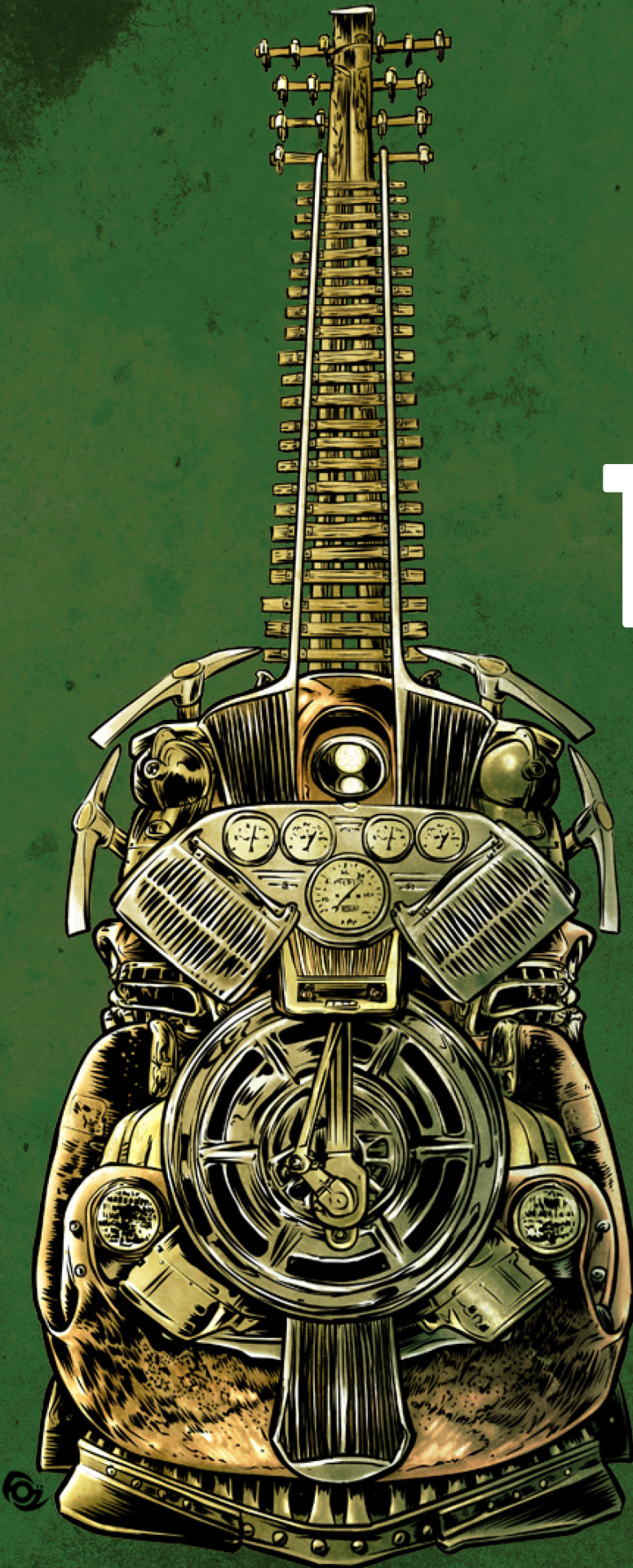


THE SLIDE GUITAR TOOLBOX SERIES

SAMPLE

THE SLIDE GUITAR TOOLBOX

CAL WILLIAMS JR.



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The Slide Guitar Toolbox

by Cal Williams Jr

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Welcome

Welcome to 'The Slide Guitar Toolbox' and thank you for choosing my book. I am really looking forward to guiding you through the exciting concepts contained within these pages and advancing your slide guitar playing technique. In this book, we will discover the history of the guitar slide and the diverse range of materials that are used to make them. We will then learn how to apply the slide to our fourth finger and then place it lightly on the strings to glide up and down the complete guitar fretboard. To help us to practice slide guitar playing in the context of a song, we will apply our slide technique to play Slide Chords in six of the most popular blues songs in modern music.

Once we have established the Slide Chord technique we will then introduce our rhythm guitar technique to an alternative slide guitar style known as the Blues Train Slide. In this technique we will enhance our slide playing with a distinctive chugging blues rhythm that is based on the movement of the early trains and ferries of the Mississippi Delta. Pioneering blues guitarists such as Son House, Robert Johnson and Charley Patton used the rhythmic motion of the steam engine to flavour the beat of their songs. The guitar slide was originally designed to imitate the haunting sound of the train and ferry whistle as it moved from town to town. To allow us to play the Blues Train Slide guitar in the context of a blues composition, we will apply this dynamic guitar technique to the six example blues songs within this book. In addition to the Blues Train Slide rhythms we will also learn a distinctive descending blues run that lives on the last two bars of a blues progression known as the Turnaround Riff.

Slide guitar is a very disciplined guitar style that relies on consistent and committed practice to produce an accurate slide intonation. Every concept in this book will help you to develop a strong and confident slide guitar style.

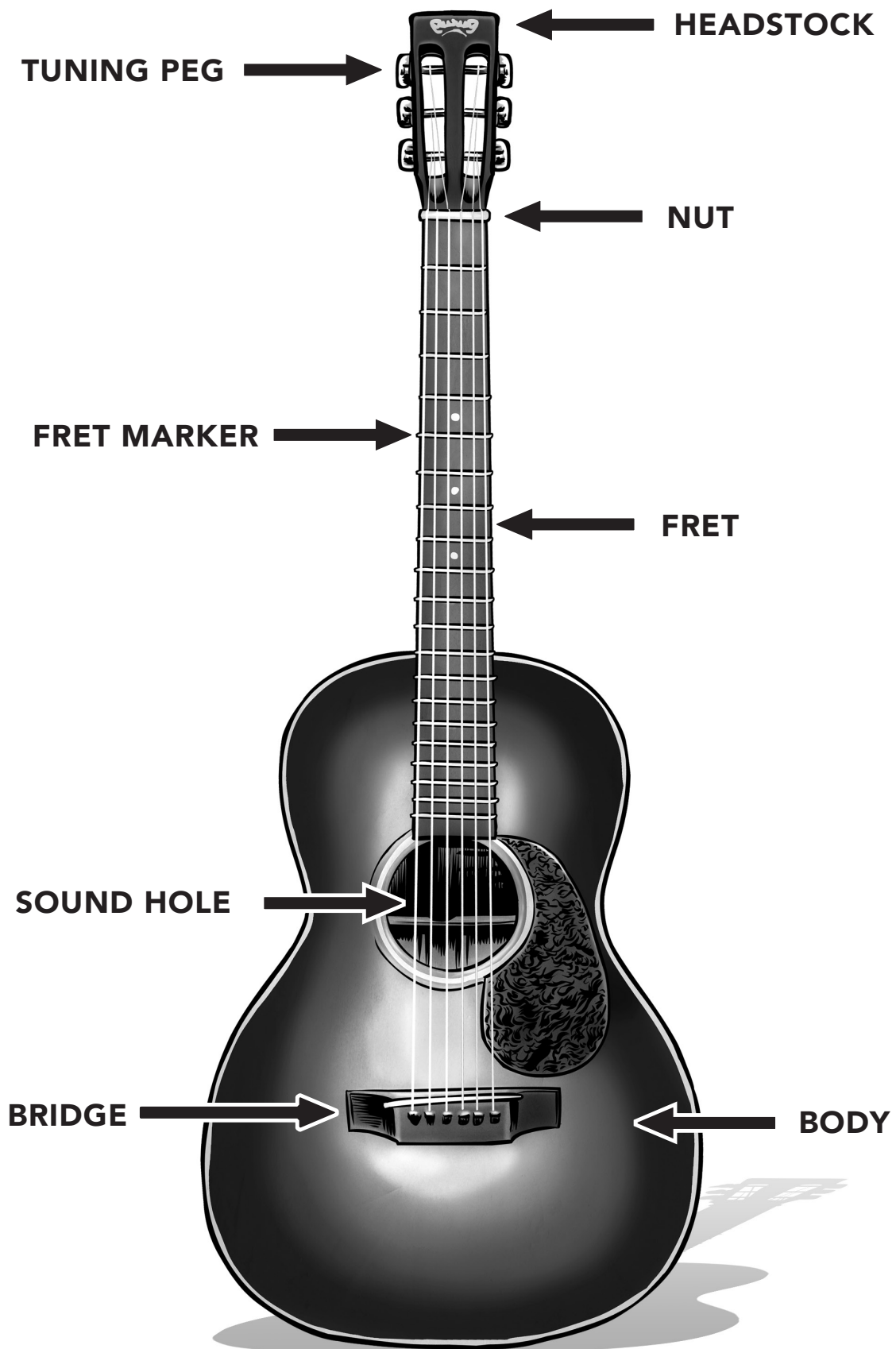
I really hope you enjoy learning my slide guitar method and that it helps you to travel further in the musical direction you desire.

Cheers,

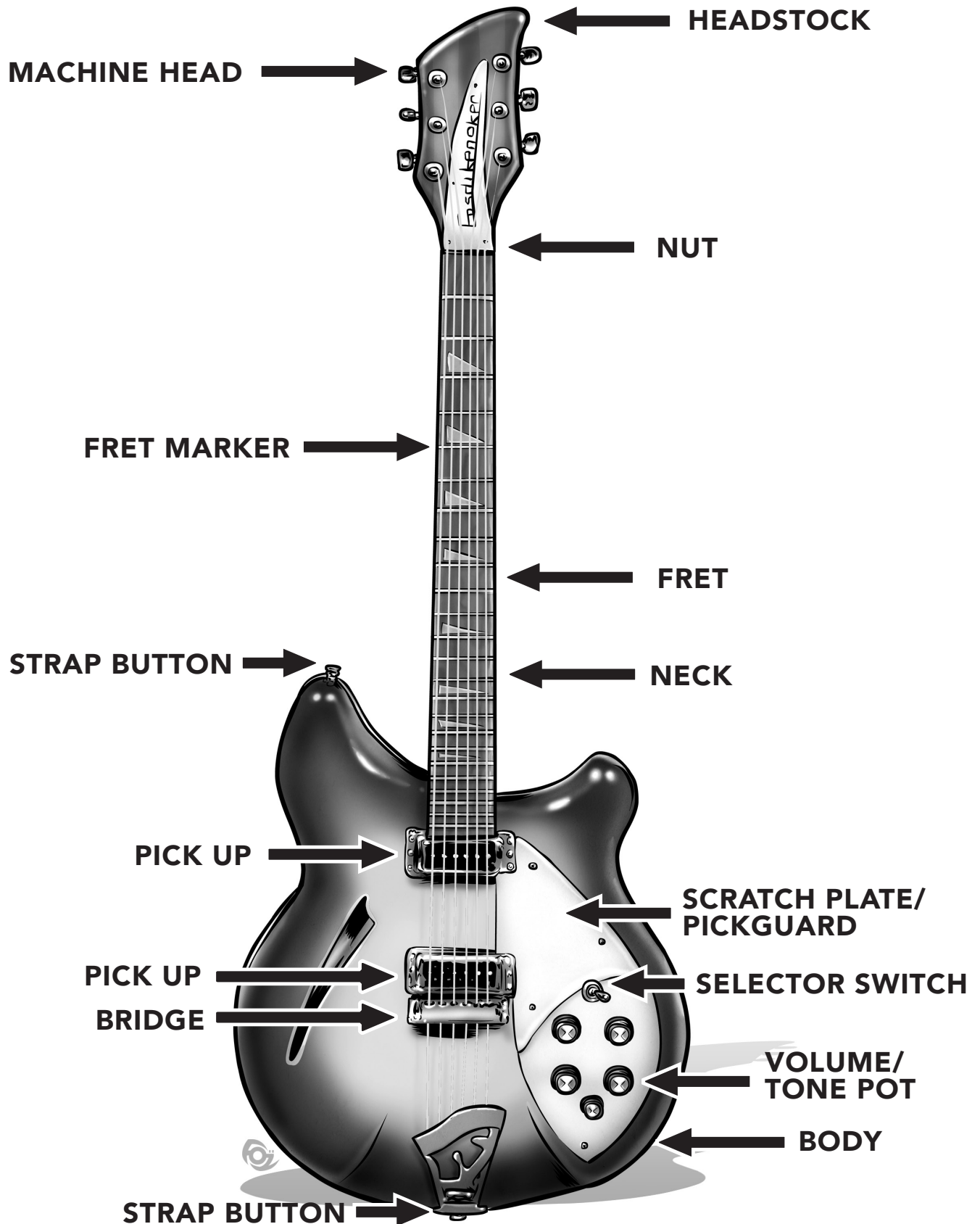
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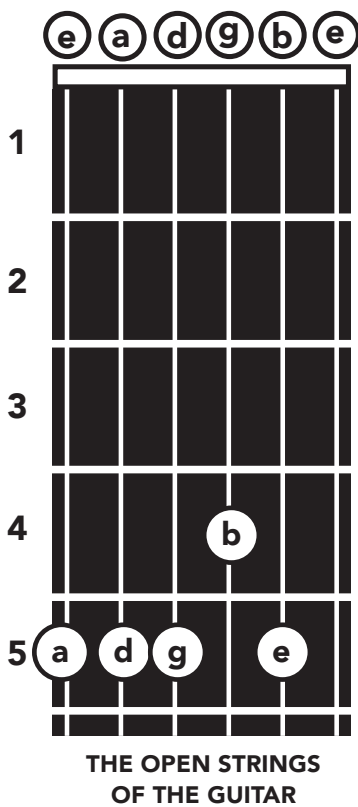


Acoustic Guitar



Electric Guitar





How to Tune Your Guitar

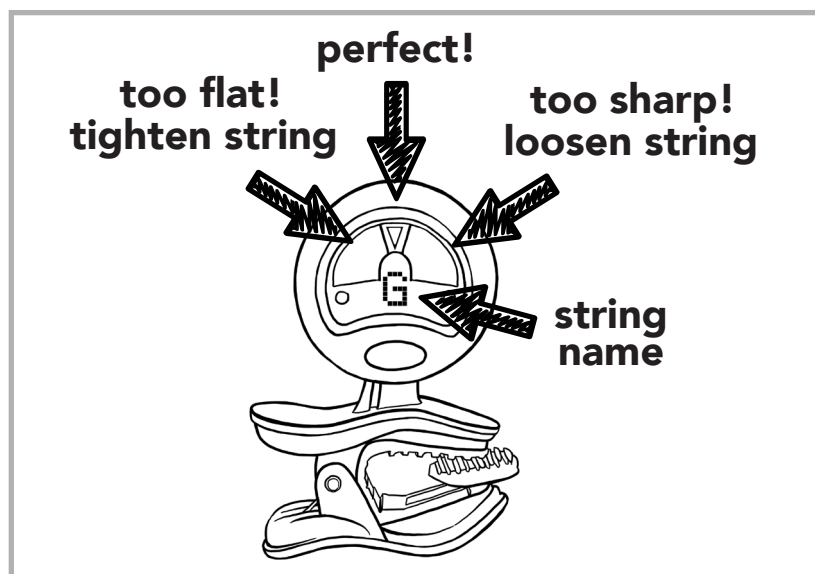
Before we tune our guitar we first need to establish the individual string names of the guitar. By facing the body of our guitar towards us, we can read the order of the open strings of the guitar from left to right (i.e. fat string to thin string) as the notes **E A D g b e**. We can remember the order of open string notes by the rhyme **Eddie Ate Dynamite good bye eddie**. Accurately tuning our guitar to these notes is essential for playing all of the scales and chords that we will study in this book. We can now look at the concept of how to tune your guitar.

The Mechanics of Tuning

Tuning your guitar is achieved by turning the Tuning Pegs (see the guitar diagram) on the head of your guitar until the desired note is reached. On a correctly stringed 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, we can tighten the strings by turning the tuning peg clockwise and loosen the strings by turning the strings anti-clockwise. Tuning the guitar can, thereby, be achieved by tightening the string to raise the pitch of the note and loosening the string to lower the pitch of the note. By using an electronic tuning device, as explained below, we can 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.

Tuning by Device

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.

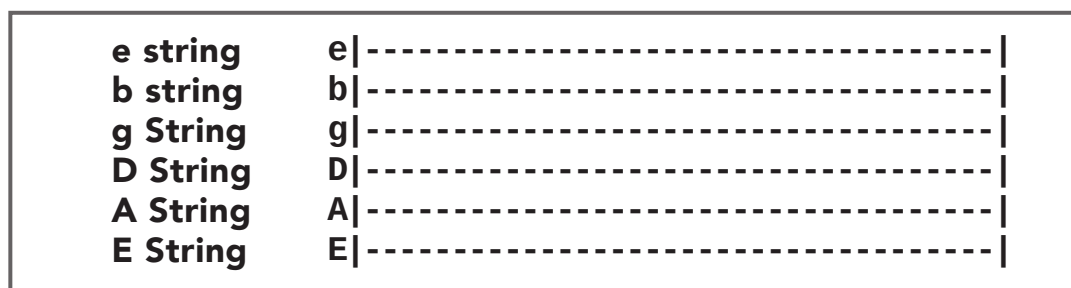


How to Read Tablature

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 that is specifically designed for playing modern guitar. Tab works by using six lines on a diagram to represent each of the six strings on the guitar, with the numbers on the Tab lines corresponding 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 we can see in the 'Open Guitar Strings in Tablature' diagram below, each of the open strings of the guitar are represented by six individual parallel lines.

Open Guitar Strings in Tablature



As we can see on the diagram above, there are a couple of points to be aware of when reading Tab. First of all, 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.

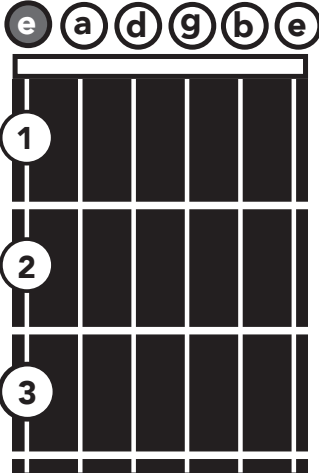
Due to the fact that Standard Tablature does not indicate which finger to use, I have designed this book to show you the correct fingers to apply by using a combination of finger numbers, tablature and fretboard diagrams. Tab also does not always indicate the rhythm for the piece of music. In this book, 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, we will look at how Tab relates to the fretboard diagrams on each individual string and, thereby, begin to familiarise ourselves with using the tablature system for quickly and accurately playing notes on your guitar.

Guitar Tablature for E, A and D Strings

To help us to understand how to read Tablature, we 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, therefore, indicate the fret number of each individual note with the 'O' meaning to play the open string with no fretting finger.

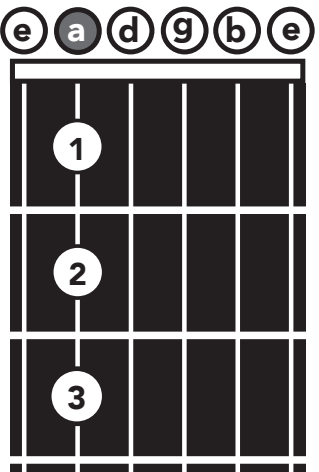


The diagram shows a section of the guitar fretboard with six strings. The strings are labeled at the top from left to right: e, a, d, g, b, e. The fretboard is divided into four fret positions. On the bottom string (E), the first three frets are marked with circled numbers 1, 2, and 3. The fretboard is shaded black to represent the wood.

E String Tablature

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

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

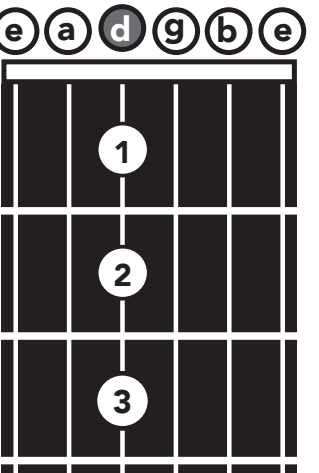


The diagram shows a section of the guitar fretboard with six strings. The strings are labeled at the top from left to right: e, a, d, g, b, e. The fretboard is divided into four fret positions. On the second string from the bottom (A), the first three frets are marked with circled numbers 1, 2, and 3. The fretboard is shaded black to represent the wood.

A String Tablature

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

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



The diagram shows a section of the guitar fretboard with six strings. The strings are labeled at the top from left to right: e, a, d, g, b, e. The fretboard is divided into four fret positions. On the third string from the bottom (D), the first three frets are marked with circled numbers 1, 2, and 3. The fretboard is shaded black to represent the wood.

D String Tablature

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

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