the 1st (Index), 2nd (Middle), 3rd (Ring) and 4th (Pinky). In this book, each finger is designated its own individual fret to avoid tangling fingers when playing notes. The non-circled numbers on a scale and chord diagram indicate the fret numbers on the complete guitar fretboard. An 'X' on a Fretboard Diagram indicated that the string is not to be played.

The Guitar Toolbox series has been designed to enable you to learn the fundamental techniques of playing guitar in a self-teaching environment. The Fretboard Diagram will help you to learn the chord concepts contained within this book. You can now look at an example of a Fretboard Diagram.

