MUSIC FUN BOOKS / TEACHER PREVIEW

Best Beginning Guitar Book for Kids

Beginning guitar | Younger students | Selected interior pages

From first chords to confident guitar playing

This 73-page method begins with guitar parts, playing positions, tuning and first chords. Students develop strumming and rhythm, then read individual notes across all six strings. Later lessons add key signatures, scales, new chords, barre-chord shapes and more developed songs. Free page-by-page guitar video lessons support teaching and home practice.

Inside this preview

22 original book pages, in the order they appear in the method:

p. 1 **Parts of the Guitar**
Strings, anatomy and first posture pointers

p. 2 **Playing Positions**
Sitting, standing and classical positioning

p. 3 **Tuning the Guitar**
Relative, piano and electronic tuning

p. 4 **Learning the First Chords**
D, D7 and G diagrams and playing examples

p. 5 **Strumming with the Pick**
Steady beat, counting and the A7 chord

p. 6 **Accompanying Familiar Songs**
Mary Had a Little Lamb and Hot Cross Buns

p. 7 **Down- and Up-Stroke Rhythm**
Quarter notes, eighth notes and pick direction

p. 11 **A New Chord and Melody**
C chord with a fully notated familiar song

p. 16 **Single Notes: First String**
Fretboard pictures, notation and E-string work

p. 17 **Single Notes: Second String**
B, C and D with short reading exercises

p. 19 **Fourth String and Sharps**
New notes and accidental-reading practice

p. 21 **Low Sixth-String Notes**
Low E, F and G on the staff and fretboard

p. 22 **Across All Six Strings**
G-major scale and key-signature reading

p. 29 **D Major and the Natural Sign**
Key changes, scale work and Blues Dues

p. 33 **Additional Chords**
Em and B7 and changing between chords

p. 40 **Match the Chords**
An interactive chord-recognition exercise

p. 44 **Two Ways to Play F**
Regular and easier F chord fingering

p. 48 **Movable Barre Chords**
Fm7, Gm7 and Am7 along the neck

p. 51 **Sixteenth-Note Reading**
More advanced rhythms in a familiar song

p. 60 **Dm Chord and Sakura**
Later chord study applied to song repertoire

p. 68 **Strumming Pattern Review**
Rhythms for independent musical application

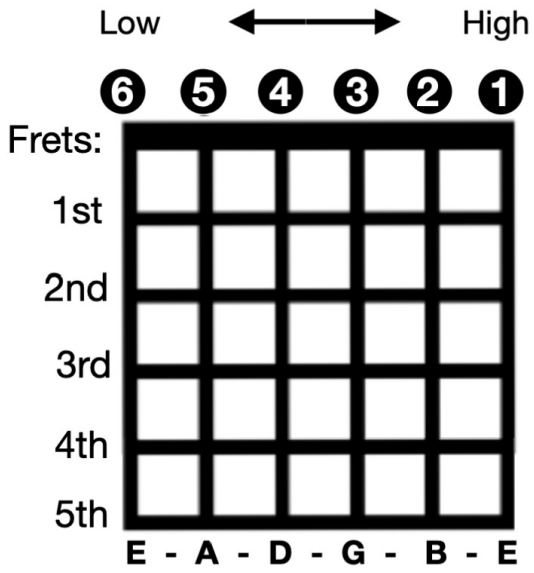
p. 70 **Beginner Guitar Chords**
Consolidated chord-fingering reference

Full book and free page-by-page 4K guitar lessons

https://musicfunbooks.com/bestguitar/

Best Beginning Guitar Book for Kids

The strings



Keep your shoulders relaxed and your back straight.

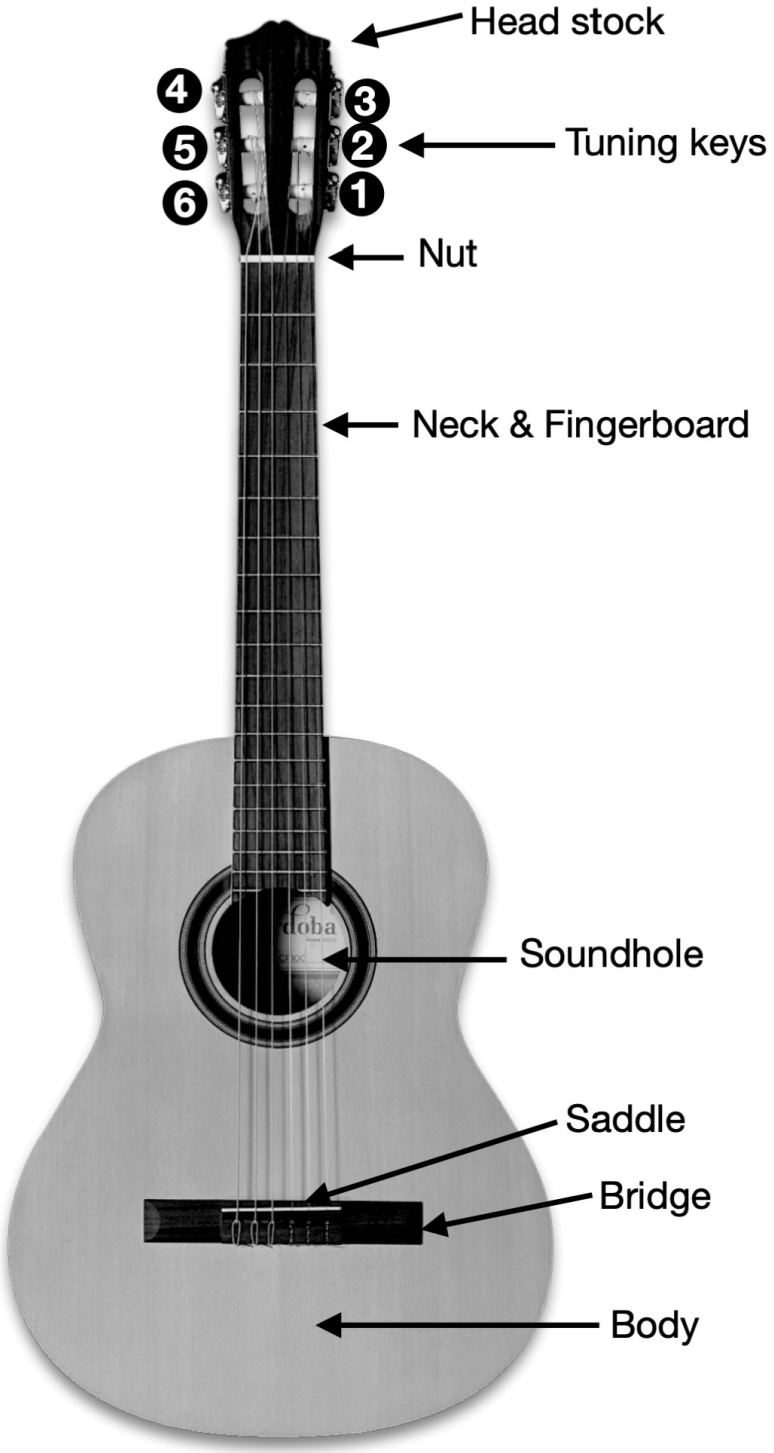
Don't use your hands to support the guitar — keep hands free to play.

Position your self to see your music while maintaining a good playing position.

Keep the neck of the guitar slanted upwards.

Have fun making music!

Parts of the Guitar



Copyright ©2021 Children's Music Workshop • www.musicfunbooks.com

Sitting



Rest your guitar comfortably on your lap.

Raise the neck of your guitar just a bit without using your left arm to support it.

If you wish, you can cross your right leg over your left to help hold the guitar.

Standing



Use a guitar strap.

Place your feet solidly on the floor about shoulder width apart.

If you get tired standing, sit down and continue to play.

Classical



The classical style uses a foot stand for support.

Place your left leg on the foot stand so that it is flat on the stand and your left leg is raised.

Your guitar's neck will be higher up when using the foot stand.



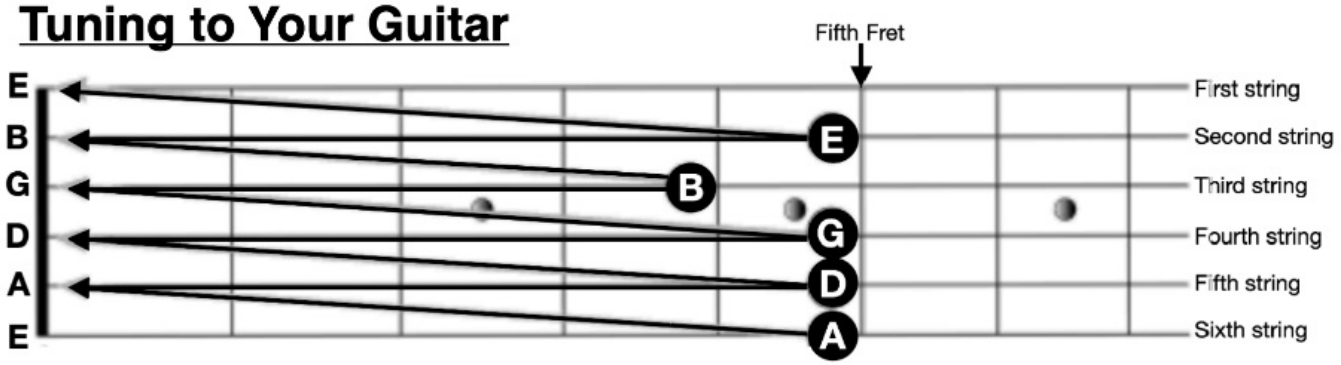
Learning About the Thumb

Opinions about the thumb's position on the guitar are many and varied. The traditional placement is behind the neck of the guitar with the pad of the thumb on the neck & slightly higher than dead center. This is a great starting point. But, we are all built differently and we all play different types of music from classical to pop to blues and more.

If you are playing blues, the thumb is likely hanging around over the top of the guitar to allow for a nice pivot point for bending notes. If you are playing the D chord, you may want your thumb just sneaking over the top to touch the thickest string so that it doesn't ring out. No matter the situation, the wrist should never be at a right angle nor should the thumb be pointed towards the top of the guitar. The thumb position should feel comfortable & relaxed.

Kids, like some famous musicians, sometimes like to do things a little differently. So if you aren't comfortable with the thumb at the back of the neck of the guitar, don't worry as this book subscribes to the notion that one size doesn't fit all. Learn more about the thumb as it applies to different scenarios by watching our video tutorials at www.musicfunbooks.com/guitar

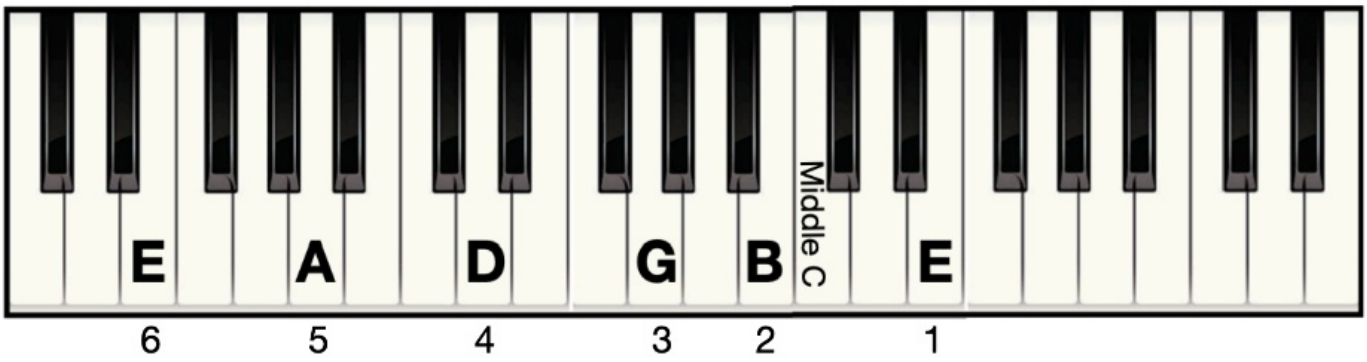
Tuning to Your Guitar



This tuning method is based on tuning relative to the 6th string (E).
Here are the steps:

1. Get your 6th string (E) as close to the correct pitch as possible. (Use a piano, tuner, etc.)
2. Press the 6th string at the 5th fret. This is A. Tune the open 5th string to this pitch.
3. Press the 5th string at the 5th fret. This is D. Tune the open 4th string to this pitch.
4. Press the 4th string at the 5th fret. This is G. Tune the open 3rd string to this pitch.
5. Press the 3rd string at the 4th fret. This is B. Tune the open 2nd string to this pitch.
6. Press the 2nd string at the 5th fret. This is E. Tune the open 1st string to this pitch.

Tuning to a Piano



Using a piano or keyboard, you can play the string pitches and move your guitar's tuning pegs until the string matches the piano note.

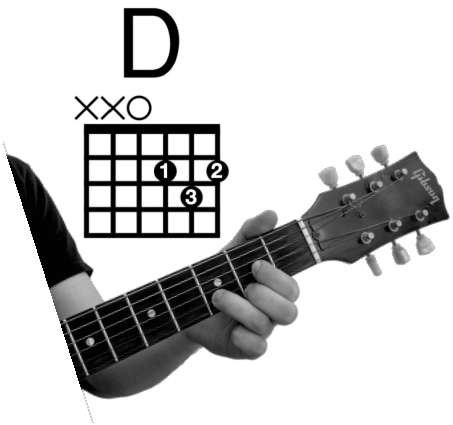
Tuning to an Electronic Tuner

Perhaps the easiest way for a beginner to tune the guitar is by using an electronic tuning device. You can purchase one that clips on to the guitar or just download a tuning app to your phone.
Get your guitar tuner online at www.musicfunbooks.com/guitar

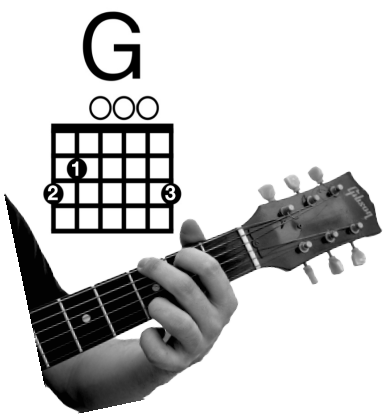




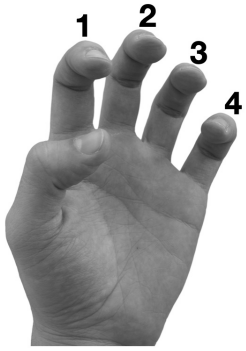
Learning to Play Chords

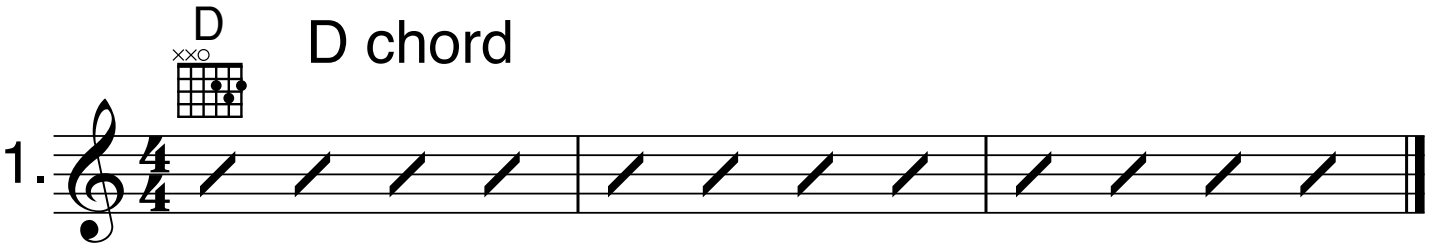


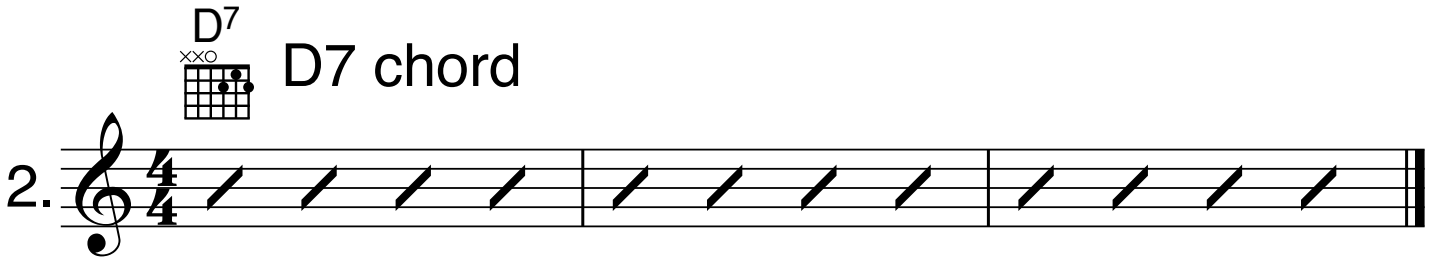


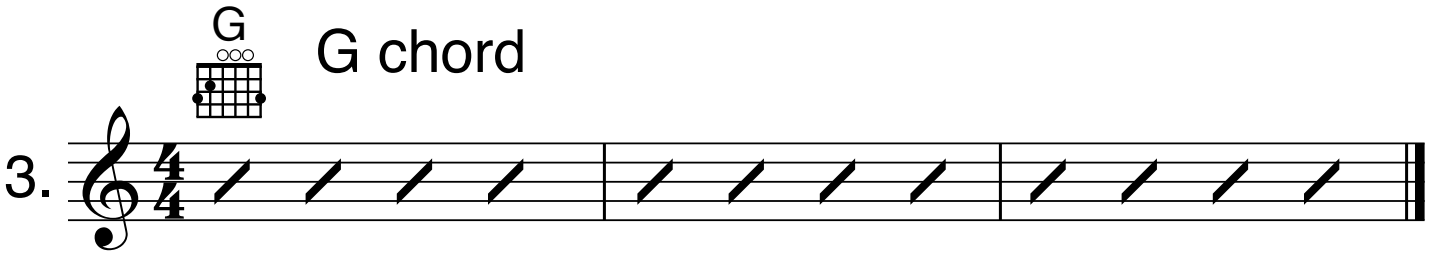


- Chords are produced by playing more than one string at the same time.
- The dots show which strings to push at which frets.
- The numbers on the dots indicate which fingers to use.
- The "0" stands for "open string" - meaning play with no fingers pushing on the frets.
- The "X" means do not strum that string.









Video support at **www.musicfunbooks.com/guitar**

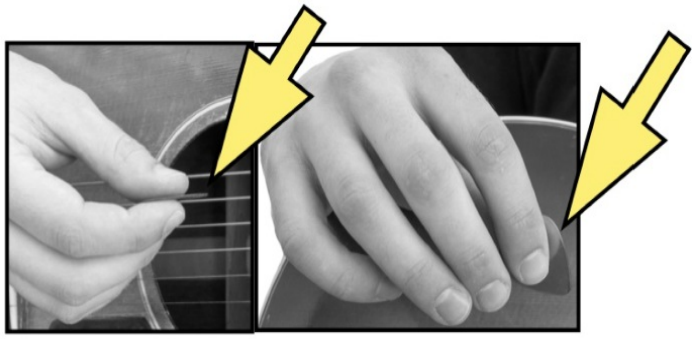
Strummin' with the Pick

Brush your pick down across all the strings using one strum for each slash.

When you bring your hand back up, be careful not to touch the strings.

Count the beats as you play each bar. Work for a nice steady beat.

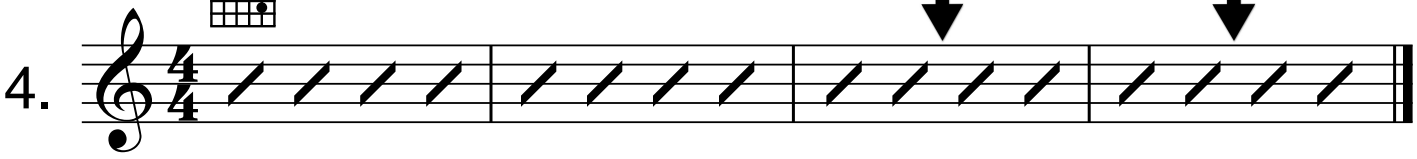
1 - 2 - 3 - 4, 1 - 2 - 3 - 4, etc.



Each box of music is called a **measure**.

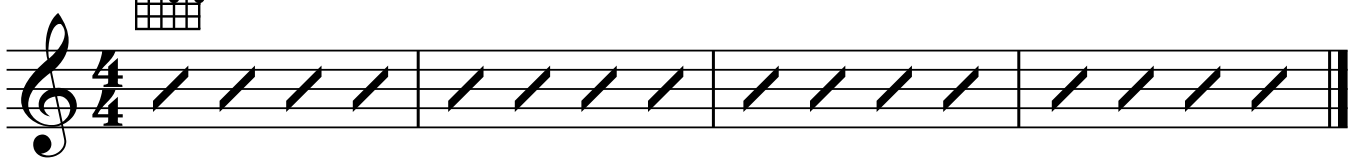
D Strummin' **D**

4.



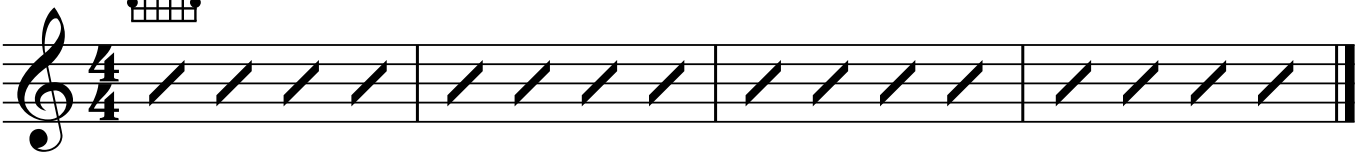
D7 Strummin' **D7**

5.



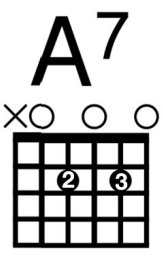
G Strummin' **G**

6.



Learning the **A7 chord**

A7





A7

7.

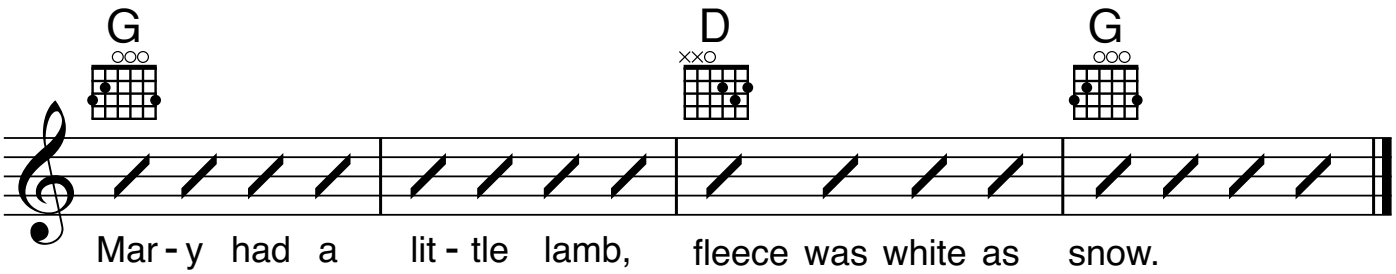


6 Mary Had a Little Lamb

Everyone knows this famous song. Practice using your pick to brush the chords while you sing the words to Mary Had a Little Lamb.



8.

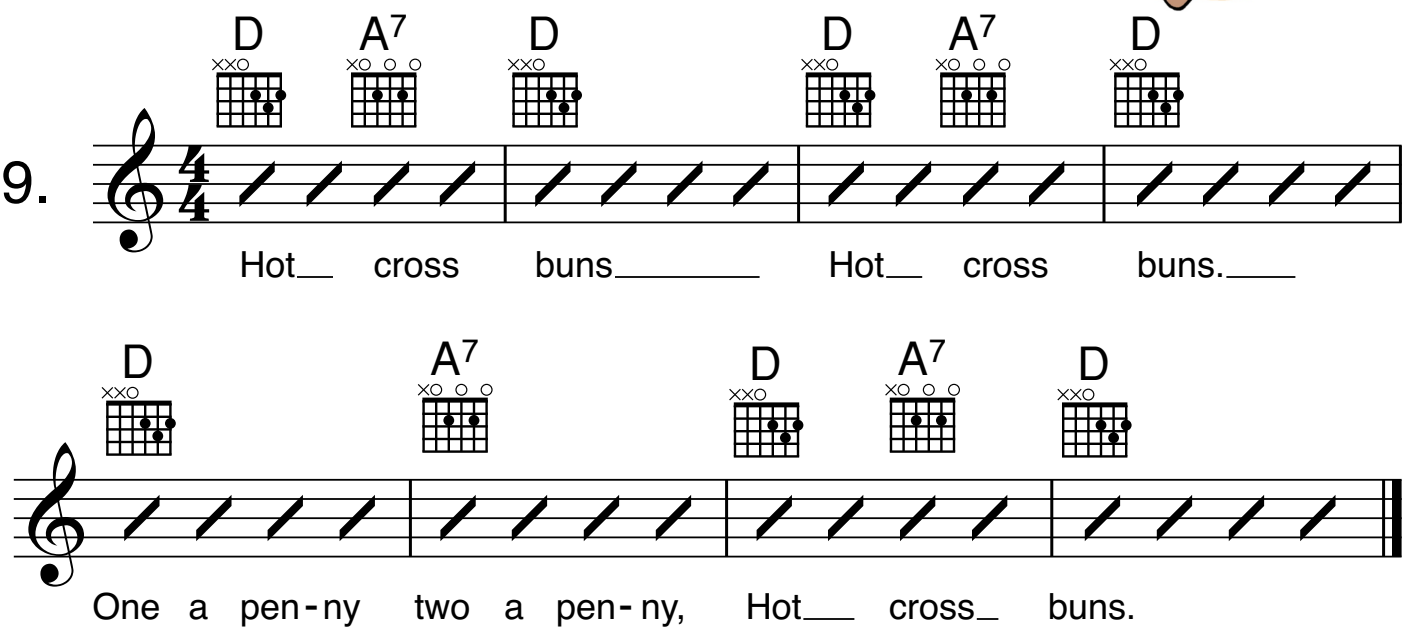


Using your pick is the easiest way to play your guitar, but using your first finger to strum the notes is also a method for strumming. Curl the first finger of your right hand while making a relaxed fist. Then, use the tip of your finger to strum downward.

Hot Cross Buns



9.



Now let's use our pick to strum UP and DOWN.

Notice the special symbols for UP and DOWN.

We call the quarter notes "**Ta**".
We call the eighth notes "**Ti Ti**".

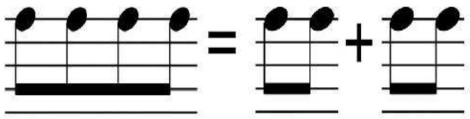
See the video for a more detailed explanation on how to strum this page.

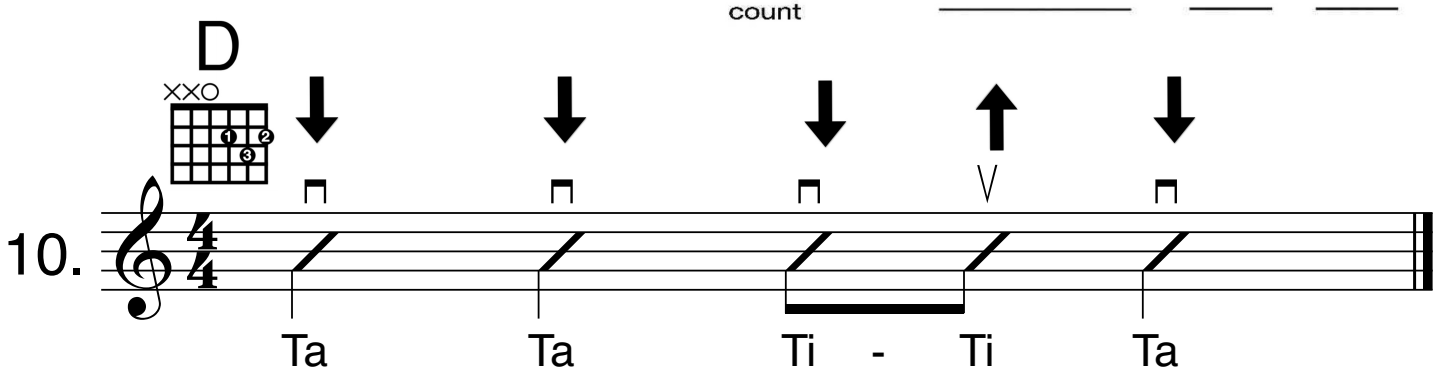


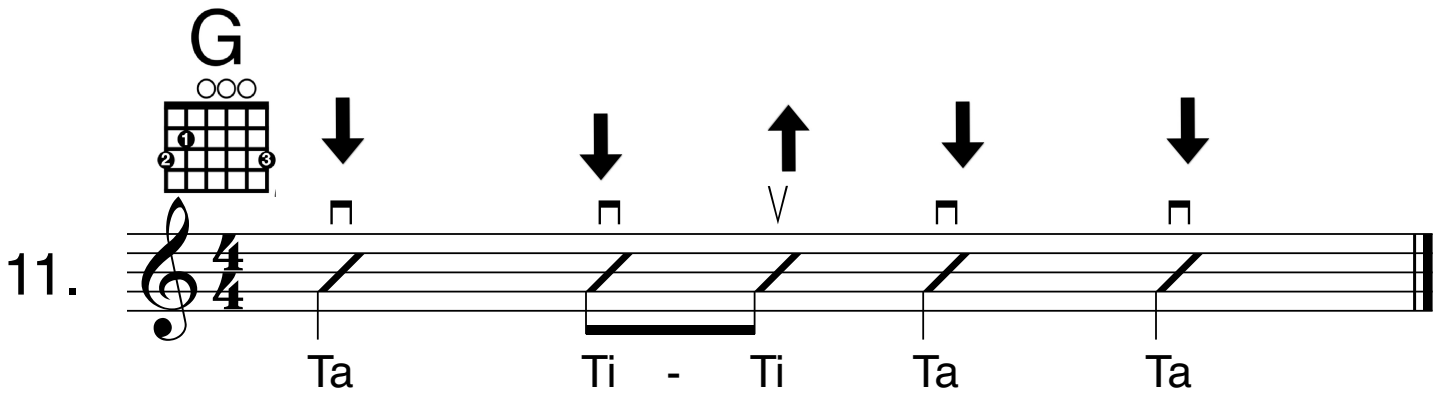
These are two eighth notes.
Together they get one count.

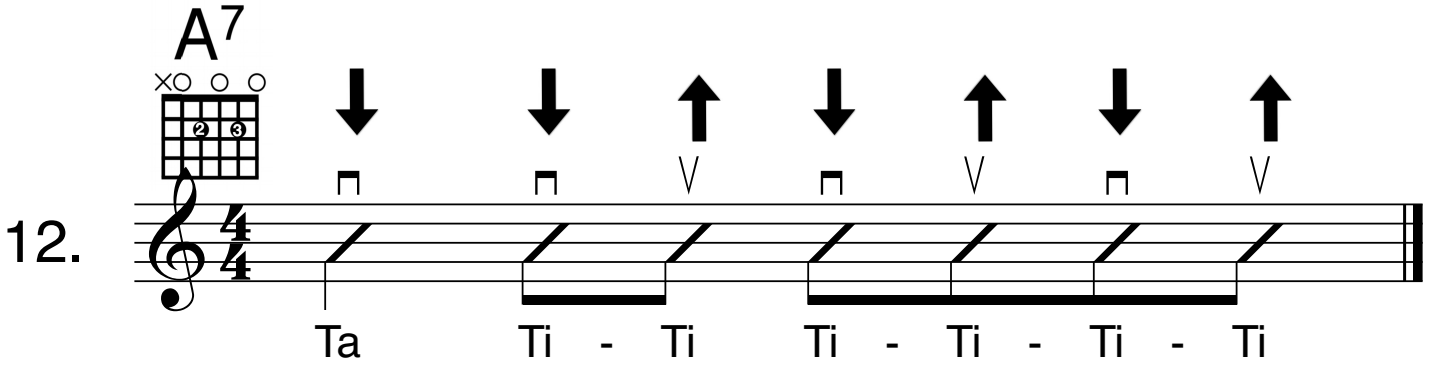


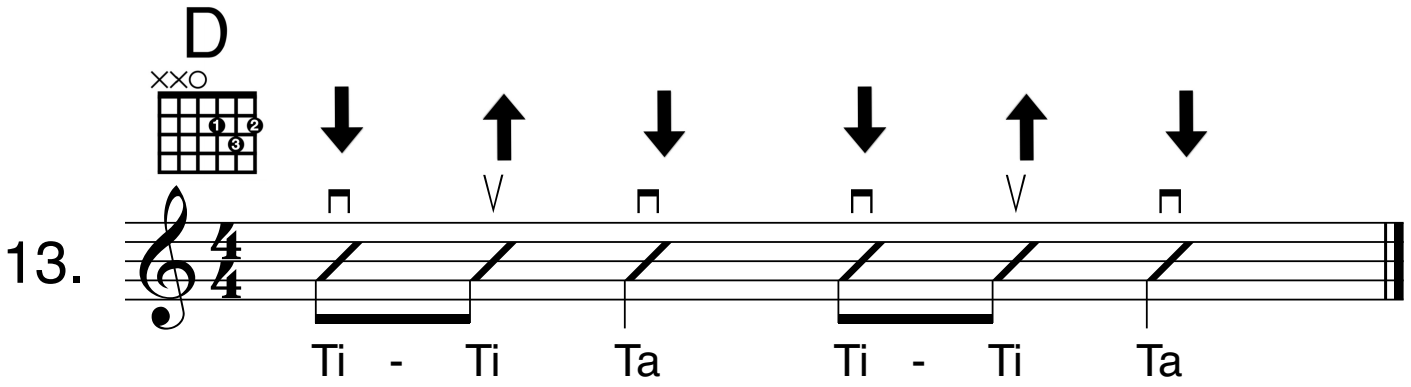
QUARTER NOTES
Get 1 count



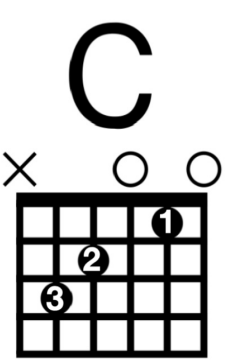








Learning the
C chord

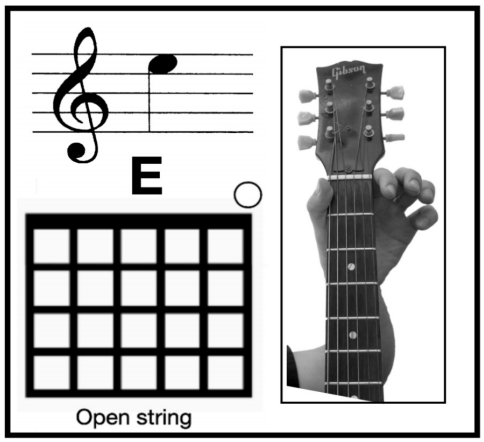


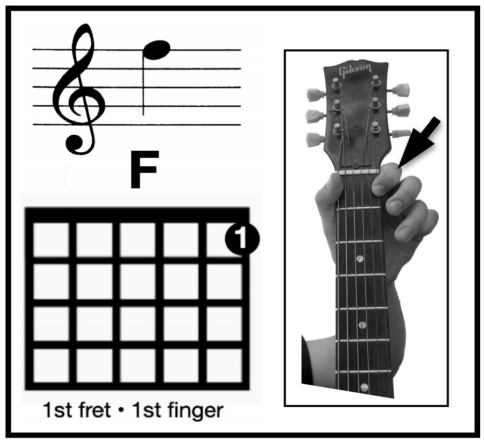


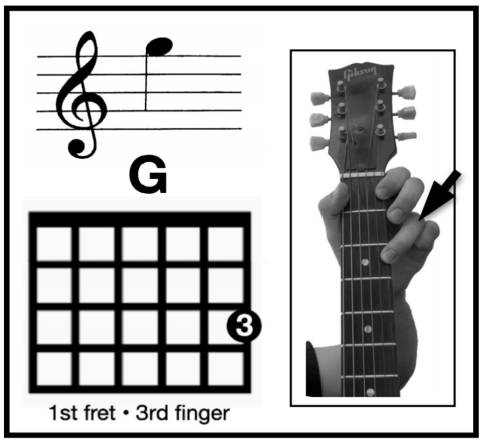
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

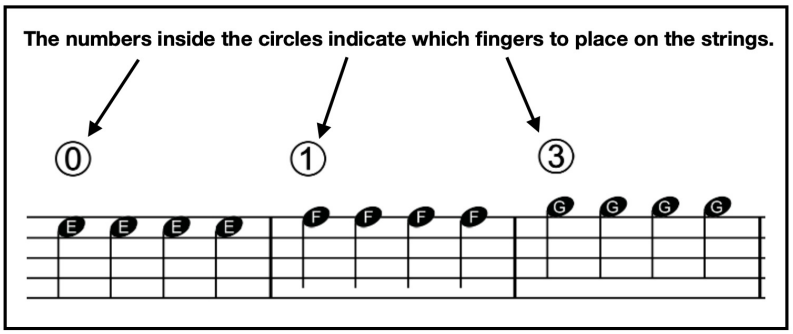


Playing Single Notes on the First String

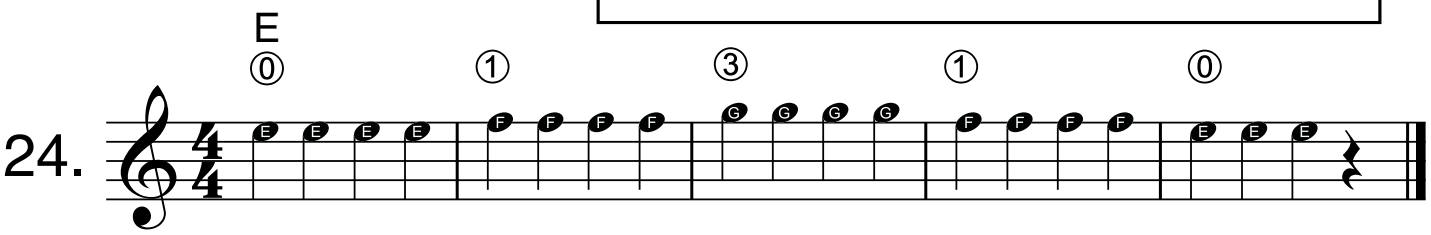




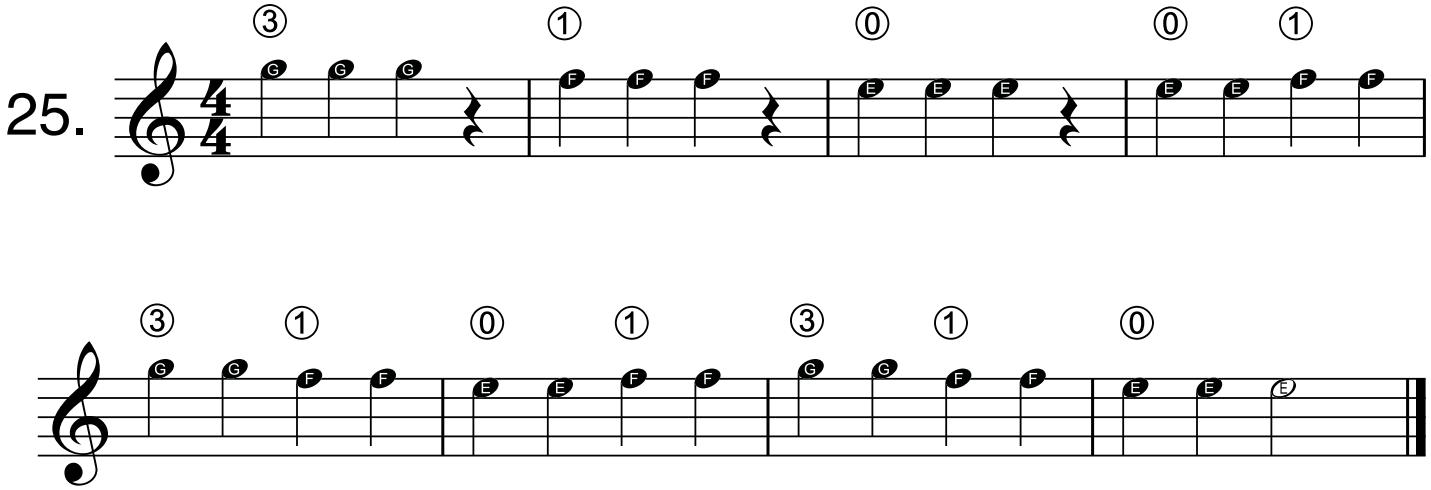




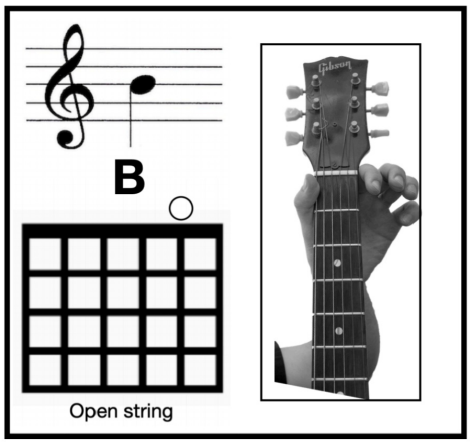
E String March

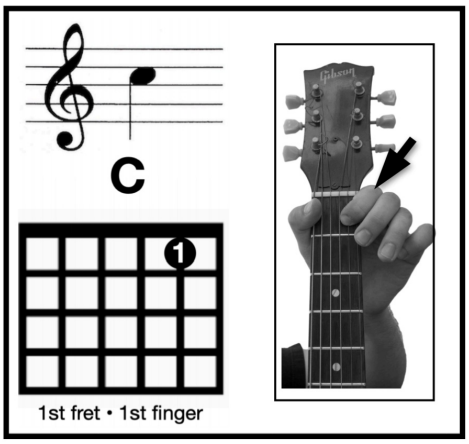


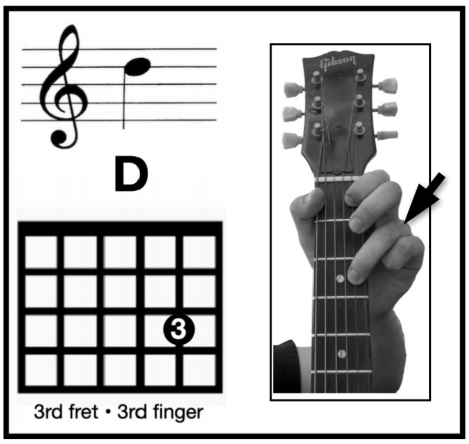
E String Walk



Playing Single Notes on the Second String

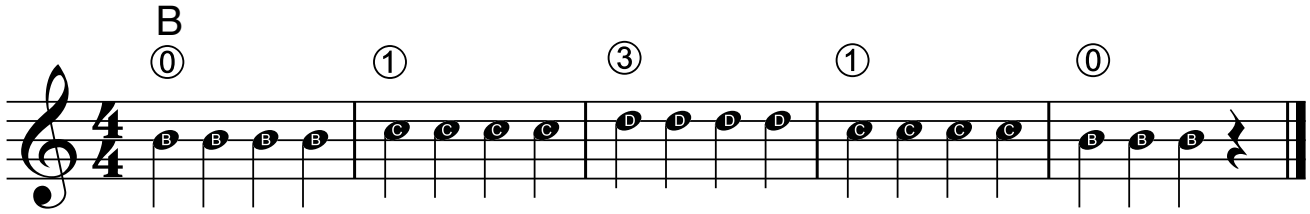






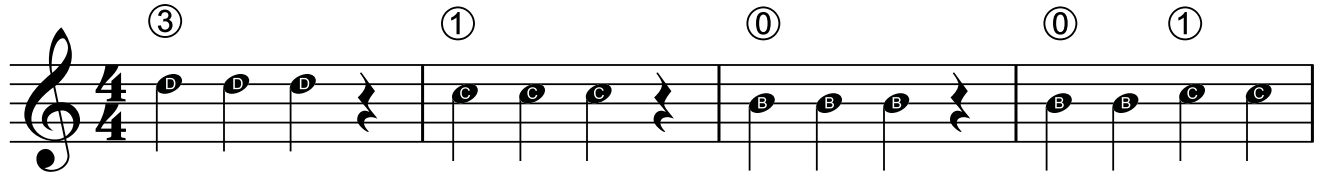
B String March

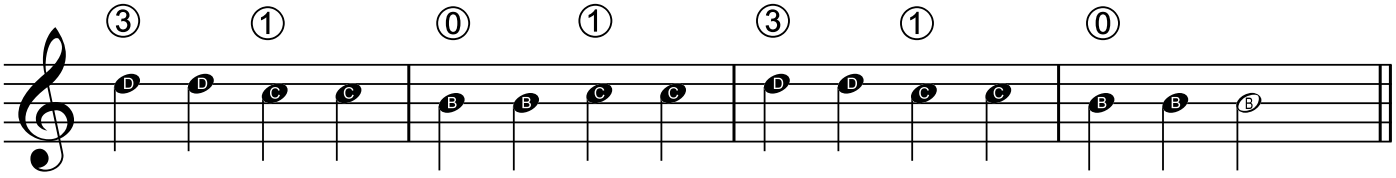
26.



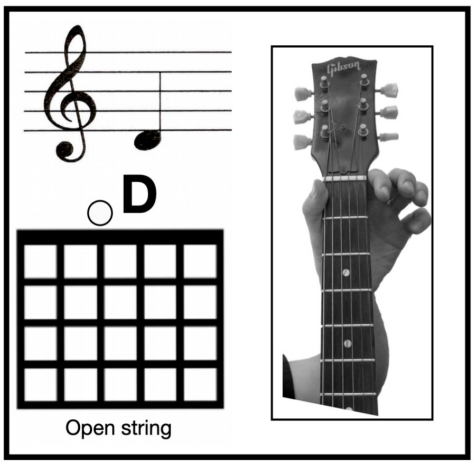
B String Walk

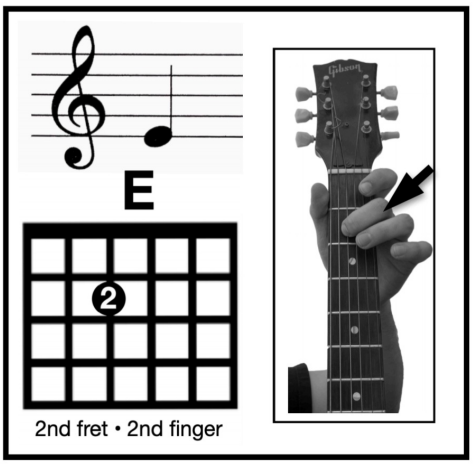
27.

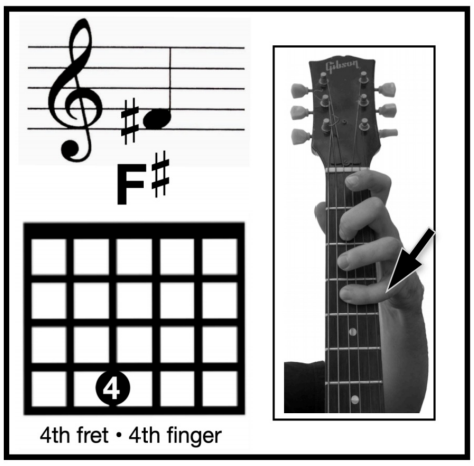




Playing Single Notes on the Fourth String



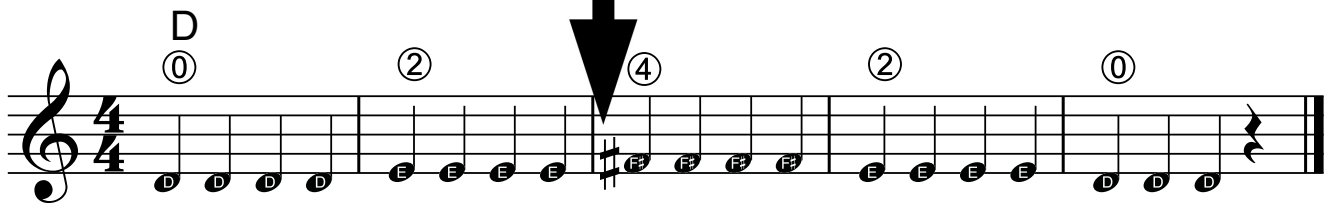




Playing With a Sharp

The sharp remains in effect for the entire measure.

30.

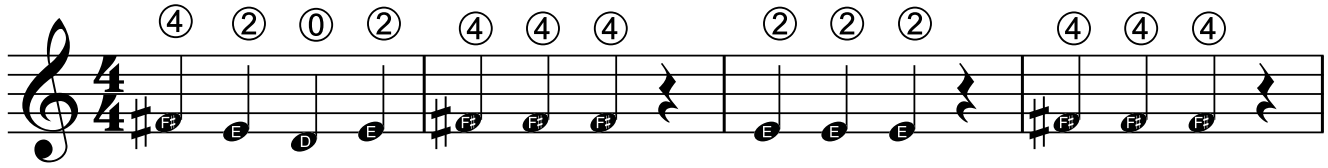


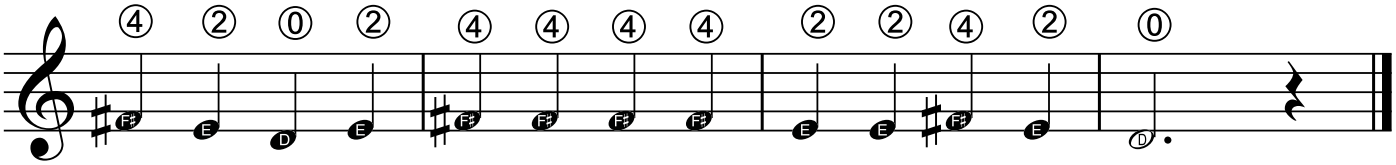
Mary Had a Little Lamb

Play all the notes on the fourth string (D string).

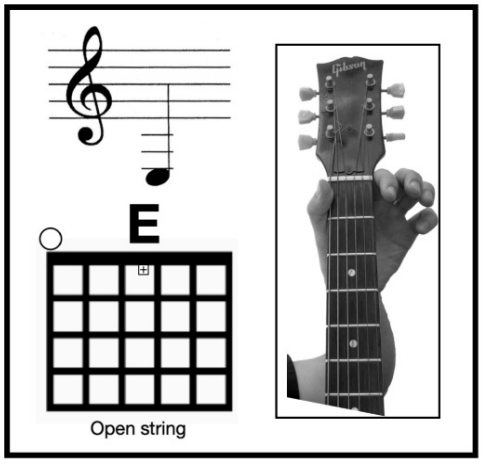


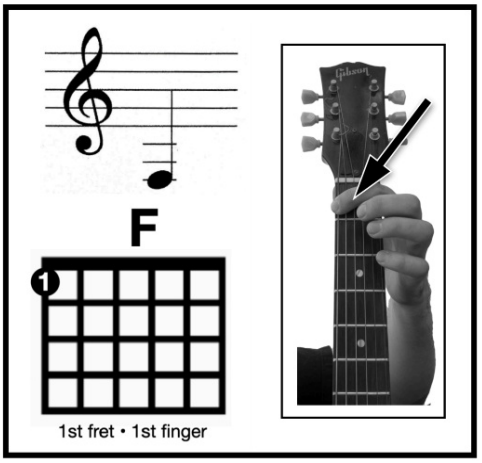
31.

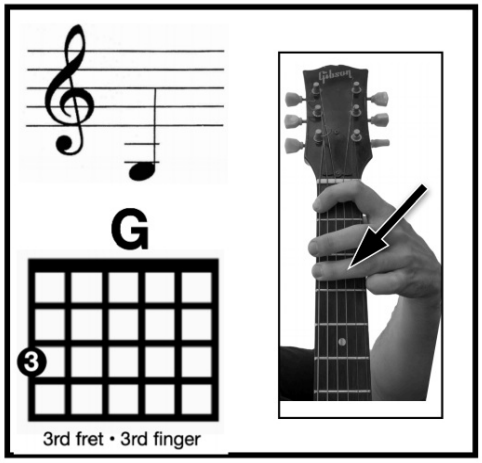




Playing Single Notes on the Sixth String

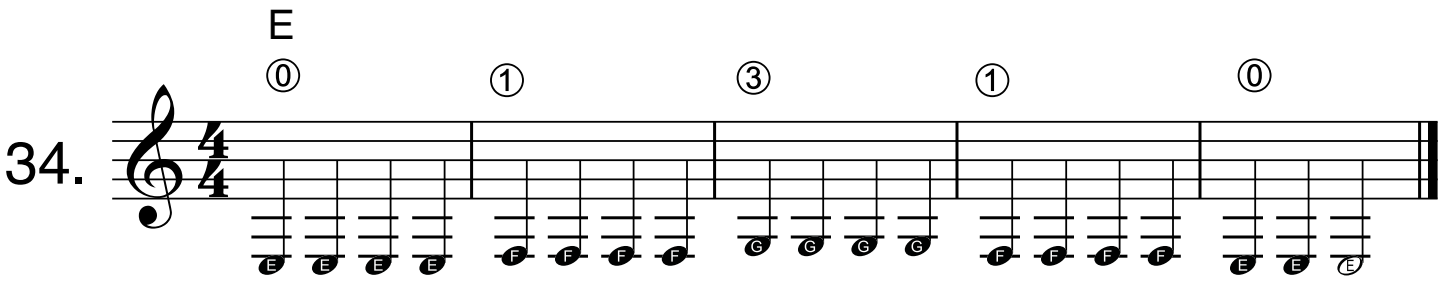






My E-F-G's

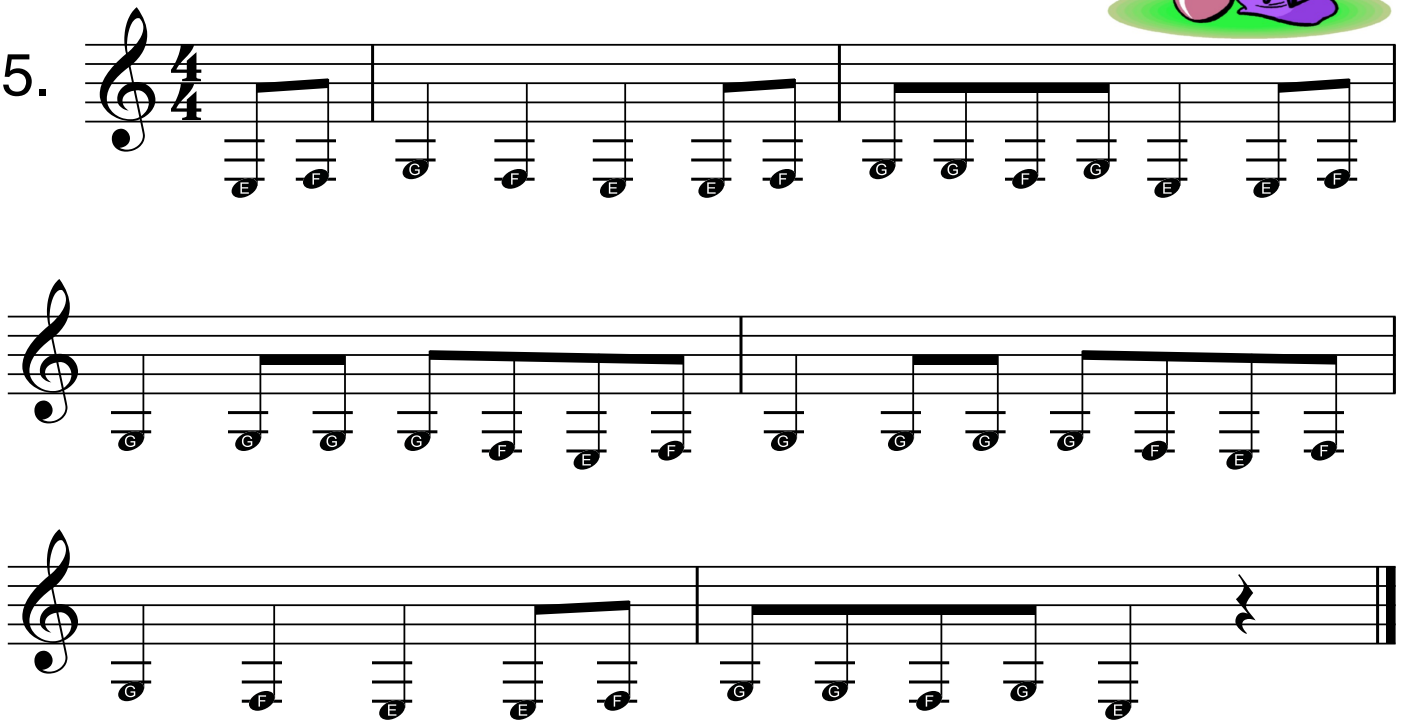
34.



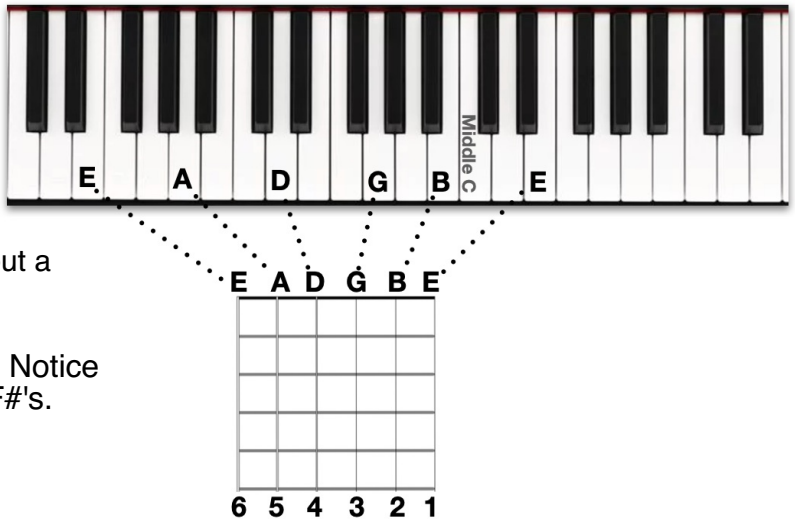
The Charming Snake (E string)



35.



22 Playing Single Notes on All Strings



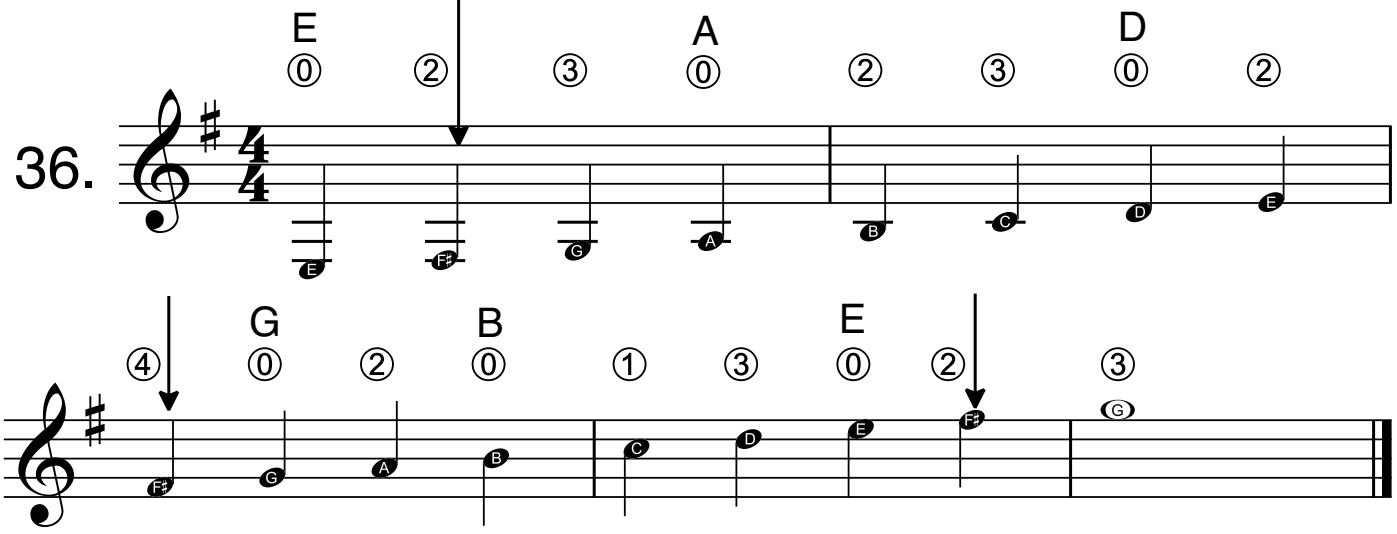
Key Signature

A "key signature" changes certain notes throughout a piece of music. When you see a sharp in the key signature, play all the "**F**"s as "**F sharp**".

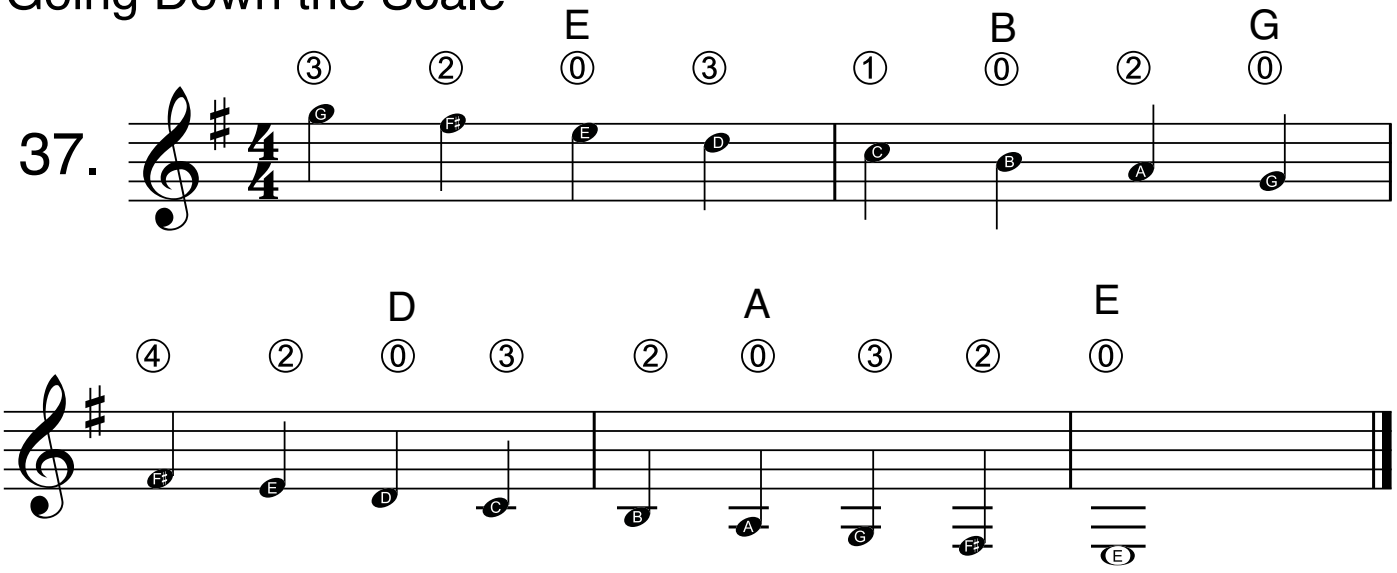
There is one sharp in the key signature below. Notice in the exercise below that all the F's are now F#'s.

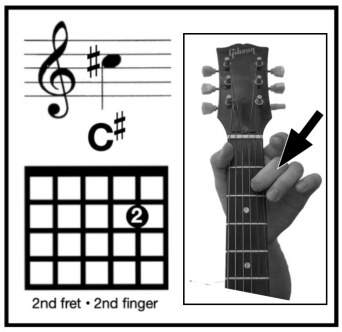
This is the Key of G major.

Going Up the Scale



Going Down the Scale





We previously learned that "**C**" is played on the second string with the **1st** finger/**1st** fret.

Now we are learining that "C sharp" (**C#**) is played on the second string with the **2nd** finger/**2nd** fret.

Notes in the **D** Major Scale

This key has two sharps - F# and C#.

47.

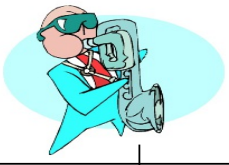
D Major Scale - Up and Down

48.

Natural Sign ♮

A "natural sign" cancels out a flat or sharp. The sign stays in effect for the entire measure.

Blues Dues



49.

More New Chords

Em



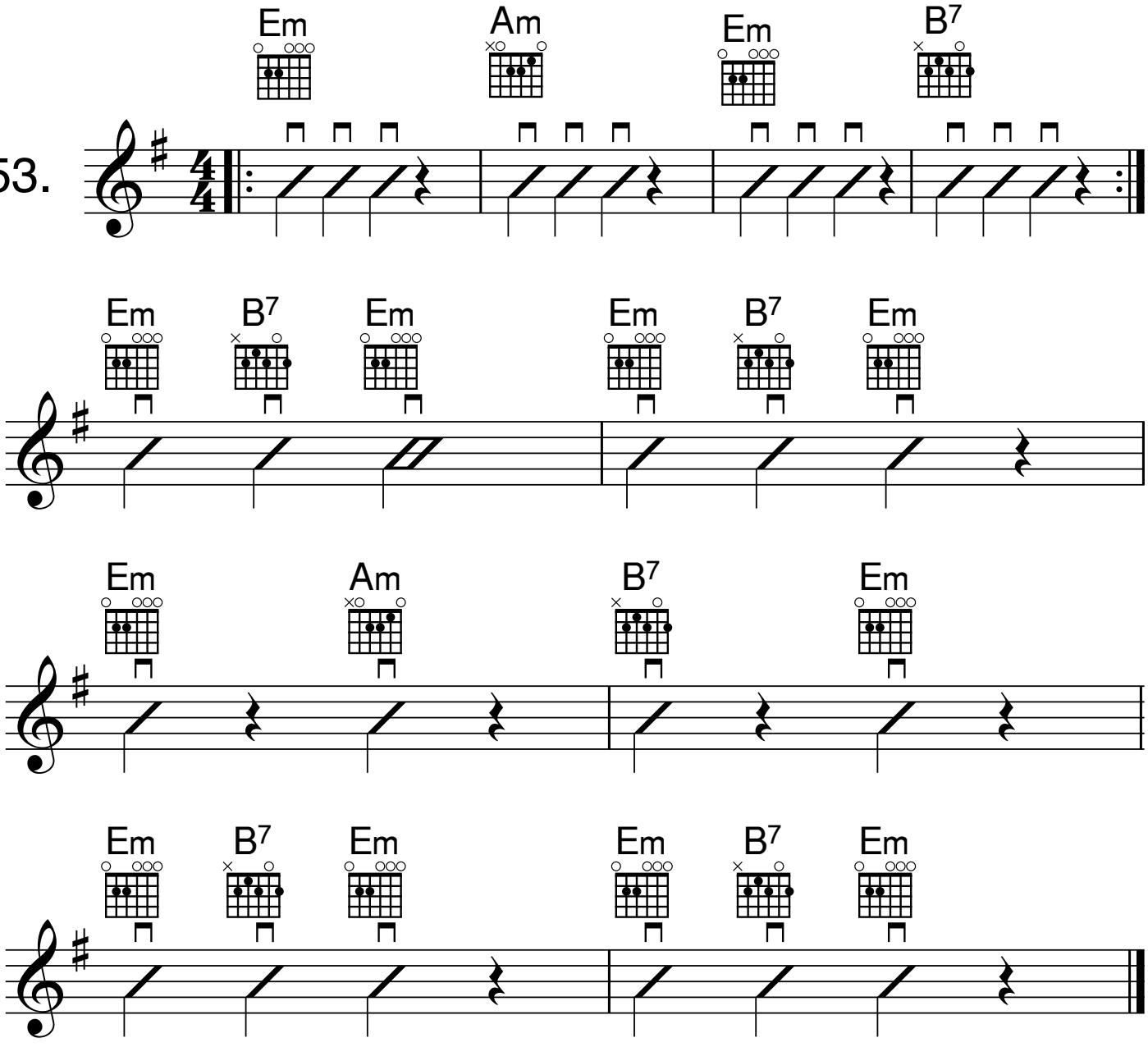
Learning the **Em chord**

B7

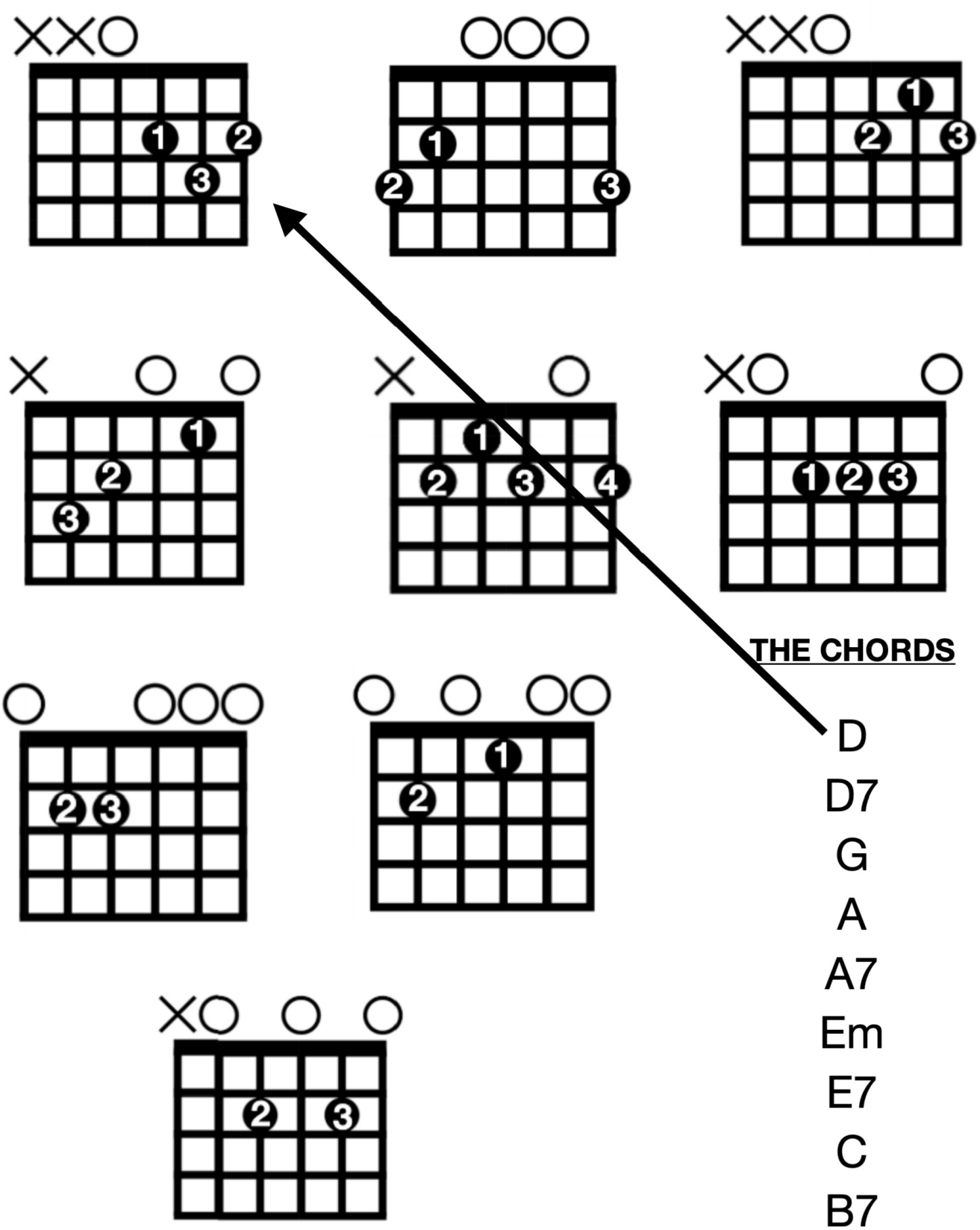


Learning the **B7 chord**

53.



MATCH THE CHORDS



THE CHORDS

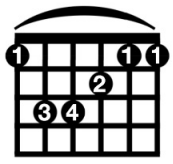
D
D7
G
A
A7
Em
E7
C
B7

Learning the **F chord**

There are often multiple ways to play the same chord on guitar. For the chord "F", we will learn two ways - regular and easy. To keep things simple, we will use the easy version in the songs to follow. But, you are encouraged to try the regular version whenever you like.

Regular

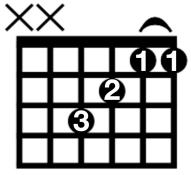
F





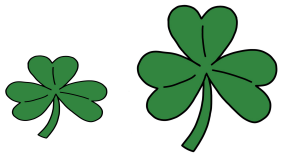
EASY

F

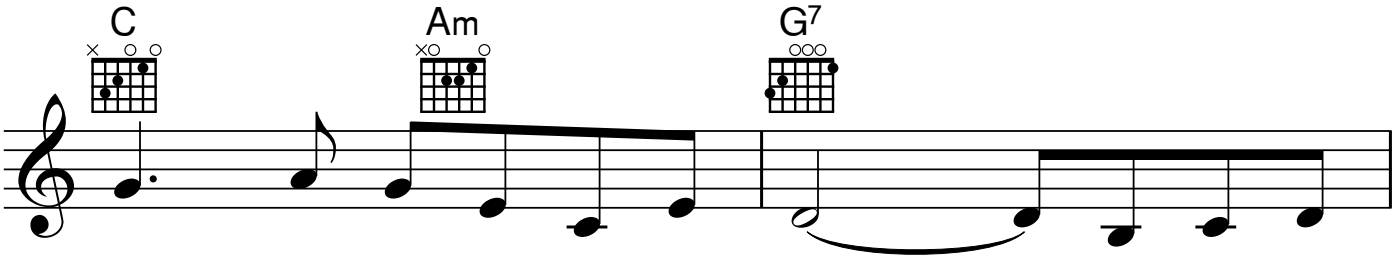


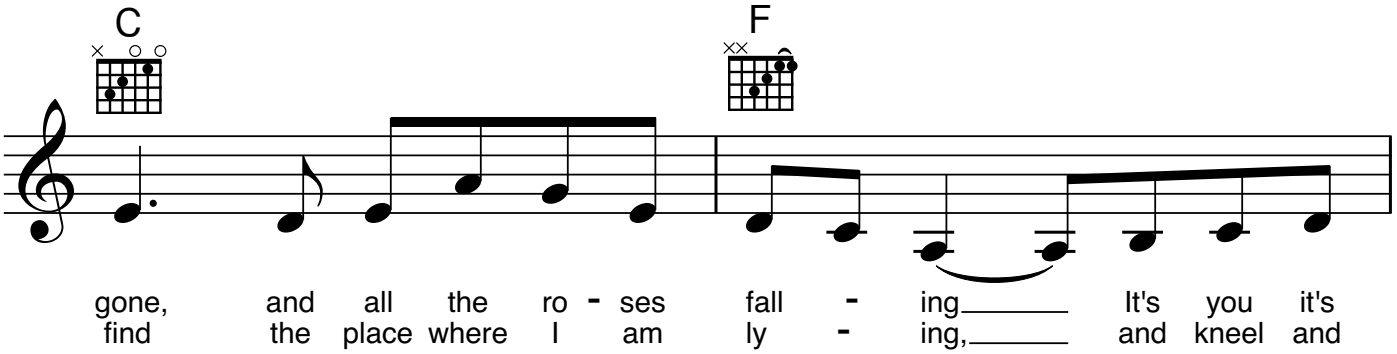


Danny Boy



62.





Bar Chords

The idea behind **bar chords** is to take the exact shape and move it to other parts of the neck. To do so, you place your index finger flat across all the strings as if it's the nut.

By using the Fm7 bar chord fingering set-up on the first fret, you can easily slide to Gm7 (third fret) and Am7 (fifth fret).

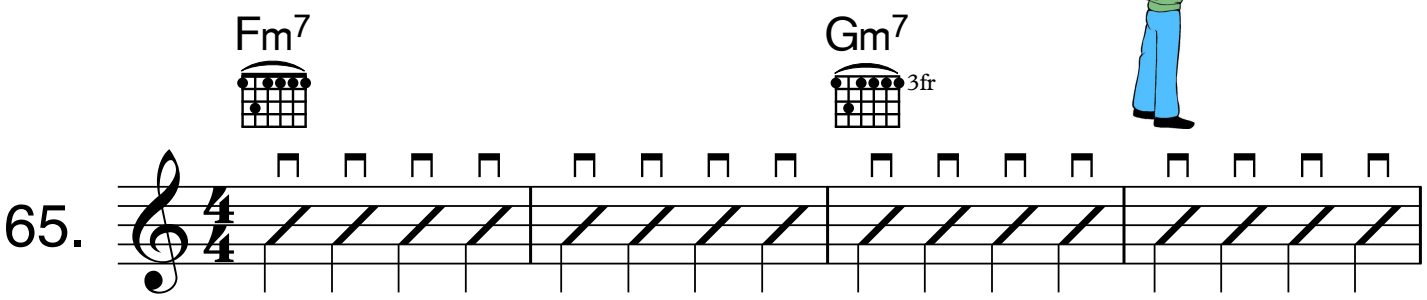


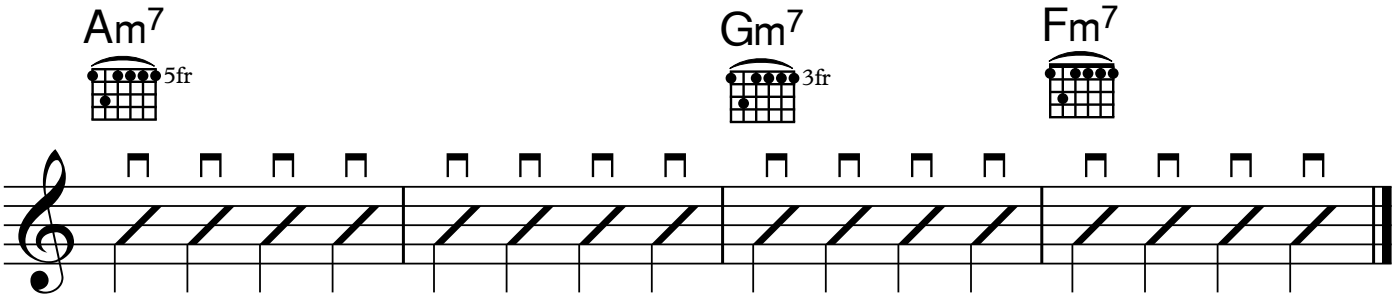




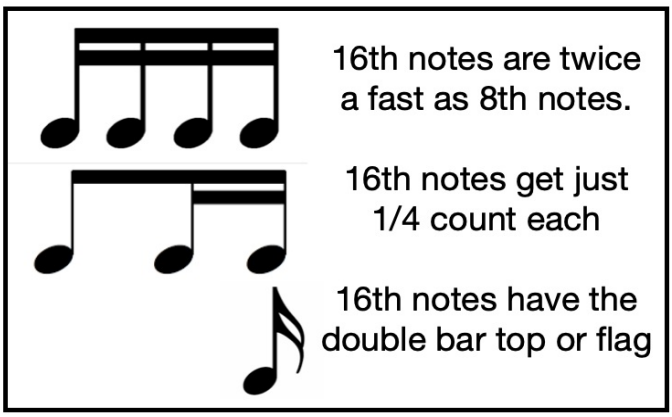
Swinging Up and Down





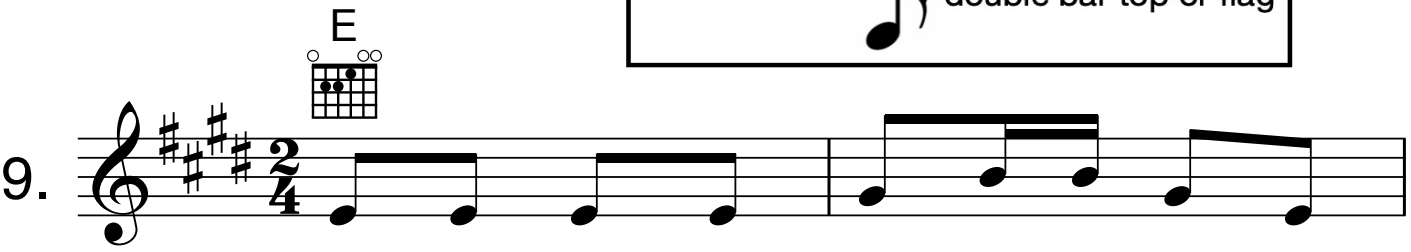


Learning About **Sixteenth Notes**



The Paw Paw Patch

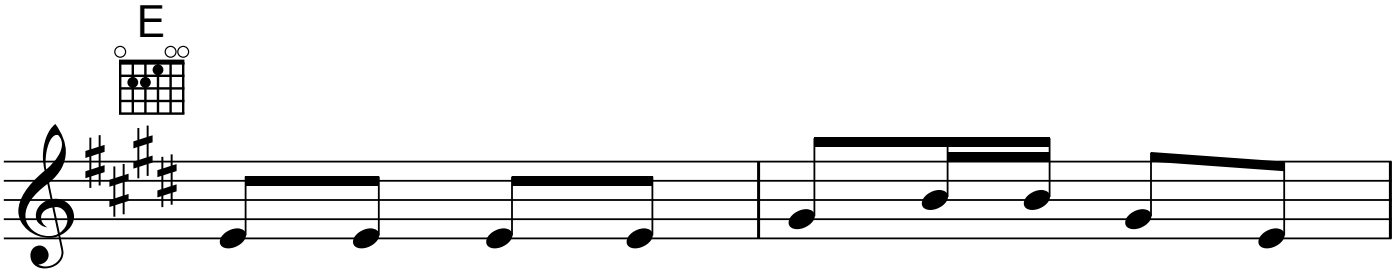
69.



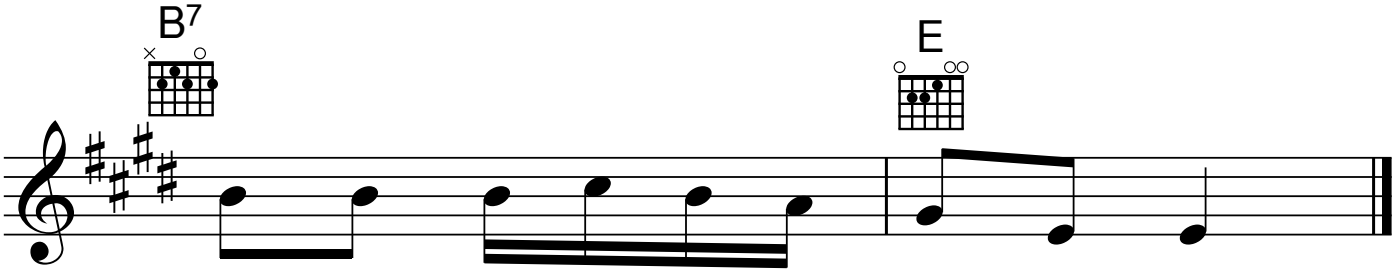
1. Where, oh where is dear lit - tle Nel - lie?
2. Come on boys, let's go and___ find her,
3. Pickin' up pawpaws, puttin' 'em in your pock - et,



Where, oh where is dear lit - tle Nel - lie?
come on boys, let's go and___ find her,
pickin' up pawpaws, puttin' 'em in your pock - et,

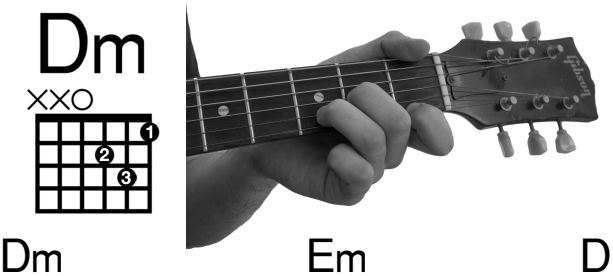


Where, oh where is dear lit - tle Nel - lie?
Come on boys, let's go and___ find her,
Pickin' up pawpaws,-puttin' 'em in your pock - et,

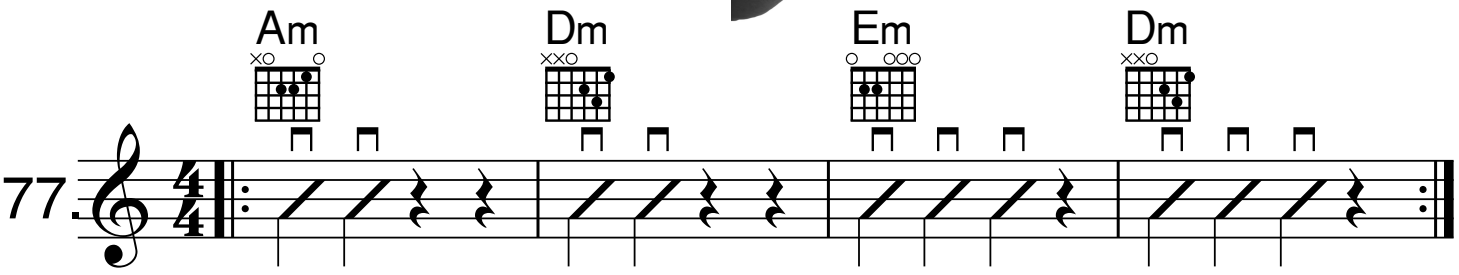


'Way down yon - der in the paw - paw patch.

60 Learning the **Dm chord**



77.



Sakura (Cherry Blossoms)

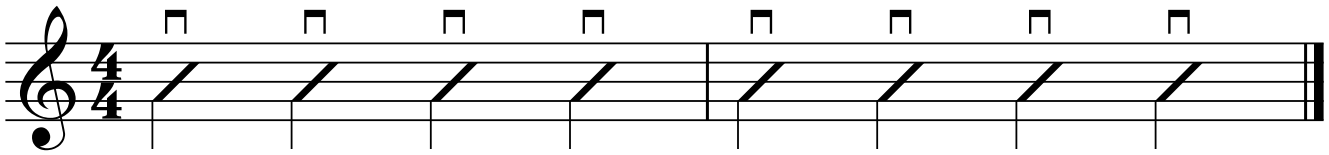
78.



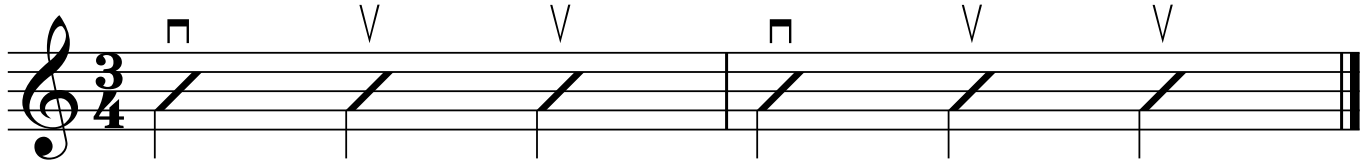
Strumming Patterns

This page and the next review some of the strumming patterns we have used in this book.
You will also find some new patterns here to use in your music making.
Pick a pattern and try using it with one of the songs you have previously learned.
There are many more patterns, too. Make up some new ones of your own.

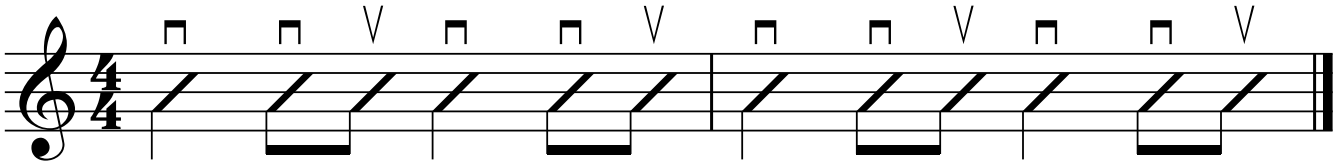
A.



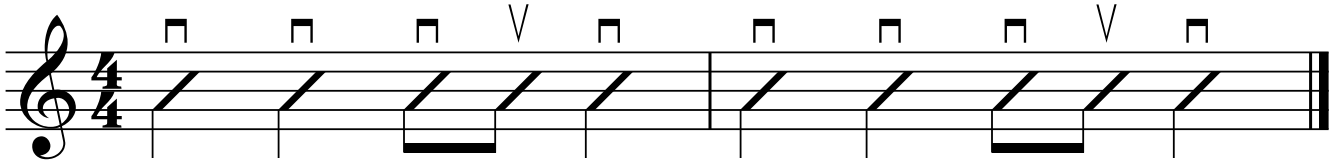
B.



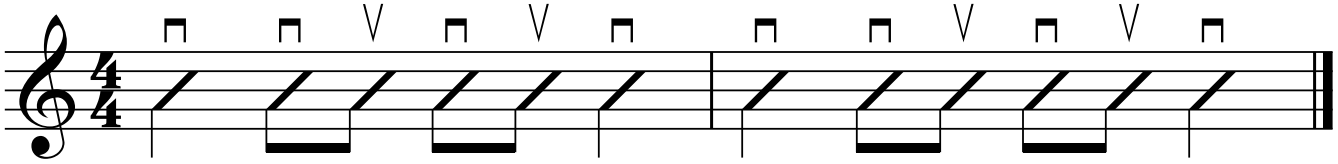
C.



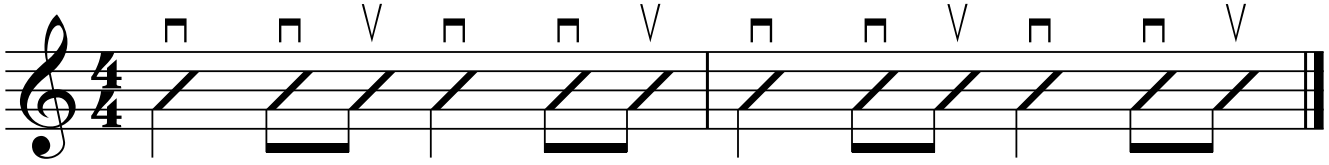
D.



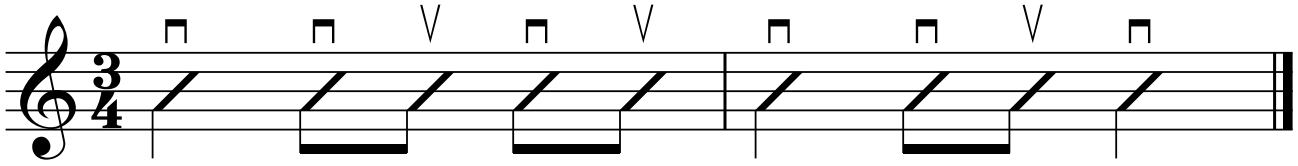
E.



F.

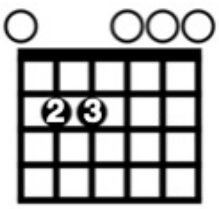


G.

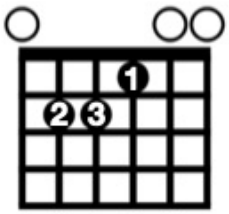


BEGINNER GUITAR CHORDS

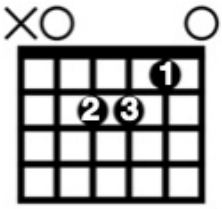
Em



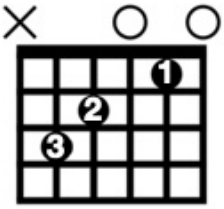
E



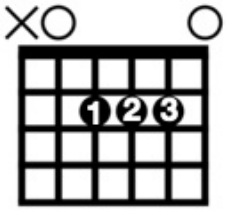
Am



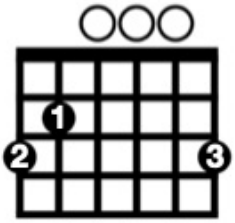
C



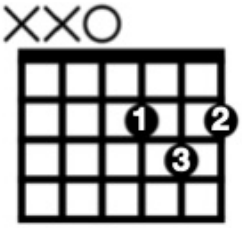
A



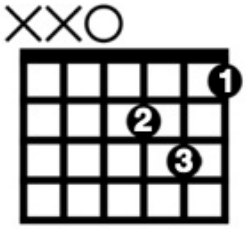
G



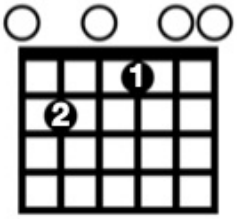
D



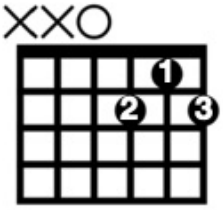
Dm



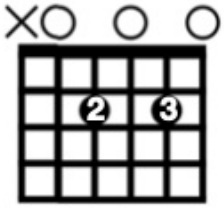
E^7



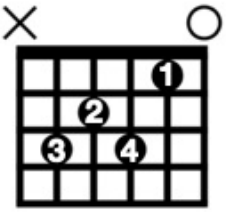
D^7



A^7

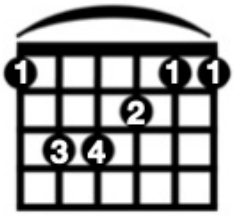


C^7



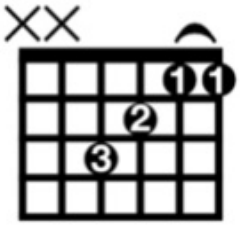
Regular

F

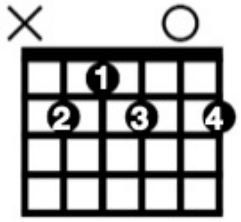


Easy

F



B^7



G^7

