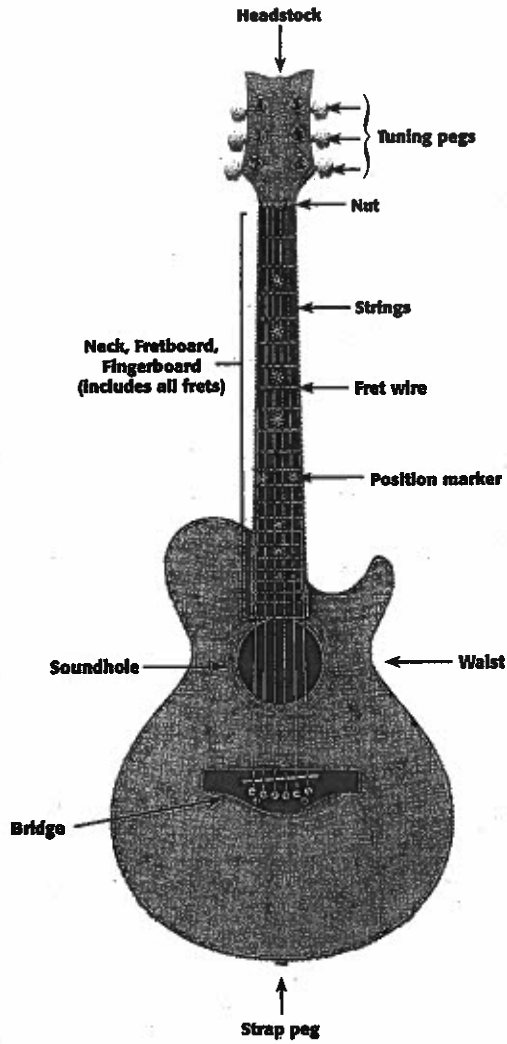
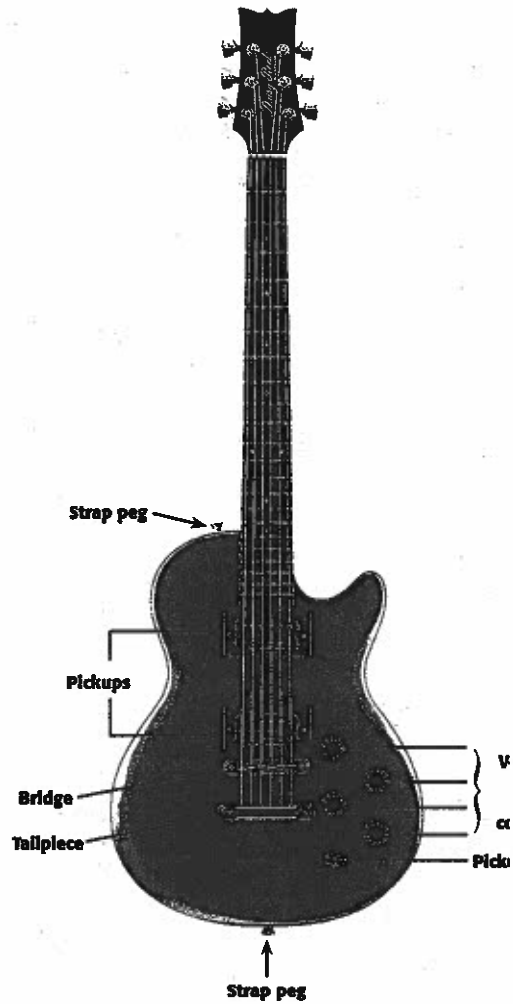


# The Parts of Your Guitar

## The Acoustic Guitar



## The Electric Guitar



## Steel Strings and Nylon Strings

Steel strings are found on both acoustic and electric guitars. They have a bright and brassy sound. Nylon strings usually found on classical and flamenco guitars. They have a mellow, delicate sound. Nylon strings are often the best choice for beginners to play because they are easier on the fingers than steel strings.

# How to Hold Your Guitar

Hold your guitar in a position that is most comfortable for you. Some positions are shown below.

When playing, keep your left wrist away from the fingerboard. This will allow your fingers to be in a better position to finger the chords. Press your fingers firmly, but make certain they do not touch the neighboring strings.

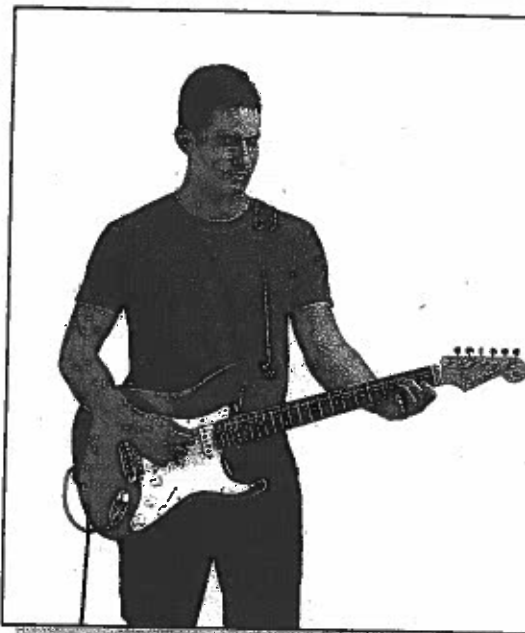
Tilt the neck slightly up. Don't twist the body of the guitar to see the strings better.



**Sitting.**



**Sitting with legs crossed.**



**Standing with strap.**

The guitar is strummed with the right hand. You may use a guitar pick or your thumb. Strum all chords in a downward motion unless otherwise indicated.

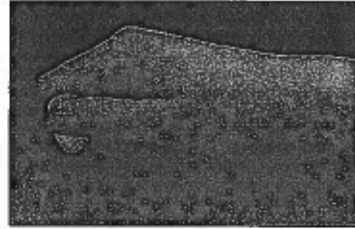
## The Right Hand

To *strum* means to play the strings with your right hand by brushing quickly across them. There are two common ways of strumming the strings. One is with a pick, and the other is with your fingers.

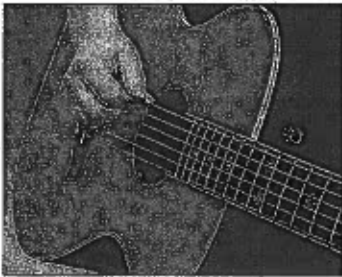
### Strumming with a Pick

Hold the pick between your thumb and index finger. Hold it firmly, but don't squeeze it too hard.

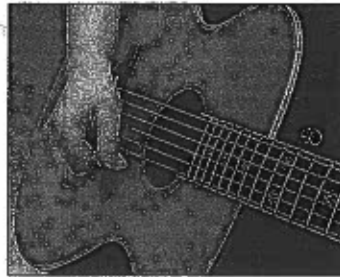
Strum from the 6th string (the thickest, lowest-sounding string) to the 1st string (the thinnest, highest-sounding string).



**Important:** Strum by mostly moving your wrist, not just your arm. Use as little motion as possible. Start as close to the top string as you can, and never let your hand move past the edge of the guitar.



Start near the top string.



Move mostly your wrist, not just your arm. Finish near the bottom string.

### Strumming with Your Fingers

Decide if you feel more comfortable strumming with the side of your thumb or the nail of your index finger. The strumming motion is the same with the thumb or finger as it is when using the pick.

Strum from the 6th string (the thickest, lowest-sounding string) to the 1st string (the thinnest, highest-sounding string).



Strumming with the thumb.

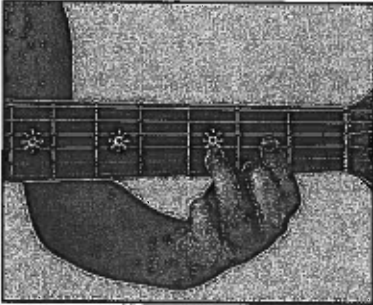


Strumming with the index finger.

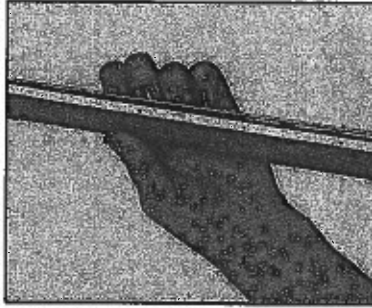
# The Left Hand

## Proper Left Hand Position

Learning to use your left hand fingers starts with a good hand position. Place your hand so your thumb rests comfortably in the middle of the back of the neck. Position your fingers on the front of the neck as if you are gently squeezing a ball between them and your thumb. Keep your elbow in and your fingers curved.



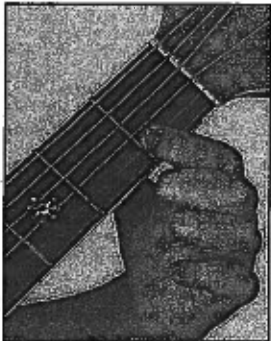
Keep elbow in and fingers curved. Arch your wrist slightly so your fingertips can more easily come down on top of the strings



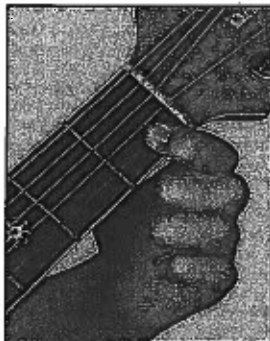
Position fingers as if you are gently squeezing a ball between your fingertips and thumb. Place the thumb under the fingerboard opposite the 2nd finger.

## Placing a Finger on a String

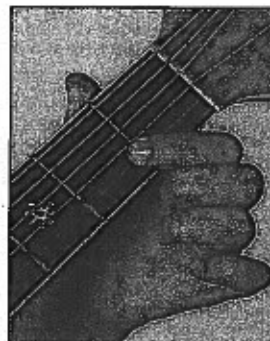
When you press a string with a left hand finger, make sure you press firmly with the tip of your finger and as close to the fret wire as you can without actually being right on it. Short fingernails are important! This will create a clean, bright tone.



**Right!**  
Finger presses the string down near the fret without actually being on it.



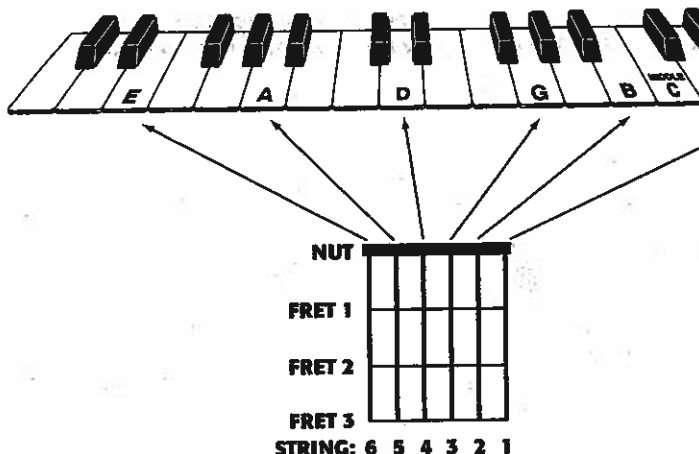
**Wrong!**  
Finger is too far from fret wire; tone is "buzzy" and indefinite.



**Wrong!**  
Finger is on top of fret wire; tone is muffled and unclear.

# How to Tune Your Guitar to a Keyboard

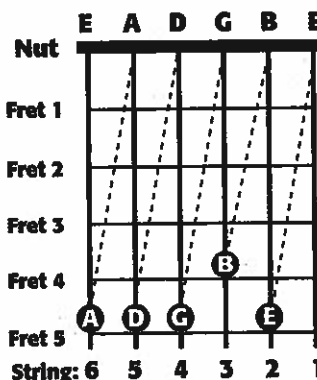
The six strings of the guitar are the same pitches as the six notes shown on the keyboard in the following illustration:



## Tuning the Guitar to Itself

Tune the 6th string to E on the keyboard. If no keyboard is available, approximate E as best you can and proceed as follows:

- Press 5th fret of 6th string to get pitch of 5th string (A).
- Press 5th fret of 5th string to get pitch of 4th string (D).
- Press 5th fret of 4th string to get pitch of 3rd string (G).
- Press 4th fret of 3rd string to get pitch of 2nd string (B).
- Press 5th fret of 2nd string to get pitch of 1st string (E).



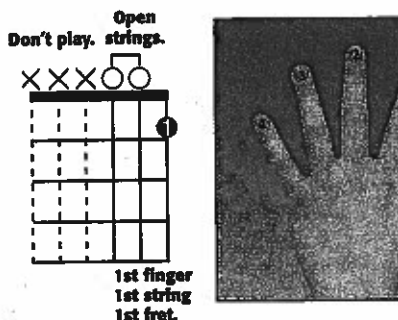
## Tuning with the Audio Tracks or DVD

To tune while listening to the audio tracks or watching the DVD, listen to the directions and match each of your strings to the corresponding pitches.



## How to Read Chord Diagrams

Fingering diagrams show where to place the fingers of your left hand. Strings not played are shown with dashed lines. The number within the circle indicates the finger that is pressed down.

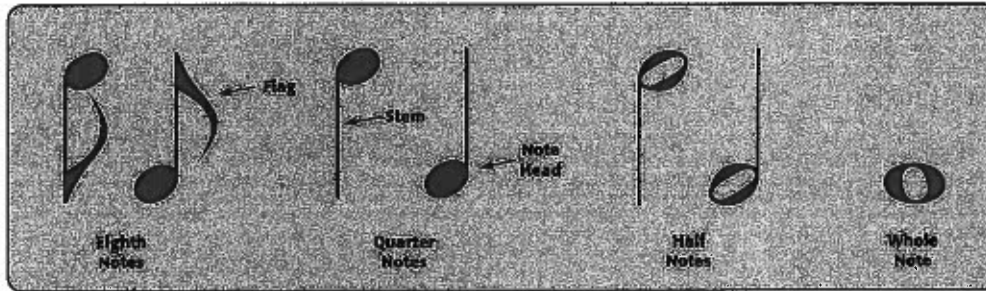


## How to Use an Electronic Tuner

An electronic tuner is a handy device that can help keep your guitar in tune. You pick each string one at a time, and the tuner guides you to the exact pitch each string should be tuned to. Until your ear becomes more experienced, an electronic tuner can be extremely useful.

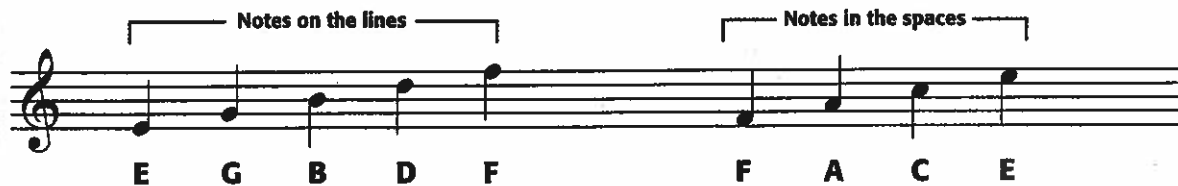
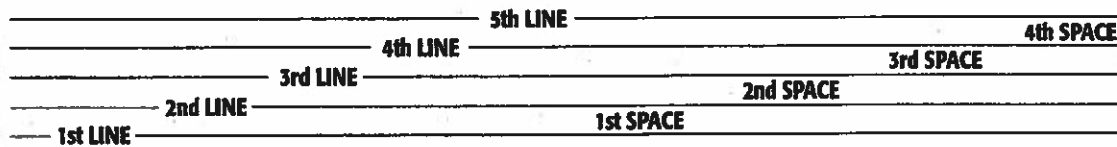
# Getting Acquainted with Music

Musical sounds are indicated by symbols called *notes*. Their time value is determined by their color (white or black) and by stems or flags attached to the note head.



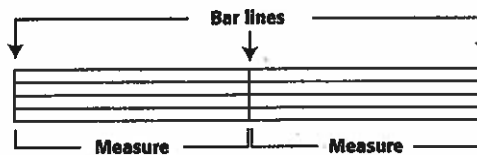
## The Staff

The notes are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet (A-G), endlessly repeated to embrace the entire range of musical sound. The name and pitch of the note is determined by its position on five horizontal lines and the spaces between, called the *staff*.



## Measures

Music is divided into equal parts called *measures*, or *bars*. One measure is divided from another by a *bar line*.

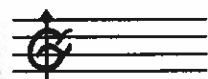


## Clefs

During the evolution of musical notation, the staff had from 2 to 20 lines, and symbols were invented to locate certain lines and the pitch of the note on that line. These symbols are called *clefs*.

Music for guitar is written in the *G clef*, or *treble clef*.

Originally, the Gothic letter G was used on a four-line staff to establish the pitch of G.

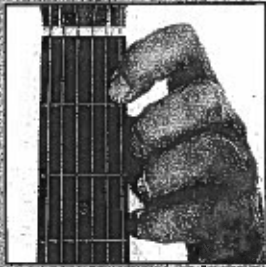


This grew into the modern notation on a five-line staff:



# The First String E

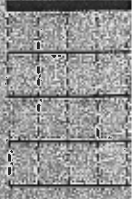
OPEN STRING\*  
(not fingered)



1st FRET

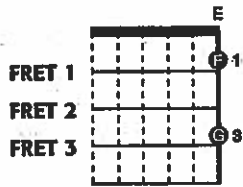


3rd FRET



Dashed line means string is not to be played.

Use only down-strokes indicated by ♩.  
The symbol ○ over a note means *open string*. Do not finger.



Track 2

GO TO NEX WITHOUT STO

Play slowly and evenly.

5 (Measure number)


## PLAYING WITH E, F, G Track 3

DOUBLE B,  
USED TO SH  
END OF TH


\*Though no photo is shown for the open string, the fingers of the LH should remain slightly above the string to be ready to play the correct fret when needed. The thumb should also remain in its proper position.

# MORE Track 4

Left hand fingers: When playing from the 1st to the 3rd fret, keep the 1st finger down. Only the G will sound, but when you go back to F, your playing will sound smoother.



Play slowly and evenly.      KEEP 1st FINGER DOWN      FINGER UP      FINGER DOWN




5      UP      DOWN      UP

# STILL MORE Track 5

Left hand fingers: Place as close to the fret wires as possible without actually touching them.



5      KEEP 1st FINGER DOWN



5



9



13

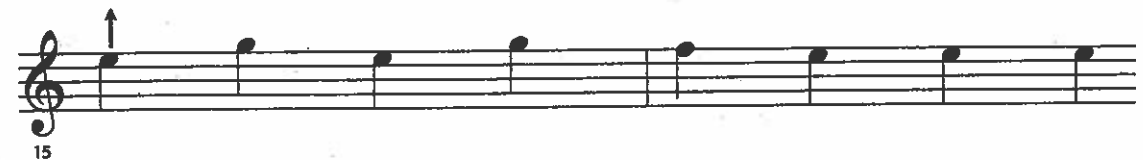




# NO MORE Track 6

Left hand fingers: Use only the tips—keep them curved.

Left hand thumb: Place on the back of the neck opposite the 1st and 2nd fingers.



# Sound-Off: How to Count Time

## Four Kinds of Notes



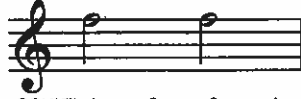
QUARTER NOTE  
ONE COUNT



COUNT: 1 2 3 4



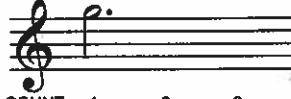
HALF NOTE  
TWO COUNTS



COUNT: 1 2 3 4



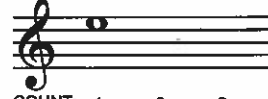
DOTTED HALF NOTE  
THREE COUNTS



COUNT: 1 2 3



WHOLE NOTE  
FOUR COUNTS



COUNT: 1 2 3 4

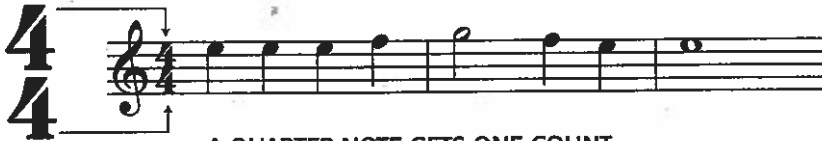
## Time Signatures

Each piece of music has numbers at the beginning called a *time signature*. These numbers tell us how to count time.

The TOP NUMBER tells us how many counts are in each measure.

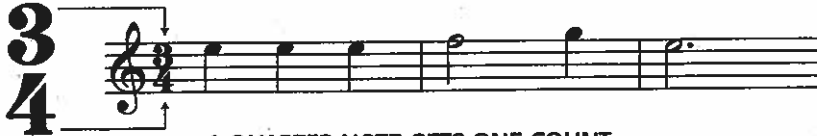
The BOTTOM NUMBER tells us what kind of note gets one count.

FOUR COUNTS TO A MEASURE



A QUARTER NOTE GETS ONE COUNT

THREE COUNTS TO A MEASURE



A QUARTER NOTE GETS ONE COUNT

**Important:** Go back and fill in the missing time signatures of the songs you have already learned.

# The Second String B

## NOTES YOU'VE LEARNED SO FAR

1st String

E F G

OPEN STRING      1st FRET      3rd FRET

B      C      D

FRET 1  
FRET 2  
FRET 3

B  
C  
D

Track 7

5 (HOLD 1 DOWN)

## TWO-STRING ROCK Track 8

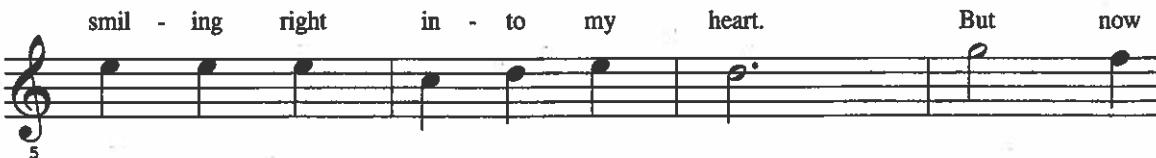
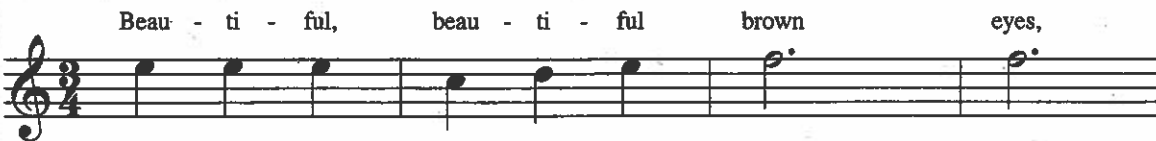
5



# MERRY-GO-ROUND Track 9



# BEAUTIFUL BROWN EYES Track 10



# GUITAR ROCK Track 11

If you have a teacher or a guitar playing friend, the chord symbols above each staff may be used to play a duet (two players). These chords are not to be played by the student.

TEACHER: G / / / etc. G<sup>7</sup>




5




9

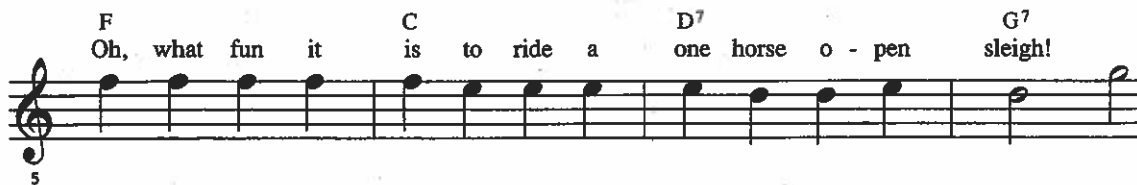
# JINGLE BELLS Track 12

TEACHER: C

Jin - gle bells! Jin - gle bells! Jin - gle all the way!



F Oh, what fun it C is to ride a D<sup>7</sup> one horse o - pen G<sup>7</sup> sleigh!



5

C Jin - gle bells! Jin - gle bells! Jin - gle all the way!



9

F Oh what fun it C is to ride a G<sup>7</sup> one horse o - pen C sleigh!



13

# ALOUETTE Track 13

Traditional French-Canadian

TEACHER: C

4 A - lou - et - te, gen - tille A - lou -

4 C et - te. A - lou - et - te, je - te plu - me -

8 C rai. Je - te plu - me - rai la tête, je - te plu - me -

12 C rai la tête. Et la tête, et la tête,

15 A - lou - ett', A - lou - ett', oh, oh!

19 C A - lou - et - te, gen - tille A - lou - et - te.

23 G A - lou - et - te, je - te plu - me - rai.

# The Third String G

## NOTES YOU'VE LEARNED

2nd String 1st String

B C D E F

**OPEN STRING**

**G**

**2nd FRET**

**A**

**G**

|        |  |  |   |  |  |
|--------|--|--|---|--|--|
|        |  |  |   |  |  |
| FRET 1 |  |  |   |  |  |
| FRET 2 |  |  | 2 |  |  |
| FRET 3 |  |  |   |  |  |

Track 14

## AU CLAIR DE LA LUNE Track 16

TEACHER: G D<sup>7</sup> G D<sup>7</sup> G D<sup>7</sup>

G D<sup>7</sup> G D<sup>7</sup>

G D<sup>7</sup> G

# THREE-STRING ROCK Track 16

SOLO: G

G<sup>7</sup>

C

G

D<sup>7</sup>

tricky

G

# ARGO Track 17

(from *The New World Symphony*)

Antonin Dvořák

SOLO: C

G<sup>7</sup>

C

E<sup>7</sup>

A<sup>m</sup>

D<sup>m</sup>

G<sup>7</sup>

C

F

E<sup>m</sup>

F

E<sup>m</sup>

F

F

E<sup>m</sup>

F

E<sup>m</sup>

F

C

G<sup>7</sup>

C

E<sup>7</sup>

A<sup>m</sup>

D<sup>m</sup>

G<sup>7</sup>

C





# BACK TO THE '50s Track 18

TEACHER: G

## Repeat Signs

The double dots inside the double bars indicate that everything between the double bars must be repeated.

# AURA LEE Track 19

Elvis Presley recorded this folk song in a modern version called "Love Me Tender."

TEACHER: C



## Introducing Chords

A *chord* is a combination of harmonious notes.  
All notes except the whole note have a stem going up or down.  
When notes are struck together as a chord, they are connected by the same stem.

(Not to be played.)



X X X X B E



An x above a string also means that string is not to be played.

### Chord Study No. 1 Track 20

This exercise uses two-note chords on the open B and E strings.  
Play both strings together with one down-stroke.



X X X G B E

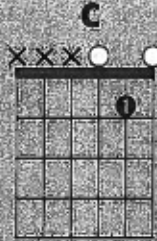


### Chord Study No. 2 Track 21

This exercise uses three-note chords on the open G, B, and E strings.  
Learn the order of the strings thoroughly. Play with the wrist free  
and relaxed. Keep your eyes on the notes and not on the fingerboard.



# Three-String C Chord



**Track 22**

Musical notation for Track 22, first system. It shows a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. The notes are C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5. There are two C chord symbols above the staff. Below the staff, it says "(HOLD C DOWN TO THE END OF THE EXERCISE)".

Musical notation for Track 22, second system. It shows a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. The notes are C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5. There are two C chord symbols above the staff. A '5' is written below the first measure.

## ODE TO JOY **Track 23**

(Theme from Beethoven's 9th Symphony)

Ludwig van Beethoven

TEACHER: C

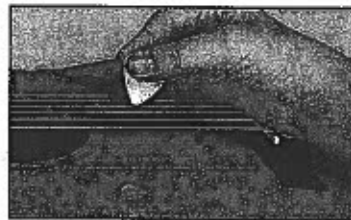
G<sup>7</sup>

Musical notation for Ode to Joy, first system. It shows a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. The notes are C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5. There are two C chord symbols above the staff. A '5' is written below the first measure.

Musical notation for Ode to Joy, second system. It shows a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. The notes are C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5. There are two C chord symbols above the staff. A '5' is written below the first measure.

### Quarter Rest

This sign indicates silence for one count. For a clearer effect, you may stop the sound of the strings by touching the strings lightly with the heel of the right hand.



## ROCK 'N' RHYTHM **Track 24**

TEACHER: C

Musical notation for Rock 'n' Rhythm, first system. It shows a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. The notes are C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5. There are two C chord symbols above the staff. A '5' is written below the first measure. There are three slash marks above the staff.

Musical notation for Rock 'n' Rhythm, second system. It shows a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. The notes are C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5. There are two C chord symbols above the staff. A '5' is written below the first measure. There are three slash marks above the staff.

Musical notation for Rock 'n' Rhythm, third system. It shows a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. The notes are C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5. There are two C chord symbols above the staff. A '5' is written below the first measure. There are three slash marks above the staff.

# Three-String G<sup>7</sup> Chord



## Track 26

Musical notation for Track 26. It consists of two staves. The top staff is in 4/4 time and contains a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G, B, D, G, and a half note G. A circled '1' is above the first G. The bottom staff shows a G<sup>7</sup> chord for the first four measures, then a C chord for the fifth measure, G<sup>7</sup> for the sixth, and C for the seventh. A circled '5' is below the first measure of the bottom staff. The instruction "(HOLD F DOWN TO THE END)" is written below the first measure of the bottom staff.

## TWO-CHORD ROCK Track 28

TEACHER: C

Musical notation for Track 28. It consists of three staves in 4/4 time. The top staff has a melody with quarter notes G, B, D, G, and a half note G. The bottom two staves show a G<sup>7</sup> chord for the first four measures, then a C chord for the fifth, G<sup>7</sup> for the sixth, and C for the seventh. A circled '5' is below the first measure of the second staff. The instruction "(REST)" is written below the fifth and seventh measures of the top staff.

## LOVE SOMEBODY Track 27

- Here is a song for you to sing while you play the accompaniment. The slanting line below or following a chord symbol (C /// G<sup>7</sup> ///) means to play the same chord for each line. Repeat the chord until a new chord symbol appears.

PLAY: C / / / G<sup>7</sup> / / / C / / / G<sup>7</sup> / / /

SING: Love some - bod - y, 'deed I do. Love some - bod - y, now guess who?

C / / / G<sup>7</sup> / / / C / G<sup>7</sup> / C / / /

Love some - bod - y have you guessed? You're the one that I love best.

Musical notation for the song. It consists of two staves in 4/4 time. The top staff has a melody with quarter notes G, B, D, G, and a half note G. The bottom staff shows a G<sup>7</sup> chord for the first four measures, then a C chord for the fifth, G<sup>7</sup> for the sixth, and C for the seventh. A circled '5' is below the first measure of the bottom staff.

# Three-String G Chord



### Track 28

Musical notation for Track 28 in 3/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, B4, D5, G4, B4, D5, G4, B4, D5, G4, B4, D5. The accompaniment consists of chords: G, G7, C, G, G. A circled '3' above the first three notes of the melody indicates a triplet.

### ROCKIN' WITH G & C Track 29

TEACHER: G

Musical notation for Track 29 in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3. The accompaniment consists of chords: G, C, D, C, G. A circled '5' is placed below the first measure of the accompaniment.

### DOWN IN THE VALLEY Track 30

Play this song as a guitar solo by playing the music, then sing the melody and accompany yourself by playing the chord line.

PLAY: C / / / / / / / / / / / / / / G / / / / /

SING: Down in the val - ley, val - ley so low,

Musical notation for Track 30 in 3/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3. The accompaniment consists of chords: C, G7, C. A circled '7' is placed below the second measure of the accompaniment.

hang your head o - ver, hear the wind blow.



# OH, SUSANNA

Track 31

27

Stephen Foster

TEACHER:

G

D7

G

Oh, I came from A - la - ba - ma with a

gui - tar on my knee; I'm goin' to Lou - 'si -

a - na, my true love for to see. It

rained all night the day I left, the weath - er it was dry; the

sun so hot I froze to death, Su - san - na don't you cry.

Oh, Su - san - na, oh, don't you cry for me, I've

come from A - la - ba - ma with a gui - tar on my knee.

# The Fourth String D

## NOTES YOU'VE LEARNED SO FAR

3rd String 2nd String 1st String

G A B C D E F G

| OPEN STRING | 2nd FRET | 3rd FRET |
|-------------|----------|----------|
|             |          |          |
|             |          |          |
| D           | E        | F        |

**D**

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| FRET 1 |   |
| FRET 2 | 2 |
| FRET 3 | 3 |



# OLD MACDONALD HAD A FARM Track 33

TEACHER: G C G D<sup>7</sup> G

G C G D<sup>7</sup> G

**Hold Sign (Fermata)** 

This sign indicates that the time value of the note is lengthened to approximately twice its usual value.

**REUBEN, REUBEN**  Track 34

MELODY: F

6 (HOLD)

12

**Common Time**

**C** means *common time*, which is the same as 1 time.

**WHIZ**  Track 35

MELODY: G  etc.

5

9



# BOHEMIAN FOLK SONG Track 36

TEACHER: C G C G F G<sup>7</sup> C

Musical staff 1: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter).

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter).  
5

Musical staff 3: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter).  
9

Musical staff 4: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter).  
13

Not all guitar solos are played using one form of the three-note chords already learned. The next two songs use various combinations of two- and three-note chords.

# GOOD NIGHT, LADIES Track 37

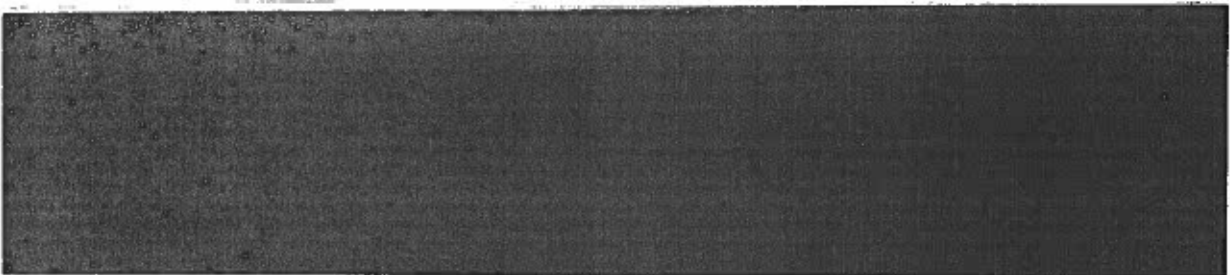
TEACHER: G D<sup>7</sup>

Musical staff 1: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter).

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter).  
5

Musical staff 3: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter).  
9

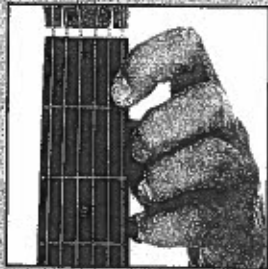
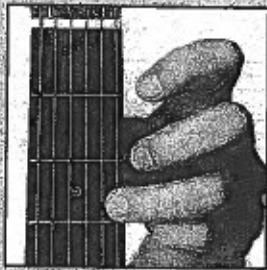
Musical staff 4: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter).  
13



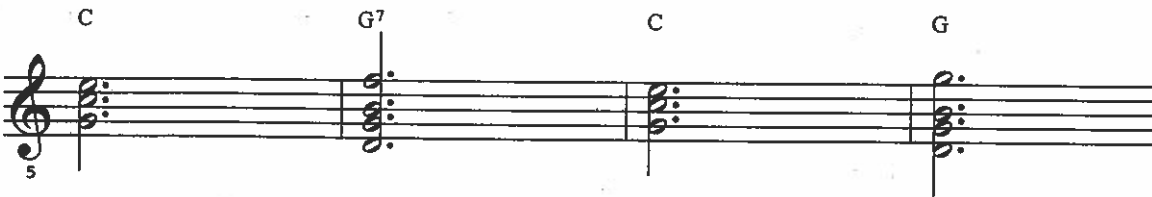
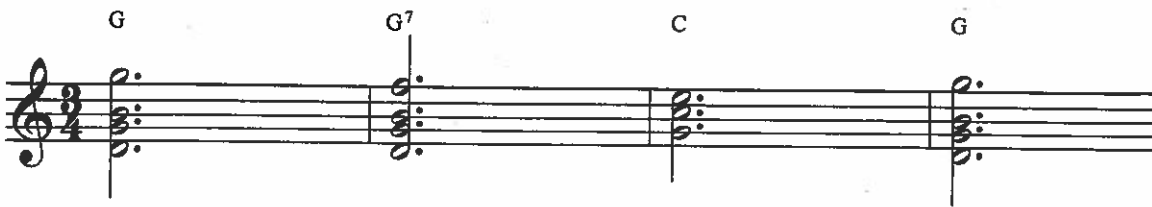


## Four-String G & G<sup>7</sup> Chords

The three-note chords you have learned so far can be expanded to four-note chords that sound fuller and richer. For the G and G<sup>7</sup> chords, simply add the open 4th string.



Here is an exercise using expanded four-string versions of the G and G<sup>7</sup> chords.



# LAUGHING POLKA Track 40

TEACHER: C

Musical staff 1: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Chords: C, G7, C.

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Chords: C, G, C. Ends with a double bar line and a star.

Musical staff 3: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Chords: C, G7.

Musical staff 4: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Chord: C.

Musical staff 5: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Chord: G7.

Musical staff 6: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Chords: Dm, C, G7, C.

\*Two thin lines mean the end of a section.

