

Fretbow's

Guitar Note Reading Course for Beginners

By Theo Elsey

BOOK ONE

PART TWO

*Eight Natural Notes in the First Position
PLUS: An Introduction to Open Bass Notes and Chords*

LIST OF MUSIC TITLES

SET TWO

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Frère Jacques

Lavender Blue

Liberty

Au Claire de la Lune

Waltz Petite

The Victors Song

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

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The Music List - Set Two - Music Notation

All 7 tunes as above set to music notation only.	
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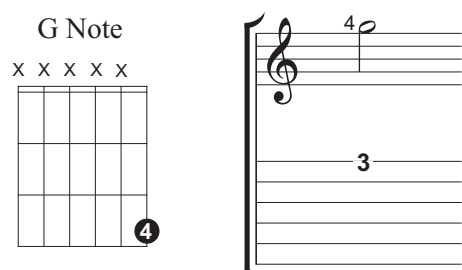
Everything in conclusion from Book One, Part Two with a preview of what's coming in Book Two.	18.
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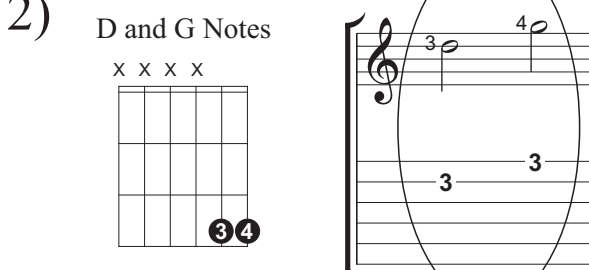
Introduction

Part One of this book has a full 10 pages to its introduction where enough music theory and explanation was covered, not only for Part One but also for most of the content here in Part Two. Anything extra you need to know will be mentioned in this introduction and elsewhere as we go along. Before learning any new music I would like to have a quick review of both left and right hand fingering, this will introduce some new technique that not only improves the sound of music you have studied from Part One, but will also help you make the most of the music that's coming up here in Part Two.

A Review of Left Hand Fingering Technique

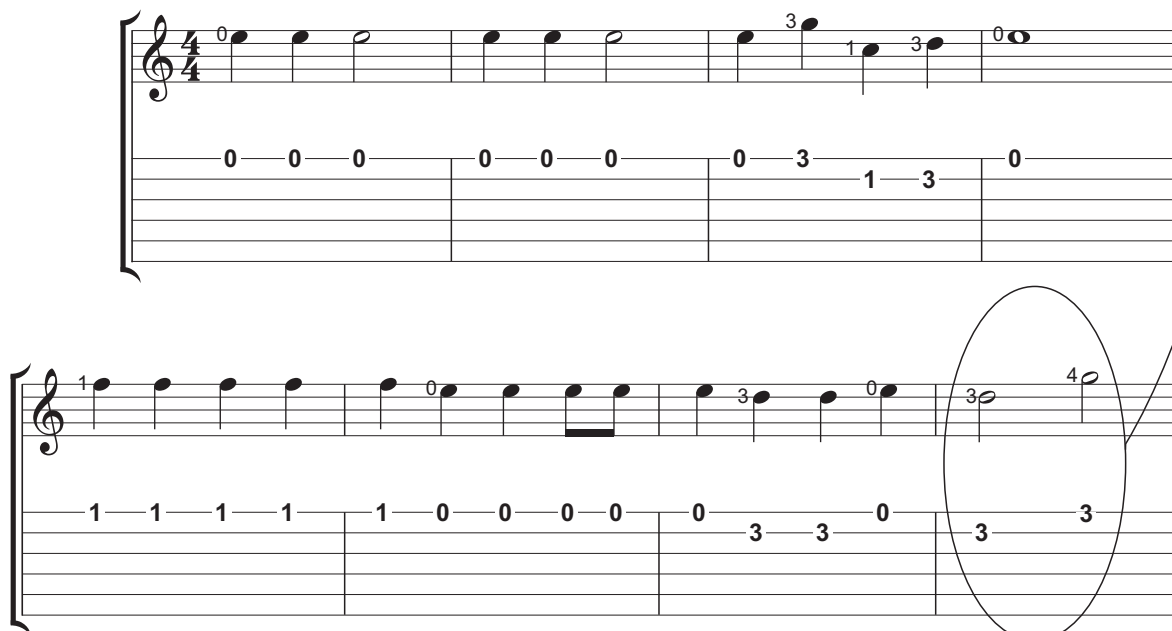
Hopefully by now, you will be playing music from Part One using the Left Hand Fingering Rule. It is sometimes said that rules are made to be broken, generally I would disagree with this saying but occasionally a better way can be found of doing something, and this is when breaking the rule becomes both acceptable and the right thing to do! With this in mind I would like to show you an alternative fingering for G, on the first string, 3rd. fret. We are going to substitute the 3rd. finger for the 4th Little Finger, just in one place for measure 8 of *Jingle Bells*, in all other instances you can continue to play the 1st. string G with the 3rd. finger.

1) 

2) 

The first note in measure 8 of *Jingle Bells* is D, fretted with the 3rd. finger, continue to hold this down when you play G with the 4th finger, both notes ring out together - D is the *Sustained Note* that rings out longer than its written time value.

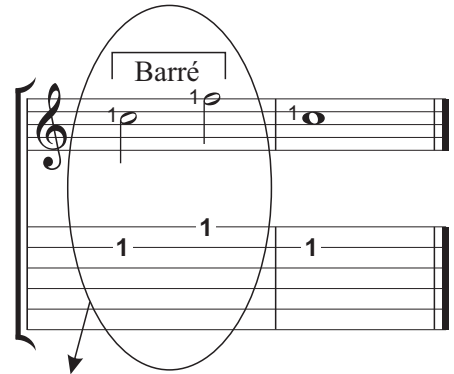
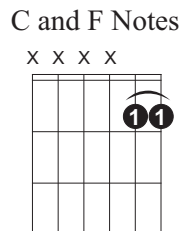
Jingle Bells



A Review of Left Hand Fingering Technique (Continued)

Good King Wenceslas also from Part One gives us further opportunity for sustained notes. The technique is very different from what we have just studied for *Jingle Bells*, this time we will use the 1st. finger to cross the first two strings at the 1st. fret. The notes we are going to hold down are C on the 2nd. string and F on the 1st. string. The first finger lays flat across the two strings to form a *Barré*.

The barré fingering is good to use where indicated but it is best to lift the finger into it's normal upright position for the last note C. The F note hanging on doesn't work so well when sounding the last note.



Good King Wenceslas

Measures 13 - 17

A Review of Right Hand Fingering Technique

Now that you have played several pieces using the R.H. index finger, it would be good to progress to the next stage by introducing the middle finger (*m*). I would recommend starting with method 1) where the same finger is used repeatedly on the same string until there is a string change, this is when the alternative figure can be used. Method 2) is favoured by Classical guitarists where the index and middle fingers alternate for each new note played.

Au Claire de la Lune Example of *i* and *m* fingering - Contemporary/Acoustic Guitar Method

1)

Au Claire de la Lune Example of *i* and *m* fingering - Classical/Spanish Guitar Method

2)

A Review of Right Hand Fingering Technique (Continued)

Here's an extract of the first 4 measures from two more of the 7 tunes in this collection. The optional fingerings 1) and 2) follow the same methods described on the previous page with 1) for a generally easier method of fingering, and 2) for the Classical approach in the use of finger alternation between the *i* and *m* fingers.

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star - Measures 1 - 4

1) —————> *i i m m i i m m m m i i i*

2) —————> *i m i m i m i m i m i m*

Lavender Blue - Measures 1 - 4

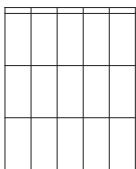
1) —————> *i m m m m m i i i m m m*

2) —————> *i m i m i m i m i m i m*

The Introduction of Three Open Bass Notes

Open Bass Notes E, A and D

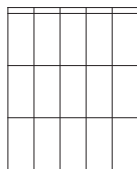
o x x x x x



**E, 6th String,
OPEN**

E

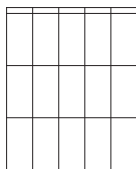
x o x x x x



**A, 5th String,
OPEN**

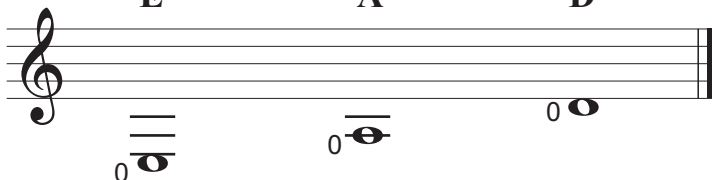
A

x x o x x x



**D, 4th String,
OPEN**

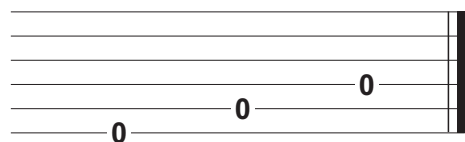
D



The first melody from the list in Part Two to introduced a bass note is *Frère Jacques* with the D note. E and A are used in the last piece *The Victors Song*.

Open Bass Notes in Tablature

E A D



For all seven tunes scored in both Music Notation and Tablature, you can have a direct link to music videos by clicking or tapping the Title/Heading for each piece. This function is not available at present for the same music in the sections for sight reading and chord playing.

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

The first system of music for 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star' is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff shows the melody: a quarter rest, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, and a quarter note C4. The guitar tablature below shows the fretting: 0-0-3-3 for the first two measures, 0-0-3 for the third measure, and 1-1-0-0 for the fourth measure.

The second system of music continues the melody. The treble clef staff shows: a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The guitar tablature shows: 2-2-0 for the first measure, 3-3-1-1 for the second measure, and 0-0-2 for the third measure.

The third system of music continues the melody. The treble clef staff shows: a quarter note C4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. The guitar tablature shows: 3-3-1-1 for the first measure, 0-0-2 for the second measure, and 0-0-3-3 for the third measure.

The fourth system of music concludes the piece. The treble clef staff shows: a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The guitar tablature shows: 0-0-3 for the first measure, 1-1-0-0 for the second measure, and 2-2-0 for the third measure.

Lavender Blue

The first system of 'Lavender Blue' consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff is in 3/4 time and contains four measures of music. The notes are: 0 (quarter), 3 (quarter), 3 (quarter), 1 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 2 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter). The bass staff contains four measures of fret numbers: 0 3 3, 3 1 0 2 0, 0 0 0, 0.

The second system of 'Lavender Blue' consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff is in 3/4 time and contains four measures of music. The notes are: 0 (quarter), 3 (quarter), 3 (quarter), 1 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 2 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 1 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 2 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter). The bass staff contains four measures of fret numbers: 0 3 3, 3 1 0 2 0, 1 0 2, 0. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Liberty

The right hand thumb (P) can be used as an alternative fingering where marked.

The first system of 'Liberty' consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff is in 4/4 time and contains four measures of music. The notes are: 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 1 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 1 (quarter), 2 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 1 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 1 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 3 (quarter), 1 (quarter). The bass staff contains four measures of fret numbers: 0 0, 0 0 1 0, 1 1, 1 1 3 1. The notes 'i' are placed above the first note of each measure, and 'P' is placed below the second and fourth notes of each measure.

The second system of 'Liberty' consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff is in 4/4 time and contains four measures of music. The notes are: 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 1 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 3 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 2 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 1 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter). The bass staff contains four measures of fret numbers: 0 0, 0 0 1 0, 3 0 2 0, 1 1. The notes 'i' are placed above the first note of each measure, and 'P' is placed below the second and fourth notes of each measure. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Liberty *With sustained notes F and A in measures 3 - 4*

F and A sustained notes and optional use of 4th (little) finger for Top G

This is exactly the same music arrangement of *Liberty* from the previous page. However, this time around we are going to look at how we can improve the sound of our playing by looking for any opportunity to sustain notes longer than their written time value. You will already be achieving this in the first two measures with open notes that continue to ring on each time you progress to a new note. This works out fine because the notes are harmonious, meaning they all blend and sound well together.

Measures 3 and 4

We can get the same effect in measures 3 and 4 by leaving the 1st. string F note finger in place all the way through to the end of measure 4. Likewise you can do the same for the A note on the 3rd. string. Following the fingering diagrams 1 - 3 should help. The white fingering dot is for a passing note that is not fixed, in this case the 4th finger, 3rd finger can be used if preferred.

Au Claire de la Lune

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble clef staff is in 4/4 time and contains four measures of music. The notes are: 1st measure (quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5), 2nd measure (half notes D5, E5), 3rd measure (quarter notes F5, G5, A5, B5), and 4th measure (half notes C6, B5). Fingering numbers (1, 3, 0, 3) are placed above the notes. The bass clef staff contains four measures of fingering: 1-1-1-3, 0-3, 1-0-3-3, and 1.

The second system of musical notation is identical to the first system, featuring a treble clef staff with notes and fingering, and a bass clef staff with corresponding fingering numbers.

The third system of musical notation features a treble clef staff with four measures of music. The notes are: 1st measure (quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5), 2nd measure (half notes D5, E5), 3rd measure (quarter notes F5, G5, A5, B5), and 4th measure (half notes C6, B5). Fingering numbers (3, 2, 3, 1, 0, 2, 0) are placed above the notes. The bass clef staff contains four measures of fingering: 3-3-3-3, 2-2, 3-1-0-2, and 0.

The fourth system of musical notation features a treble clef staff with four measures of music. The notes are: 1st measure (quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5), 2nd measure (half notes D5, E5), 3rd measure (quarter notes F5, G5, A5, B5), and 4th measure (half notes C6, B5). Fingering numbers (1, 3, 0, 3, 1, 0, 3, 3, 1) are placed above the notes. The bass clef staff contains four measures of fingering: 1-1-1-3, 0-3, 1-0-3-3, and 1.

Waltz Petite

First system of musical notation for 'Waltz Petite'. The top staff is in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff shows guitar fretting numbers: 1 3 3 | 0 1 1 | 0 1 3 | 0.

Second system of musical notation for 'Waltz Petite'. The top staff continues the melody. The bottom staff shows fretting numbers: 1 3 3 | 0 1 1 | 0 3 0 | 2.

The Victors Song

Bass Notes

A = 5th string open
E = 6th string open

Diagram showing bass notes for A (5th string open) and E (6th string open) on a treble clef staff.

First system of musical notation for 'The Victors Song'. The top staff is in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff shows fretting numbers: 0 1 0 | 0 1 0 | 3 1 0 | 3 1 0. There are also notes on the top staff with 'i' and 'P' markings.

Second system of musical notation for 'The Victors Song'. The top staff continues the melody. The bottom staff shows fretting numbers: 0 1 0 | 0 1 0 | 3 1 0 | 2.

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star



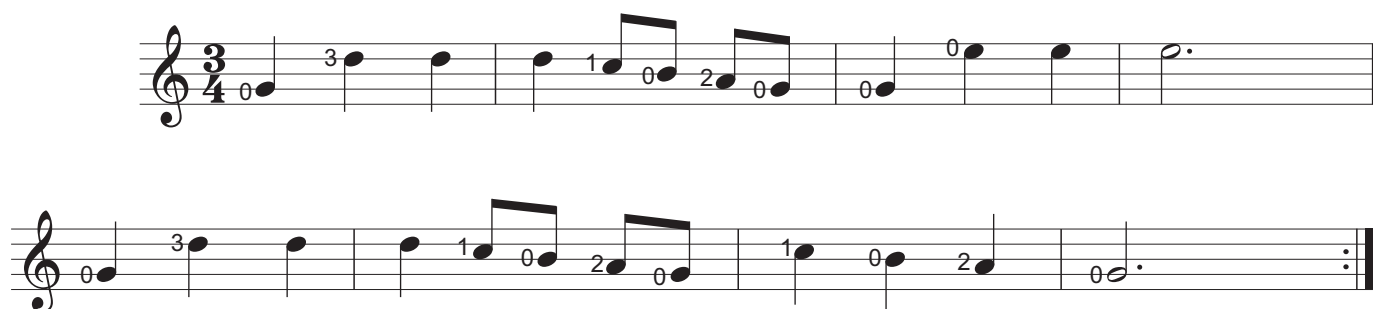
Musical notation for "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" in 4/4 time. The piece consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, child-friendly style with fingerings indicated by numbers 0, 1, 2, and 3 above the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Frère Jacques



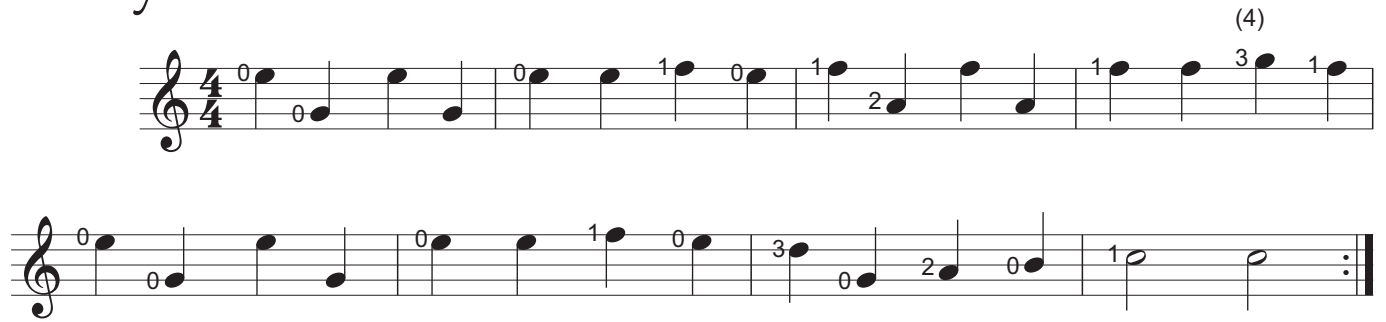
Musical notation for "Frère Jacques" in 4/4 time. The piece begins with an "Intro." section, indicated by a bracket above the first two measures. The notation includes fingerings (0, 1, 2, 3) and a repeat sign with first and second endings. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Lavender Blue



Musical notation for "Lavender Blue" in 3/4 time. The piece consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, child-friendly style with fingerings indicated by numbers 0, 1, 2, and 3 above the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Liberty



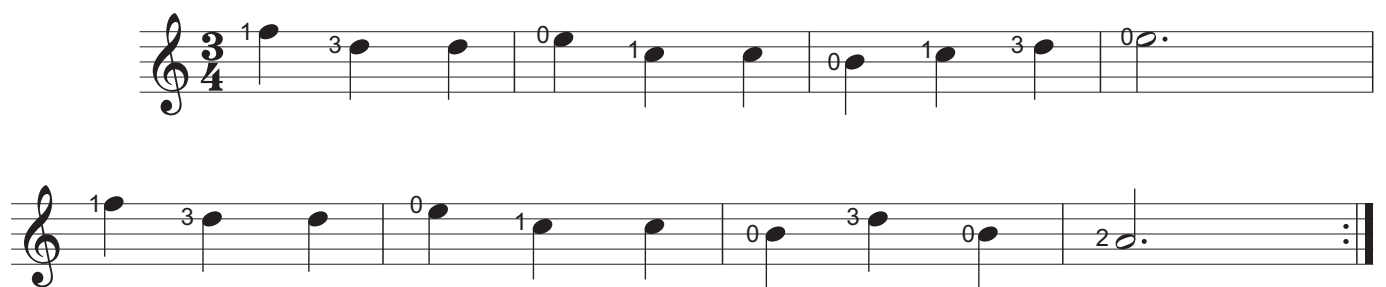
Musical notation for "Liberty" in 4/4 time. The piece consists of two staves. The first staff contains four measures of music with fingerings 0, 1, 0, 1, 2, 1, 3, and 1. The second staff contains four measures of music with fingerings 0, 1, 0, 3, 2, 0, 1, and ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. A circled number (4) is positioned above the final measure of the first staff.

Au Claire de la Lune



Musical notation for "Au Claire de la Lune" in 4/4 time. The piece consists of five staves. The first staff has four measures with fingerings 1, 3, 0, 3, 1, 0, 3, and 1. The second staff has four measures with fingerings 1, 3, 0, 3, 1, 0, 3, and 1. The third staff has four measures with fingerings 3, 2, 3, 1, 0, 2, and 0. The fourth and fifth staves each contain four measures of music with various note values and fingerings.

Waltz Petite



Musical notation for "Waltz Petite" in 3/4 time. The piece consists of two staves. The first staff contains four measures of music with fingerings 1, 3, 0, 1, 0, 1, 3, and 0. The second staff contains four measures of music with fingerings 1, 3, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, and 2, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The Victors Song



Musical notation for "The Victors Song" in 4/4 time. The piece consists of two staves. The first staff contains four measures of music with fingerings 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 3, 1, 0, 3, 1, 0, and 0. The second staff contains four measures of music with fingerings 3, 1, 0, 2, and 0.

Chord Accompaniment

Reading Chord Diagrams

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

C **Am** **D7**

X X X O O X X X O X X O

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Left Hand Fingering 1 - 4

→ This arrow shows the direction for the Right Hand Thumb to Strum.

CHORD TABLE FOR BEGINNERS

These 7 chords are all you need as an accompaniment for the selection of tunes in this section from both Parts One and Two of Book One.

C	G7	Em	G	Am	D7
X X X O O	X X X O O	X X X O O O	X X X O O	X X X O	X X O

F

X X X

The F chord is the most awkward chord to play here, lay the 1st. finger flat across the first two strings, and then arch in an upright position the 2nd. finger for the 3rd. string, 2nd. fret. Remember to position your L.H. thumb well behind the neck, this will allow the 1st. finger to lay flat more easily, the difficulty comes in arching the 2nd. finger enough so that it doesn't accidentally touch the 2nd. string! If it's too difficult to start with don't worry, it's used only once in this book, give it time.

How to Strum

Use the ball of your R.H. thumb to strum across the strings in a downward direction. To start with play on the beat of the music only. Strums are shown as diagonal lines, Chord Symbols are also regarded as counted beat.

EXAMPLES

1) G / / /

2) C / / / /

Hot Cross Buns

Musical notation for 'Hot Cross Buns' in 4/4 time. The first staff shows a C chord (0 3 0 1) with a slash above it, repeated for four measures. The second staff shows a descending melodic line: 3 1 0 3 1 3 0 1, with a slash above it, repeated for four measures. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

C

x x x o o

A guitar chord diagram for the C major chord. It shows a six-string guitar with the first fret. The strings are labeled from top to bottom: 1 (E), 2 (D), 3 (C), 4 (B), 5 (A), 6 (E). The diagram shows 'x' for muted strings 1, 2, and 3, and 'o' for open strings 4, 5, and 6. A circled '1' is placed on the first fret of the 5th string.

Hot Cross Buns can be accompanied with the sound of just one chord throughout. Strum the C chord in a downward direction using your Right Hand Thumb or, if you prefer a plectrum. Play with 4 even beats per measure.

Two String Melody - Version One

Musical notation for 'Two String Melody - Version One' in 3/4 time. The first staff shows a C chord (0 1 3) with a slash above it, repeated for four measures. The second staff shows a G7 chord (0 1 3) with a slash above it, repeated for four measures. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

C

x x x o o

C

x x x o o

A guitar chord diagram for the G7 chord. It shows a six-string guitar with the first fret. The strings are labeled from top to bottom: 1 (E), 2 (D), 3 (C), 4 (B), 5 (A), 6 (E). The diagram shows 'x' for muted strings 1, 2, and 3, and 'o' for open strings 4, 5, and 6. A circled '1' is placed on the first fret of the 5th string.

C and G7 Chords are used for both *Two String Melody* and *Tandem Ride*. Changing chords is easy, simply hop the first finger across between the 1st. and 2nd. strings staying at the same 1st. fret position.

Tandem Ride

Musical notation for 'Tandem Ride' in 4/4 time. The first staff shows a C chord (0 3 0 1) with a slash above it, repeated for four measures. The second staff shows a G7 chord (0 1 3) with a slash above it, repeated for four measures. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The last measure in *Tandem Ride* has some quick chord changing, play only one strum for the first C and G7, followed by two strums on C to finish.

Study in A Minor

Am / Em / Am / / /

Am Em

Am and Em are abbreviations for A Minor and E Minor. Chords with letter names only are all Major Chords. Example: Am = A Minor and C = C Major.

TIP: Whilst you are still playing Em, try preparing the two fingers for Am to the correct shape slightly above the strings, as in “mid-air”, then press them into position together at the same time when required.

London Bridge

G / / / D7 / G /

G G D7

Or

There are two versions of the G chord you can choose from. The second version uses the 3rd. and 4th. fingers as described for *Jingle Bells* (see page 3).

The hardest Chord here is D7 with three fingers. It can be difficult to get all the fingers in place and still keep in time with the music. It would make sense first to master the Am chord as shown above, then as soon as you are able, add the extra 3rd. finger to form a D7 Chord.

We have had examples of three different chord types Major, Minor and 7th chords. It isn't necessary to understand what these names mean right now as it will all be covered in book two when we progress into a little more music theory.

Au Claire de la Lune

Au Claire de la Lune (By the Light of the Moon) is a great piece for practise as it uses every chord we have looked at so far. To keep the page uncluttered, most of the beat markers (/) have been removed. By now you should have a sense of where the beat falls and where the chords change.

Liberty

F is the first chord to use a barré. The preparation for this chord has been covered in the sections on Sustained Notes, see *Good King Wenceslas* (p.4) and *Liberty* (p.9). More tips on playing F can be found in the Chord Table (p.14).

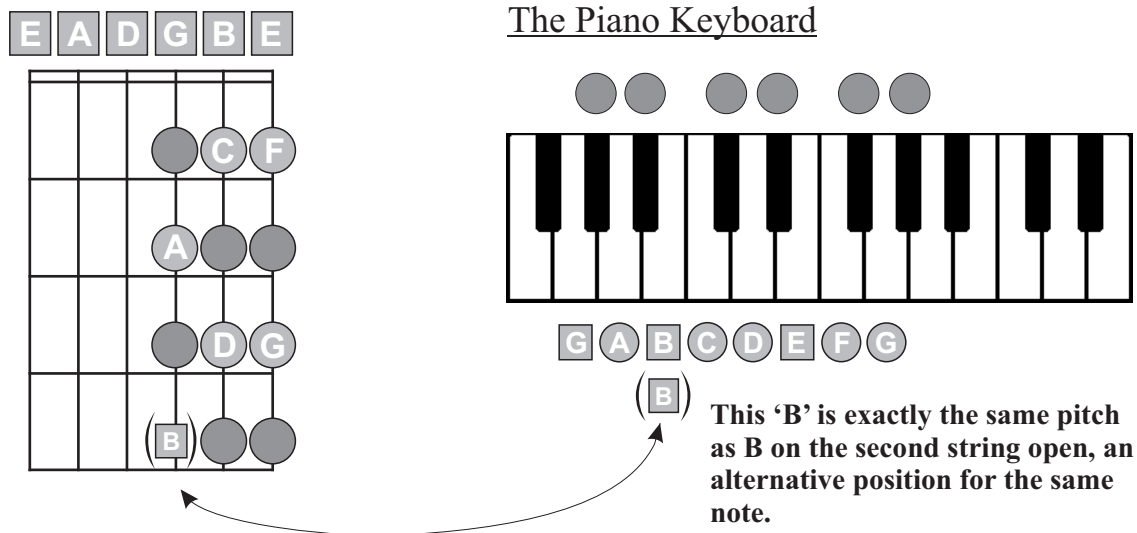
In Conclusion and Moving Forward

This now concludes Book One, Part Two. Before I sign off I would like to thank you once again for following through this far, I hope you are still enjoying playing guitar and feel that you are making progress. Also, I would like to encourage you to go on to the next step when you are ready as it could be a big leap forward in your learning, the music is going to be even more rewarding as we explore new sounds and unravel yet more of the plentiful wonders that the guitar has to offer.

Theo Elsey - January 2025

BOOK TWO - A Preview of what's coming up

The most significant advancement in your understanding of music will be in learning all the notes that fall between the natural notes, that's right we are going to fill in the gaps! These are the *Sharps* and *Flats* that will lead you on in learning about *Keys* and *Scales*. We will start playing notes in higher left hand positions, mainly in the 2nd and 3rd. positions taking us up to notes at the 5th fret.



All the music from book one uses only Natural Notes, these are equal to all the White Notes on a piano keyboard. In book two, Sharps (\sharp) and Flats (\flat) will be introduced, the same as the piano's Black Notes. If you are interested to know what else is going to be covered in book 2 then please check out Fretbow's Blogspot, the following link is a dedicated page for updates and news on book two. <https://fretbow.blogspot.com>

Piano Keyboard image courtesy of Wikimedia
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