

# Guitar Method

## Beginner: Book 1

This book has been a project in the works for over a year, and now my dream of releasing it has finally come true.

I would like to thank everyone who has encouraged or helped me along the way. Without you, this book would not have been possible.

Special thanks goes out to:

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Check us out on the web at [www.learningguitarnow.com](http://www.learningguitarnow.com)  
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# Preface

**W**elcome to *Guitar Volume 1*. Everyone has always dreamed of playing the guitar, right? Well, now you can. With this step by step, easy to follow method, you will be playing the guitar in a matter of days.

This book focuses on playing the guitar, not reading sheet music. I do show you how to read tablature, which is like a short hand for reading guitar music, but we will not be learning those nursery rhyme tunes that many method books have you starting on right away.

The main focus of this book is to teach beginners basic guitar playing knowledge. We will focus on chords, strumming, rhythm, basic scales, and beginning concepts of guitar playing.

Good luck in your musical journey.

*John Wayne*

## About the CD

All the musical examples in this book are included in the CD provided. When there is

a musical example you can listen to, a picture of a CD will be shown like this:  A track number will be listed underneath. Simply put your CD into the player and go to the corresponding track to listen to the example.

You will hear four clicks before the track begins and then the example will start. This will give you the tempo for the example. This is what a metronome does. Try to play along with all examples included on the CD.

# Guitar Parts



# Holding the Guitar

You should hold the guitar in your lap as follows:



Always keep your thumb on the back of the guitar neck (there are exceptions) and remember to always play on your fingertips as close to the frets as possible. Refer to the pictures below.



# Tuning the Guitar

Tuning the guitar can be quite a difficult task for anyone. The way the guitar is setup makes it difficult for the guitar to be in tune everywhere on the fret board. For this reason I suggest that you go out and buy an inexpensive tuner. You can usually find one for around \$20 at any music store.

Having your guitar in tune lets you concentrate on learning to play, not hours of learning how to tune. Besides, all the pros use tuners on stage when they play. Why do you think the lights go dim between songs!

## Relative Tuning

Relative tuning is a process of tuning the guitar that is based on the pitch of the low E string. All strings will be tuned according to the pitch of this string. If the low E string is pretty close to being in tune, then this process will work fine. If it isn't, then you will be tuning the guitar too low or too high. You can obtain the correct pitch for this string by using a piano or a pitch pipe. For more information on how to tune the guitar visit my website at [www.learningguitarnow.com](http://www.learningguitarnow.com).

Once you have the pitch for the E string, you will then tune all the other strings by using the sound of another string.

Use these steps to tune the guitar by using relative tuning.

1. To tune the A string put your finger on the 5<sup>th</sup> fret of the low E string. This will give you the sound for the A string.
2. Now put your finger on the 5<sup>th</sup> fret of the A string. This will give you the sound for the next string down, the D string.
3. Again put your finger on the 5<sup>th</sup> fret of the D string. This will give you the sound for the next string down which is the G string.
4. Now when you get to the G string, put your finger on the 4<sup>th</sup> fret to give you the sound of the next string down which is the B string.
5. Finally put your finger on the 5<sup>th</sup> fret of the B string to get the sound for the next string down which is the high E string.

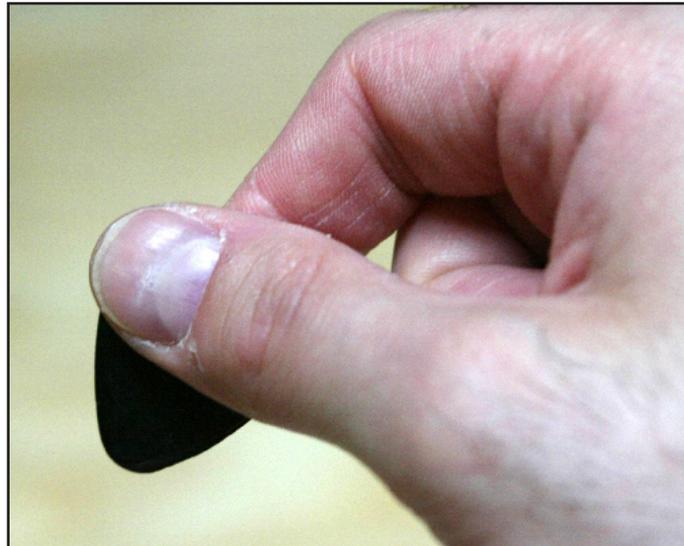
Tuning this way takes practice, which is why I recommend buying a tuner. You will be very glad you did.

# Using a Pick

One question many people have when they begin learning the guitar is “What kind of pick should I use?” The answer is simple. Use whatever feels comfortable for you. Some people use thick picks. Some use thin. Each kind of pick has a different sound to it, so experiment with different ones.

When you decide what kind of pick to use, try holding it between your thumb and your index finger or your thumb and middle finger. Remember, do what feels comfortable for you.

Take a look at the picture below. This will give you a reference on how to hold the pick.



Some people don't even use a pick. I myself just use my fingers a lot of the time, although I do use a pick for certain things. I believe you should learn to use both. There are certain things that will sound better with a pick, and certain things that will sound better using your fingers. To find out what feels the most comfortable, experiment with different picks and using only your fingers.

In this book, we will concentrate on using the pick. In my opinion, it is necessary to learn how to play with a pick in order to achieve the many sounds capable on the guitar.

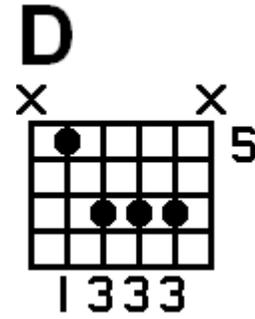
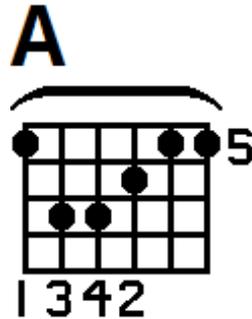


# Barre Chord Chart

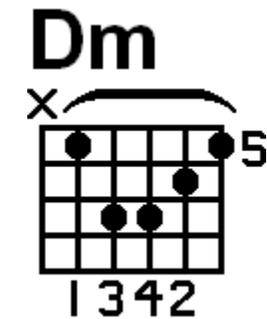
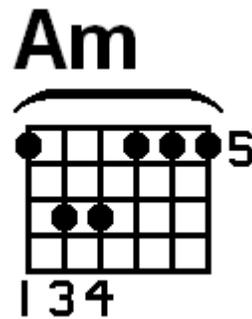
Root on E string

Root on A string

## Major



## Minor



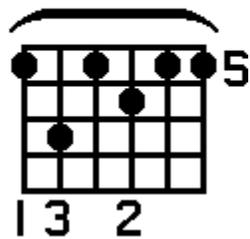
# Barre Chord Chart cont.

Root on E string

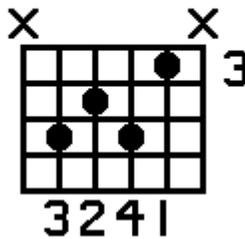
Root on A string

## Dom. 7<sup>th</sup>

### A7

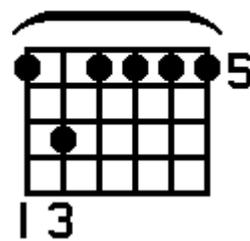


### D7

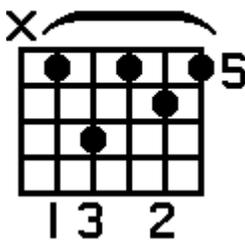


## Minor 7<sup>th</sup>

### Am7



### Dm7

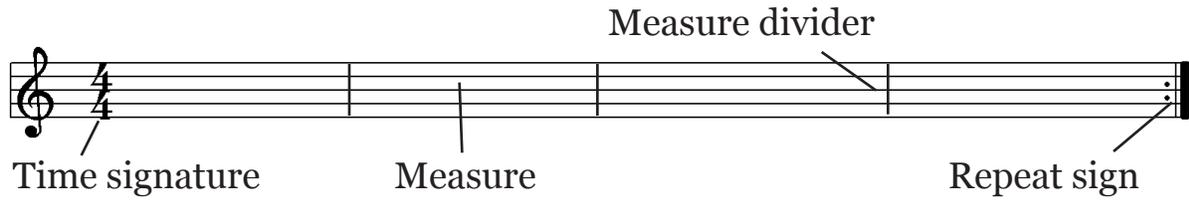


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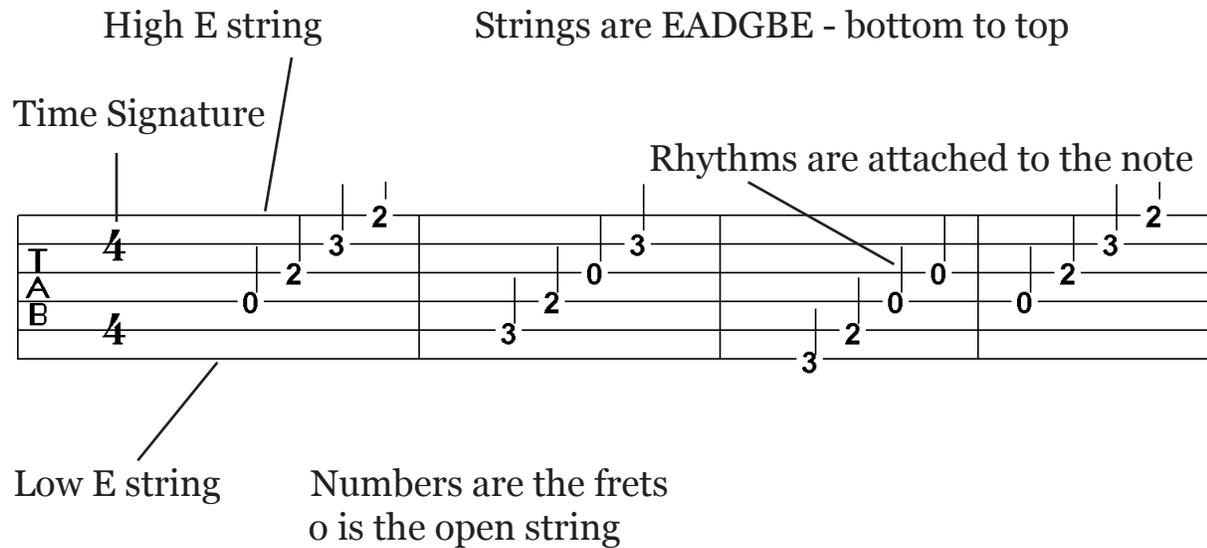
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# Treble clef



# Tablature



# Part 1

# Rhythm Guitar

# Lesson 1

## Learning to read chord charts

The most important thing to know when learning how to play the guitar is chords. Chords allow you to play all the songs you ever wanted to learn. To play these chords, we must first learn how to read chord charts. Don't worry, this is fairly simple. To read these chord charts, we must remember 3 things:

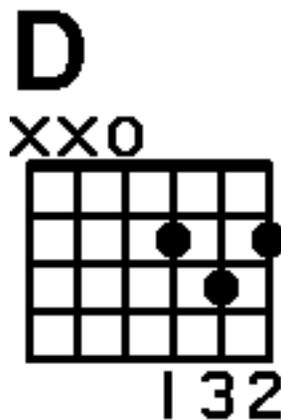
- What finger do I use?
- What string do I play on?
- What fret do I play on?

Your fingers are labeled as follows:

- 1 – index finger
- 2 – middle finger
- 3 – ring finger
- 4 – pinky

These numbers will be shown on a chord chart like this.

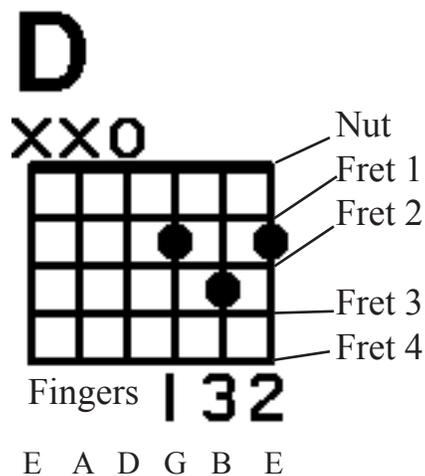
X- do not play  
O- open string



The black dots are the places to put your fingers. Underneath are the numbers 1, 3, and 2. These numbers represent which fingers to use to hold down a string.

The strings are the vertical lines, with the far left line being the thickest string- the low E string.

The frets are the horizontal lines. As you can see, they are labeled on the right. When playing on a fret, remember to play immediately behind the fret. For example, if you need to play on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret, count up 2 frets then put your finger immediately behind the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret. This will give you the best possible sound from the guitar. Take a look at the chord chart on the next page. We will dissect all the parts so it makes sense to you.

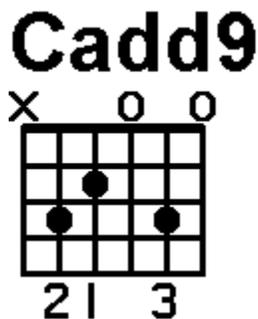
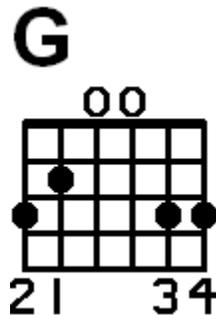
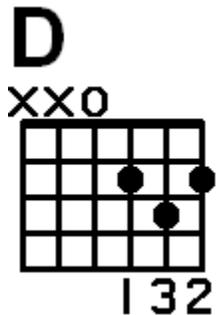


To play the D chord shown above, start reading from left to right. This means to find the 1<sup>st</sup> finger, then the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> finger. It's just like reading a book. Start with finding your 1<sup>st</sup> finger, which is your index finger. Now find what string to play on. To do this, count from the left to the right until you get to the string which is played by your 1<sup>st</sup> finger. In this case, it is the 4<sup>th</sup> string from the left. Now find which fret to play on. Count down the frets. Fret 1, Fret 2. Your 1<sup>st</sup> finger goes on the 4<sup>th</sup> string down on the second fret. Now repeat the process for each finger. Not only can you now read chord charts, you also know the D chord!

**Tip - try to relax when you practice. It will make your playing sound so much better.**

# Lesson 2

## Playing D, G and Cadd9



These three chords can be used to play many popular songs. Memorize these chords and practice changing between them. Concentrate on changing the chords smoothly and slowly until you memorize where your fingers are supposed to go.

In the following example, play each chord 4 times. The slashes beneath the chord represent each time you strum the chord. Strum down with the pick, and try to achieve a good sound.



Track 1

D

Cadd9

G

D

