

Fretbow's

Guitar Note Reading Course for Beginners

By Theo Elsey

BOOK ONE

PART ONE

Eight Natural Notes in the First Position

LIST OF MUSIC TITLES

SET ONE

Two String Melody (Versions 1 and 2)

Tandem Ride

Study in A Minor

Hot Cross Buns

London Bridge

Jingle Bells

Good King Wenceslas

Website: www.fretbow.co.uk **Blogspot:** <https://fretbow.blogspot.com/>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/fretbow>

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The Music List - Set One - Music Notation

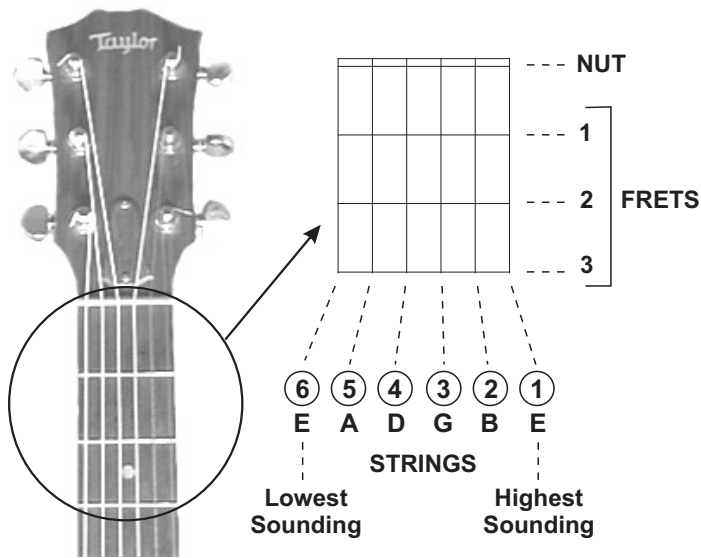
All 7 tunes as above set to music notation only. These are to test you on your sight/music reading skills.	20 - 22.
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Moving Forward

Everything in conclusion from Book One, Part One and what to expect next in Book One, Part Two.	22.
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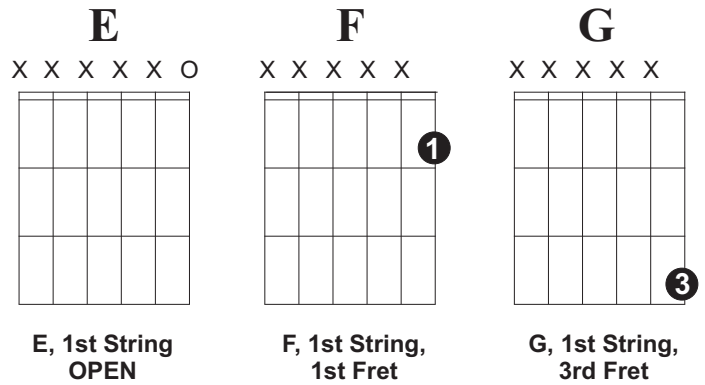
Left Hand Fingering

Reading Note Fingering Diagrams

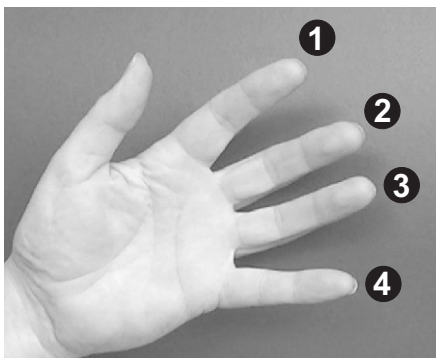


EXAMPLE - Notes on the First String

X = String not to be played
O = Open string, to be played



The lowest sounding strings 6, 5 and 4 are referred to as BASS STRINGS, whilst the highest sounding strings 3, 2 and 1 are called TREBLE STRINGS.

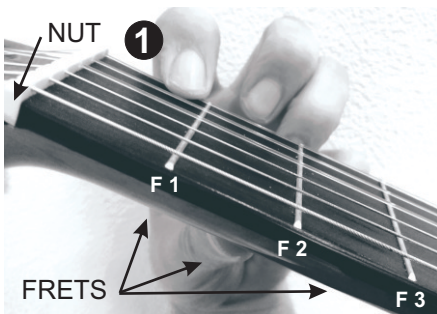


- ① 1st. Finger
- ② 2nd. Finger
- ③ 3rd. Finger
- ④ 4th. Finger

Left Hand Fingering Rule

The music in this edition uses notes that are all in the First Position. When playing in this position there is an easy rule to remember:

Finger Number = Fret Number



F - 1st string, 1st fret.



A - 3rd string, 2nd fret.



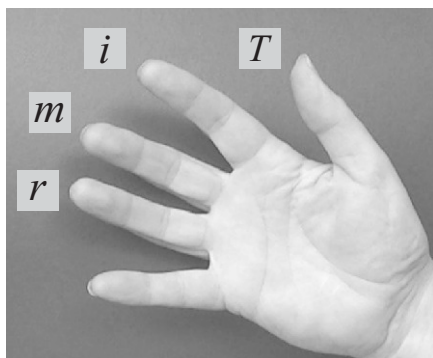
G - 1st string, 3rd fret.

The correct position for the thumb is important, it should be placed centrally behind the neck as shown in the examples above. Failing to do this will mean that the fingers will more than likely slant over and touch adjacent strings. Arch your fingers close to a right angle to the fretboard (upright). In the illustration to the right everything is wrong! The thumb is too high, and the fingers are slouching and too far back from the frets. Fingers should be set just to the left side of the frets.



Right Hand Fingering

Right Hand Fingers



English

T = Thumb

i = Index

m = Middle

r = Ring

Spanish

P = Pulgar

i = Indice

m = Medio

a = Anular

Thumb



Index Finger



Supporting Thumb



Thumb

Using the right hand thumb to pick out the strings for many comes naturally. If this is you too, then go for it! Play the strings by approaching them in a **Downward** direction. Should you be a beginning guitarist, then you are unlikely to know which style/method of playing you will be most suited to. Playing the music with your thumb for instance would be a good choice if you are likely to progress to rock guitar, using the thumb is just a step away from gripping a pick or plectrum as used by most electric players. If however, you are interested in the finger-picking styles favoured by many Acoustic and Spanish/Classical guitarists then you will need to learn how to play using your right hand fingers in addition to the thumb.

Index Finger

A good starting point for learning finger-style is by introducing one finger at a time starting with the right hand index finger. All the music found in this e-book can be played by using just the index finger. Strike any string by pulling the index finger towards you in an **Upward** direction.

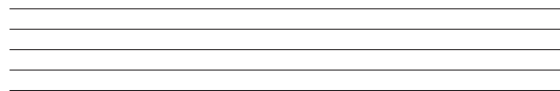
Supporting Thumb

When playing music with the index finger consider resting your thumb on a bass string, ideally the 6th string would be best. The thumb won't at this stage sound a string, it's just parked there in silence! The advantage of this is in helping to steady the hand as you play on the treble strings with your index finger. A good right hand position in finger-style is in holding the wrist fairly high with the hand bending down from the wrist, so that your forearm, wrist and hand form a curved line, similar to that let's say of a swan's head and neck. The resting thumb can stand a little upright, this will help you to hold your hand in a higher position.

Music Notation - Learning the Basics

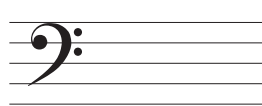
Learning to read music is like learning a language, you can skim the surface or get into some very deep study! My intent here is to only show you what you need to know in order to learn, play and enjoy the music in this volume. Bite sized chunks of knowledge will soon build up to give you more in depth understanding in reading music. If you follow my course through I am confident that you will become proficient enough in reading to successfully study and play some amazing music. There are other methods of learning the guitar that bypass music reading altogether, however, if you learn to read music you can then translate that knowledge to other instruments, a clear advantage if you hope to play more than one instrument.

Music is written on a system of 5 lines called a Music Stave or Staff.

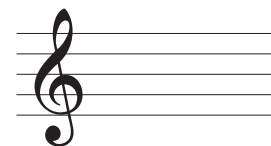


At the beginning of the stave a symbol is given called a clef.

Bass Clef



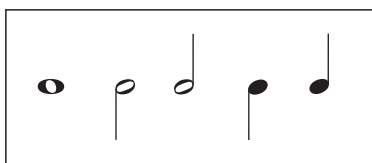
Treble Clef



Different clefs are used according to the instrument you play, low sounding instruments like the Bass Guitar and Double Bass will use a Bass Clef, whereas, the guitar will use the Treble Clef, common to most melodic instruments.

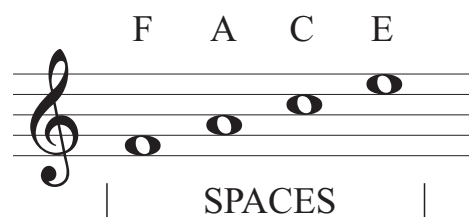
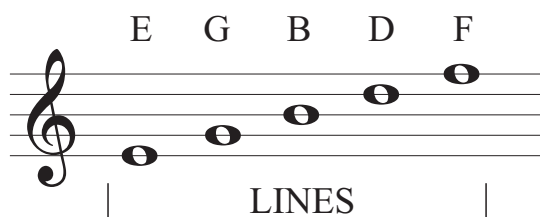
NOTE PITCH, LINES AND SPACES

As you are already aware, music has a flow of sound that has both Up's and Down's. Every time you listen to a note change from lower to higher or higher to lower, then you're listening to a change in Pitch. The lowest sounding notes will be low on the stave and the highest notes high on the stave. A note is represented by an oval shaped head that can appear in a variety of ways, either as a single head or attached with a tail, here are a few examples:



Don't be concerned at this stage as to why some notes have tails and others not. Also, the direction of the tail makes no difference to the sound of the note, the only thing to watch for right now is the position of the note head.

Music notes are written on both the lines of the stave and the spaces between, they are identified and labelled by using the first 7 letters of the alphabet - A, B, C, D, E, F and G.



Here's the rhyme that most students learn for memorising the letter names on the lines:

Every Good Boy Deserves Fun

As for notes in the spaces between lines, then it's made even easier for us as the letter names spell out the word **FACE**.

The lines and spaces is a good lesson to learn but the first notes in each group E and F won't be used for sometime to come. Both these notes fall on the 4th string that happens to be one of our bass strings. In this book, (Book One - Part One) we will be looking at notes only on the first three treble strings. Our lowest starting notes for the lines and spaces have now been revised to G and A respectively.



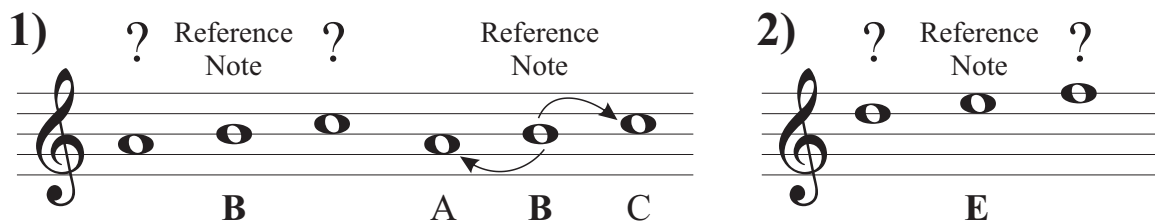
You can still use the rhyme and word method from the previous page to find your note names but there is another method you might like to try that is great for guitarists. All you have to do is to learn the names of the notes on the first three open strings and the rest comes easily, here they are from the 3rd string to the 1st.



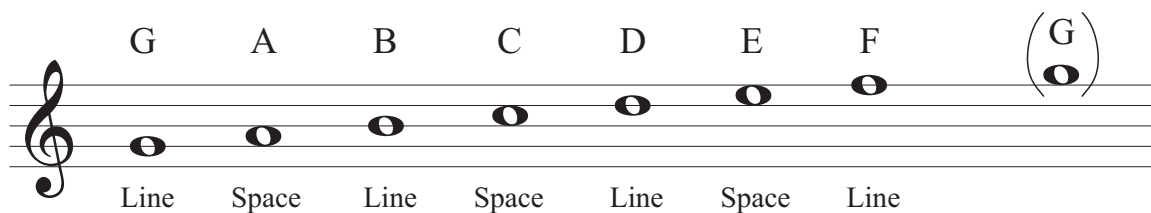
Try to learn these from sight, it shouldn't be too hard, it is only three notes after all. There's always a trick or two along the way to help you, take B for instance and tell yourself over and over again that **'B' is for Bang in the middle**

G, B and E can now be used as reference notes to work out the names of other notes around them - just think about your alphabet letters from A to G to figure them out.

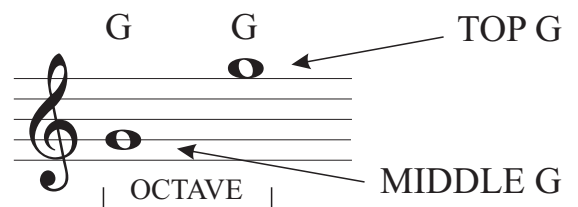
In example 1) below, the first work out of notes A and C is given from the Reference Note B, now work out for yourself the letter names for the two notes in example 2).



Finally, the revised list of notes grouped in lines and spaces shown at the top of this page will now be re-ordered - One Line note, One Space Note, Line and Space all the way through. You can also use these notes to check your answer from the test above.



Notice the addition of the extra G note, the spread of notes from Middle and Top G's is called an OCTAVE, *Oct* is derived from 8 as in Octopus or Octagon. All 7 tunes in this book use only these 8 notes, you can learn how to play them from the table on the next page.



Music Notation - Eight Natural Notes on Treble Strings 1 - 3

First String Notes

Diagram illustrating the fretboard positions for the first string notes:

- E, 1st String, OPEN**: Fretboard diagram shows an open string (0). Musical notation shows a note on the first line (E) with a finger number of 0.
- F, 1st String, 1st Fret**: Fretboard diagram shows the first fret (1). Musical notation shows a note on the first space (F) with a finger number of 1.
- G, 1st String, 3rd Fret**: Fretboard diagram shows the third fret (3). Musical notation shows a note on the second line (G) with a finger number of 3.

Numbers next to Note Heads are for L.H. Fingering.

Second String Notes

Diagram illustrating the fretboard positions for the second string notes:

- B, 2nd String, OPEN**: Fretboard diagram shows an open string (0). Musical notation shows a note on the second space (B) with a finger number of 0.
- C, 2nd String, 1st Fret**: Fretboard diagram shows the first fret (1). Musical notation shows a note on the second line (C) with a finger number of 1.
- D, 2nd String, 3rd Fret**: Fretboard diagram shows the third fret (3). Musical notation shows a note on the second space (D) with a finger number of 3.

Third String Notes

Diagram illustrating the fretboard positions for the third string notes:

- G, 3rd String, OPEN**: Fretboard diagram shows an open string (0). Musical notation shows a note on the second space (G) with a finger number of 0.
- A, 3rd String, 2nd Fret**: Fretboard diagram shows the second fret (2). Musical notation shows a note on the second space (A) with a finger number of 2.

Music Notation - Understanding Time Value of Notes, Beat and Measure

TIME VALUE OF NOTES

The time value of notes refers to the relative duration of time they have with each other. The length of a note is determined by its shape of head and combination of components that make up the tail. Eighth Note/Quavers are good examples of this as can be seen below:



The names of these parts are often simplified into just two groups, Heads and Tails.



Example 2)

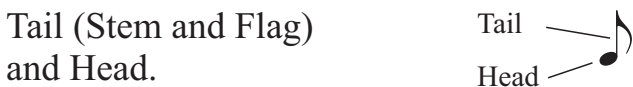


TABLE ONE - Note Value Names

<u>Note</u>	<u>Numeric Name</u>	<u>Alpha Name</u>
	Whole Note	Semibreve
	Half Note	Minim
	Quarter Note	Crotchet
	Eighth Note	Quaver

Common Groupings for Eighth Note/Quavers

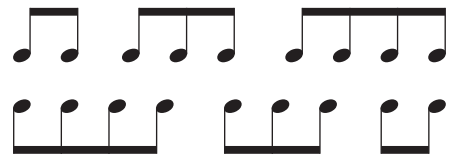
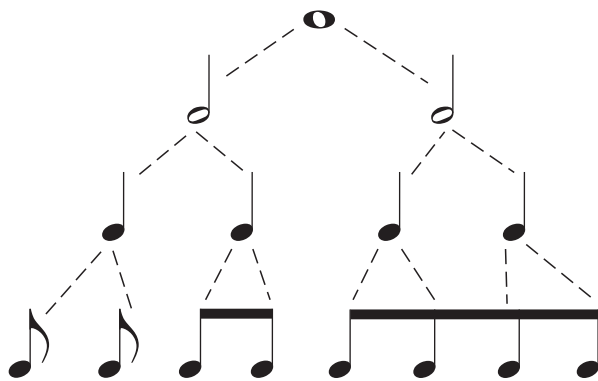


TABLE TWO - Division of the Whole Note



$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Quarter Note} + \text{Quarter Note} = \text{Half Note} \\
 & \text{Quarter Note} + \text{Quarter Note} = \text{Half Note} \\
 & \text{Eighth Note} + \text{Eighth Note} = \text{Quarter Note} \\
 & \text{Eighth Note} + \text{Quarter Note} + \text{Eighth Note} = \text{Half Note}
 \end{aligned}$$

COUNTING THE BEAT

It is usual for beat to be continuous and of equal time. In this first example the beat is represented as a recurring Quarter Note/Crotchet. At a glance, can you tell how many beats there are? It's difficult to tell isn't it, and if you were to locate say the 12th beat, how quickly would you be able to find it?



Here we have the same number of beats as in the previous example but this time they are divided up into equal groups of four, these are called Measures or Bars and are clearly marked by a vertical dividing line called a Bar Line after every fourth beat. This makes it simpler to find your way around, now you will be able to locate the 12th beat easily!

MEASURES or BARS

Our next example is the same as above only this time a Time Signature has been added next to the Treble Clef. 4/4 is the time signature for playing in 4 time (4 beats to a bar).

TIME SIGNATURE IN 4/4 TIME

$\frac{4}{4}$ ← The top number tells us that there are 4 beats to the bar

$\frac{4}{4}$ ← The lowest number is for the note value that will carry the beat, in this case a Quarter/Crotchet note.

OTHER TIME SIGNATURES

The majority of music presented here is all in 4/4 time, only two pieces are with different time signatures, they are *Two String Melody* (3/4 time) and *London Bridge* (2/4 time)

COUNTING BEAT ACROSS MIXED TIME VALUES

The following exercises will teach you how to count using the note values learnt so far. Notes that are directly on the beat have a single count number, longer duration notes lasting more than one beat show the total number of beats underlined. For notes shorter than a beat, then the and (+) sign is used, for instance, 1+ 2+ would describe the count for 4 quavers ♪♪ verbally this translates as: “One and Two and”.

These next exercises will give you practise to either call out aloud or say in your head the count of the notes. You can also play them as a sight reading test, they use the three open treble string notes of G, B and E.

1)

2)

COUNT 1 2 3 4 1 2 + 3 + 4 1 2 3 4

DOTTED NOTES, TIED NOTES AND THE REPEAT SIGN

The exact duration of notes cannot always be achieved by using just the note types we have studied so far. There are two tunes in this collection that have need for a duration of note that is different. In each case it relates to the last note of each piece.

Let's look at *Two String Melody* first as this is the easiest piece in this book and most likely the first tune you will try. The music is in 3 time and the last note appears to be a Half Note (Minim) that lasts for two beats, we want a note that lasts one beat longer to fill the measure. Look carefully and you will see a dot after the minim, **Dotted Notes** add on half the time again to an existing note, a dot can follow on from any note value, each time it will add on half the time of the note it is attached to.

TWO STRING MELODY - Last two measures

A **DOT** after a Half Note/Minim adds on half the time again (1 beat).

COUNT 1 2 3

The last note for *London Bridge* also needs extending. On this occasion we will use a **Tied Note**. A secondary note of the required value is added on, do not strike the string for this, just let the original note ring on for the total time of the two notes added together.

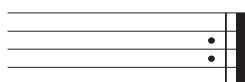
LONDON BRIDGE - Last two measures

A **TIED NOTE** adds on time to an existing note

Do not strike the string for this note, let the first note of the tie ring out to the full time of both notes.

COUNT 1 + 2 TIE

Last of all for this section let's look at the **Repeat Sign**. No doubt you have spotted it already in both the examples above. The two dots to the left side of the Double Bar Line instruct the player to return to the beginning and play the whole section one more time. For us that's the very start of the music.



Two Dots indicate the repeat of a whole section from the beginning.

The shortest pieces in this book are of 8 measures or less, all are marked with a repeat sign. The longer pieces of 16 measures or more can finish without repeating.

Guitar Tablature - An Easy Method for Finding Note Positions

The tablature system is a great way of finding notes fast, it gives you the most direct way of knowing which note comes next.

4
4

2 0 1 3 0

Numbers on lines = Fret Numbers

①
②
③
④
⑤
⑥

3rd String, 2nd Fret 2nd String, Open

Tablature is great but it does have a few drawbacks. Firstly, trying to display left hand fingering against fret numbers just doesn't work, it's too confusing, I have tried using roman numerals instead but for me at least it really doesn't work. Secondly, the writing of time values is possible with some notes such as crotchets and quavers (1/4 and 8th notes) but it becomes a bit more difficult with the slower note values such as Minim and Semibreve (1/2 and whole note). One way to overcome this is by using tied notes and this is a method favoured by many who use the tablature system. Here is the same example from the top of the page written with time values adapted for tablature.

4
4

2 0 1 3 0

Music Notation and Tablature Combined

STUDY IN A MINOR - First two measures

4
4

2 0 1 3 0

2 0 1 3 0

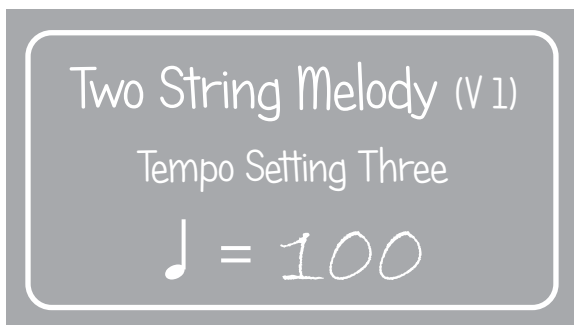
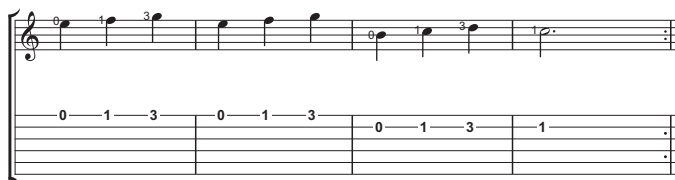
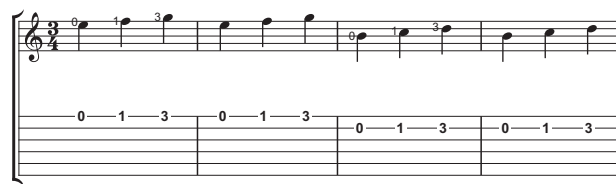
This example shows the combination of both the Music Notation and Tablature systems. It is essentially the same music written in two different ways. The rhythm of notes (time values) and left hand fingering is kept to the music notation at the top, and the quick reference to note positions is right there in the tablature section for when you need it.

Videos

If the device you are using to read this file has an internet connection then you can view videos to all the music.

Click or Tap on any Title/Heading for a link to a video with an animated music score.

Two String Melody - Version One

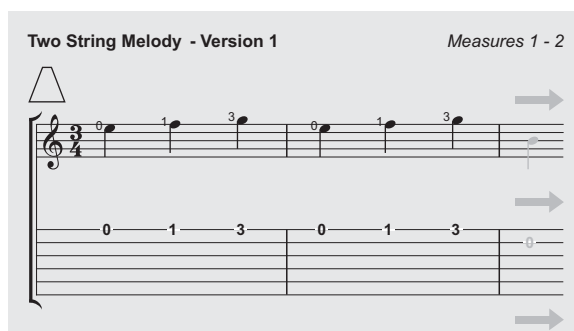


The video plays with a midi sound of the guitar notes at three different speeds or tempo. These are measured in beats per minute (b.p.m.), 100 is the normal and fastest and will play first, then 50 is the slowest followed by a moderate tempo of 75. To round off, the 100 b.p.m. tempo is played one more time.

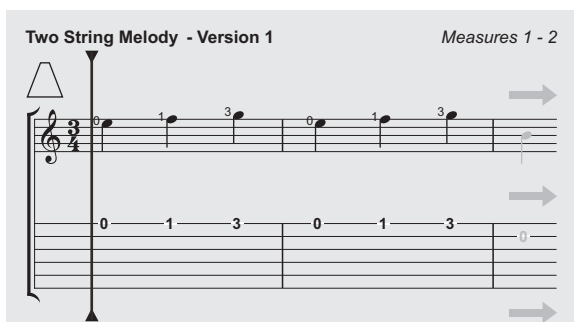
THE COUNT IN

From the music title and tempo page, you will next have a view of the first two measures of music.

In this example of *Two String Melody* you will first hear the audible sound of 3 beats, followed by a virtual metronome (time keeper) with a swinging arm that marks a further 3 beats. If you are playing along then this is your cue or count in, you will come in after the count of 3.



Here is the Virtual Metronome sequence used for the Count In:



THE MOVING CURSOR LINE

A vertical line crossing both the music and tablature staves is a moving cursor line that takes over from the metronome in marking the beat.

On this page I will give some extra information on a few things to watch for when following these videos. Earlier on I introduced count lines to help you understand the counting out of time values in the music. These don't appear in the videos anywhere because the moving cursor line shows us exactly where the beat is. The following examples are shown here to help you understand what happens to the counting of notes that are either longer or shorter than a beat. The moving cursor has changed to white for illustration purposes only, helping you to see where the cursor's beat positions are in the music.

Two String Melody - Version 1 Measures 7 - 8

(COUNT 1 2 3 1 2 3)

EXAMPLE ONE

Duration of notes longer than a beat.

In this example you can see the three cursor positions marking the 3 beats for the last note of *Two String Melody*.

EXAMPLE TWO

Duration of notes shorter than a beat.

Measure 3 of *Hot Cross Buns* has two groups of Eighth Note/Quavers with two notes to one beat. In this instance the cursor marks one in every two notes.

Hot Cross Buns Measures 3 - 4

(COUNT 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 2 3 4)

Two String Melody - Version 1 Measures 1 - 2

THE HINT MEASURE

This is a part measure not to be played until the video moves on to the next slide/page. The hint measure gives you a preview of the upcoming note, ensuring continuity for when you play along with the music.

The Music List - Set One

All seven pieces of music in this section use only the 8 notes given in the introduction to this book - G, A, B, C, D, E, F and G. You can learn lots about the playing of these tunes by simply watching the videos. To access these click or tap on the tune's title, you will then be linked immediately to the video you have chosen. Please Note: In this first edition, only the pieces from the first list on Music Notation and Tablature have videos, there are no videos for the Music Notation section on sight/music reading (p. 20-22).

The Music List - Set One - Music Notation and Tablature

Two String Melody - Version One (<i>T.E.</i>)	15.
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Jingle Bells - (<i>Trad.</i>)	18.
Good King Wenceslas - (<i>Trad.</i>)	19.

The Music List - Set One - Music Notation

All 7 tunes as above set to music notation only.
These are to test you on your sight/music reading skills. 20 - 22.

About the Music

All the Traditional music pieces (*Trad.*) are in the Public Domain and Copyright Free. All compositions by Theo Elsey in this edition are also Copyright Free. If you intend to share any music with others then please take a moment to read the notice below. Thank You.

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Two String Melody - Version One

First system of musical notation for "Two String Melody - Version One". It features a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of four measures: the first measure has notes G4, A4, B4 with fingerings 0, 1, 3; the second measure has notes A4, B4, C5; the third measure has notes G4, A4, B4 with fingerings 0, 1, 3; and the fourth measure has notes A4, B4, C5. The bass staff shows the corresponding fretting: 0-1-3, 0-1-3, 0-1-3, and 0-1-3.

Second system of musical notation for "Two String Melody - Version One". It continues the melody from the first system. The first three measures are identical to the first system. The fourth measure has notes G4, A4, B4 with fingerings 0, 1, 3, followed by a half note G4 with a fermata. The bass staff shows the fretting: 0-1-3, 0-1-3, 0-1-3, and 1. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Two String Melody - Version Two

First system of musical notation for "Two String Melody - Version Two". It features a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of four measures: the first measure has notes G4, A4, B4 with fingerings 3, 1, 0; the second measure has notes A4, B4, C5; the third measure has notes G4, A4, B4 with fingerings 3, 1, 0; and the fourth measure has notes A4, B4, C5. The bass staff shows the corresponding fretting: 3-1-0, 3-1-0, 3-1-0, and 3-1-0.

Second system of musical notation for "Two String Melody - Version Two". It continues the melody from the first system. The first three measures are identical to the first system. The fourth measure has notes G4, A4, B4 with fingerings 3, 1, 0, followed by a half note G4 with a fermata. The bass staff shows the fretting: 3-1-0, 3-1-0, 3-1-0, and 1. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Tandem Ride

First system of musical notation for 'Tandem Ride'. It consists of a treble clef staff in 4/4 time and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains four measures of music with notes and fingerings (3, 0, 1, 0, 1, 3, 0, 3). The bass staff contains four measures of music with fingerings (3-3-0-0, 1-1-0-0, 1-1-3-3, 0-0-3-3).

Second system of musical notation for 'Tandem Ride'. It consists of a treble clef staff in 4/4 time and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains four measures of music with notes and fingerings (3, 0, 1, 0, 3, 1, 0, 3, 1). The bass staff contains four measures of music with fingerings (3-3-0-0, 1-1-0-0, 3-3-1-1, 0-3-1) and ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Study in A Minor

First system of musical notation for 'Study in A Minor'. It consists of a treble clef staff in 4/4 time and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains two measures of music with notes and fingerings (2, 0, 1, 3, 0). The bass staff contains two measures of music with fingerings (2, 0, 1, 3, 0).

Second system of musical notation for 'Study in A Minor'. It consists of a treble clef staff in 4/4 time and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains two measures of music with notes and fingerings (2, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 2). The bass staff contains two measures of music with fingerings (2, 0, 3, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 2) and ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Hot Cross Buns

The first system of music for 'Hot Cross Buns' is written in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains two measures. The first measure has a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) followed by a quarter note (C5), and the second measure has a quarter note (C5), a quarter note (B4), and a quarter note (A4). The bass clef staff contains two measures of triplets: the first measure has a triplet of eighth notes (C4, D4, E4) followed by a quarter note (F4), and the second measure has a quarter note (F4), a quarter note (E4), and a quarter note (D4).

The second system of music for 'Hot Cross Buns' is written in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains two measures. The first measure has a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) followed by a quarter note (C5), and the second measure has a quarter note (C5), a quarter note (B4), and a quarter note (A4). The bass clef staff contains two measures of triplets: the first measure has a triplet of eighth notes (C4, D4, E4) followed by a quarter note (F4), and the second measure has a quarter note (F4), a quarter note (E4), and a quarter note (D4).

London Bridge

The first system of music for 'London Bridge' is written in 2/4 time. The treble clef staff contains four measures. The first measure has a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) followed by a quarter note (C5), and the second measure has a quarter note (C5), a quarter note (B4), and a quarter note (A4). The bass clef staff contains four measures of triplets: the first measure has a triplet of eighth notes (C4, D4, E4) followed by a quarter note (F4), and the second measure has a quarter note (F4), a quarter note (E4), and a quarter note (D4).

The second system of music for 'London Bridge' is written in 2/4 time. The treble clef staff contains four measures. The first measure has a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) followed by a quarter note (C5), and the second measure has a quarter note (C5), a quarter note (B4), and a quarter note (A4). The bass clef staff contains four measures of triplets: the first measure has a triplet of eighth notes (C4, D4, E4) followed by a quarter note (F4), and the second measure has a quarter note (F4), a quarter note (E4), and a quarter note (D4).

Jingle Bells

The first system of musical notation for 'Jingle Bells' is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains the melody, and the bass clef staff contains the guitar fretboard notation. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4 (0), A4 (1), B4 (2), C5 (3), B4 (2), A4 (1), G4 (0), and a final G4 (0) with a fermata. The fretboard notation shows the corresponding fret numbers: 0-0-0, 0-0-0, 0-3-1-3, and 0.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody. The treble clef staff shows quarter notes: A4 (1), B4 (2), C5 (3), B4 (2), A4 (1), G4 (0), F4 (1), E4 (2), D4 (3), C4 (0), B3 (3), and a final C4 (3) with a fermata. The fretboard notation shows: 1-1-1-1, 1-0-0-0-0, 0-3-3-0, and 3-3.

The third system of musical notation continues the melody. The treble clef staff shows quarter notes: G4 (0), A4 (1), B4 (2), C5 (3), B4 (2), A4 (1), G4 (0), and a final G4 (0) with a fermata. The fretboard notation shows: 0-0-0, 0-0-0, 0-3-1-3, and 0.

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the piece. The treble clef staff shows quarter notes: A4 (1), B4 (2), C5 (3), B4 (2), A4 (1), G4 (0), F4 (1), E4 (2), D4 (3), C4 (1), and a final C4 (1) with a fermata. The fretboard notation shows: 1-1-1-1, 1-0-0-0-0, 1-1-0-3, and 1.

Good King Wenceslas

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains four measures of music. The first measure has a quarter note G4 (finger 1), a quarter note A4 (finger 1), a quarter note B4 (finger 1), and a quarter note C5 (finger 3). The second measure has a quarter note B4 (finger 1), a quarter note A4 (finger 1), and a half note G4 (finger 0). The third measure has a quarter note F4 (finger 2), a quarter note E4 (finger 0), a quarter note D4 (finger 2), and a quarter note C4 (finger 0). The fourth measure has a half note B3 (finger 1) and a half note A3 (finger 1). The bass clef staff contains four measures of fret numbers: 1-1-1-3, 1-1-0, 2-0-2-0, and 1-1.

The second system of musical notation is identical to the first system, showing the same melody and fret numbers for the first four measures.

The third system of musical notation continues the piece. The treble clef staff contains four measures. The first measure has a quarter note C5 (finger 3), a quarter note B4 (finger 1), a quarter note A4 (finger 0), and a quarter note G4 (finger 3). The second measure has a quarter note F4 (finger 0), a quarter note E4 (finger 3), a quarter note D4 (finger 1), and a half note C4 (finger 0). The third measure has a quarter note B3 (finger 2), a quarter note A3 (finger 0), a quarter note G3 (finger 2), and a quarter note F3 (finger 0). The fourth measure has a half note E3 (finger 1) and a half note D3 (finger 1). The bass clef staff contains four measures of fret numbers: 3-1-0-3, 0-3-1, 2-0-2-0, and 1-1.

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the piece. The treble clef staff contains four measures. The first measure has a quarter note E3 (finger 0), a quarter note D3 (finger 0), a quarter note C3 (finger 2), and a quarter note B2 (finger 0). The second measure has a quarter note A2 (finger 1), a quarter note G2 (finger 1), and a half note F2 (finger 0). The third measure has a quarter note E3 (finger 3), a quarter note D3 (finger 1), a quarter note C3 (finger 0), and a quarter note B2 (finger 3). The fourth measure has a half note A2 (finger 1) and a half note G2 (finger 1). The bass clef staff contains four measures of fret numbers: 0-0-2-0, 1-1-0, 3-1-0-3, 1-1, and 1.

Two String Melody - Version One

Two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time. The first staff contains two measures: the first measure has notes with fingerings 0, 1, 3; the second measure has notes with fingerings 0, 1, 3. The second staff contains two measures: the first measure has notes with fingerings 0, 1, 3; the second measure has a note with fingering 1 and a repeat sign.

Two String Melody - Version Two

Two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time. The first staff contains two measures: the first measure has notes with fingerings 3, 1, 0; the second measure has notes with fingerings 3, 1, 0. The second staff contains two measures: the first measure has notes with fingerings 3, 1, 0; the second measure has a note with fingering 1 and a repeat sign.

Tandem Ride

Two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains four measures with notes and fingerings: (3, 0), (1, 0), (1, 3), (0, 3). The second staff contains four measures with notes and fingerings: (3, 0), (1, 0), (3, 1), (0, 3, 1) and a repeat sign.

Study in A Minor

Two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains four measures with notes and fingerings: (2, 0), (1, 3), (0). The second staff contains four measures with notes and fingerings: (2, 0, 3, 0), (1, 0), (2) and a repeat sign.

Hot Cross Buns

Two staves of musical notation for the piece 'Hot Cross Buns'. The first staff is in 4/4 time and contains two measures of music. The second staff contains four measures of music, including a repeat sign at the end. The notation includes various fingerings (0, 1, 2, 3) and slurs.

London Bridge

Two staves of musical notation for the piece 'London Bridge'. The first staff is in 2/4 time and contains four measures of music. The second staff contains four measures of music, including a repeat sign at the end. The notation includes various fingerings (0, 1, 2, 3) and slurs.

Jingle Bells

Four staves of musical notation for the piece 'Jingle Bells'. The first staff is in 4/4 time and contains four measures of music. The second staff contains four measures of music. The third staff contains four measures of music. The fourth staff contains four measures of music, ending with a repeat sign. The notation includes various fingerings (0, 1, 2, 3) and slurs.

Good King Wenceslas

The image shows four staves of musical notation for the piece 'Good King Wenceslas'. The music is written in 4/4 time and uses a treble clef. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes, with fingerings indicated by numbers 1, 2, 3, and 0. The second and third staves continue the melody with similar note values and fingerings. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line. The notation includes various fingerings such as 1, 2, 3, and 0, indicating the fret and finger used for each note.

Moving Forward

In order to progress to the next level do not feel that you have to play every single piece of music in this book, it really isn't necessary. Also, do not worry if you can't keep up with the videos when you try and play along, playing in time with the music is a skill, for some it comes easier than it does for others. Allow yourself time to improve and, Do make sure you practise regularly!

If you have studied at least 4 out of the 7 tunes here then you have done well, make sure that your choice of music includes as many note types as possible, don't stick to just the first two tunes where the music is only on the beat! There are some basic checks you can make concerning fingering - Are you keeping your left hand fingers arched and positioned correctly behind the frets, are you keeping to the Finger per Fret Rule?

Part 2 of this book will be a very gradual move forward from everything you have learnt in this first part to *Fretbow's Guitar Note Reading Course for Beginners*. In the second part of this book we will look at a further 7 pieces all of which use the same 8 Natural Notes. The final piece "The Victors Song" will introduce the sound of open bass notes as part of the melody. Progressing to the next stage in Right Hand Fingering, the Middle Finger will be added as an extra to the thumb and index finger you're already using. Finally, chords will be covered in their easiest form on the top three strings. If you are learning with a friend then you can enjoy playing different parts, one can play melody whilst the other plays chords.

Thank you so much for joining me in this first part of the course, wishing you well in all your playing, hoping you will join me again soon in Part Two.

Theo Elsey. December 2024