



BECOMING A

ROCKSTAR GUITARIST

IN JUST 6 LESSONS

- LEARN TO READ TAB EASILY
- PLAY REAL ROCK SONGS
- FREE JAM TRACKS ONLINE



Well done.

You've have just made the decision to begin an amazing transformation. Hi, I'm Leigh Jones (here I am) I made **ROCKADEMY MASTERS** and this little book too. In the next couple of minutes, you will be on your way to becoming a **Rockstar**. No, seriously, this is how it all starts, with the basics. Anything is possible now that **you** have the motivation to learn the basics of guitar where a whole new world of fun, sound effects, hours upon hours ogling over *Expensive* guitars and a thousand lost plectrums, awaits. By the end of this book, you will, well, you will have finished the book..!? No, wait, that isn't very 'Yoda' of me is it, I need to say something more wise and profound....



"MUSIC GIVES A SOUL TO THE UNIVERSE, WINGS TO THE MIND, FLIGHT TO THE IMAGINATION, AND LIFE TO EVERYTHING." - PLATO

Who is this book for?

Kids, grown ups, uncles, great grandmas... pretty much anyone with the desire to play like their guitar hero can use the ideas and methods in this book to get to know the basics of playing a guitar.

What will I learn?

You can venture off and learn to read music, by all means expand your mind and knowledge if that's what you crave. *You won't learn that here...* my purpose is to get you to play your guitar in **very quick and easy steps**. Having tested these idea with well over 500 students, I know what works, well known songs and reading guitar TAB is the way to **rockstar** status fast. What is TAB? You will find out shortly. And with that knowledge you will go on to learn millions of cool songs.

What do I need?

A guitar. A guitar tuner (optional, but a good idea). Some time to play. And an audience to show off your skills.

Is there more?

Well, I'm glad you asked. We have over 100+ video lessons that support not only these lessons inside this book, but dozens of other cool tricks, tips, and tunes AND a bunch of backing tracks to support some of the lessons in this book, over at www.rockademymasters.co.uk – go check it out!

THAT'S ENOUGH CHAT. LET'S ROCK!

Page Contents

Page 1-4

LESSON 1 GETTING TO KNOW THE GUITAR

Page 5

LESSON 2 OPEN STRING RIFFS

Page 6-8

LESSON 3 FRETTING

Page 9-10

LESSONS 4 SONGS ON 2 STRINGS

Page 11

LESSONS 5 SONGS ON 3 STRINGS

Page 12-13

LESSONS 6 FINGER STRENGTH EXERCISES

Page 14

BLANK TAB TO PRINT OUT



Free jam track when you see the headphone symbol next to the title of the track

To find it, just head to www.rockademymasters.co.uk/free-stuff/



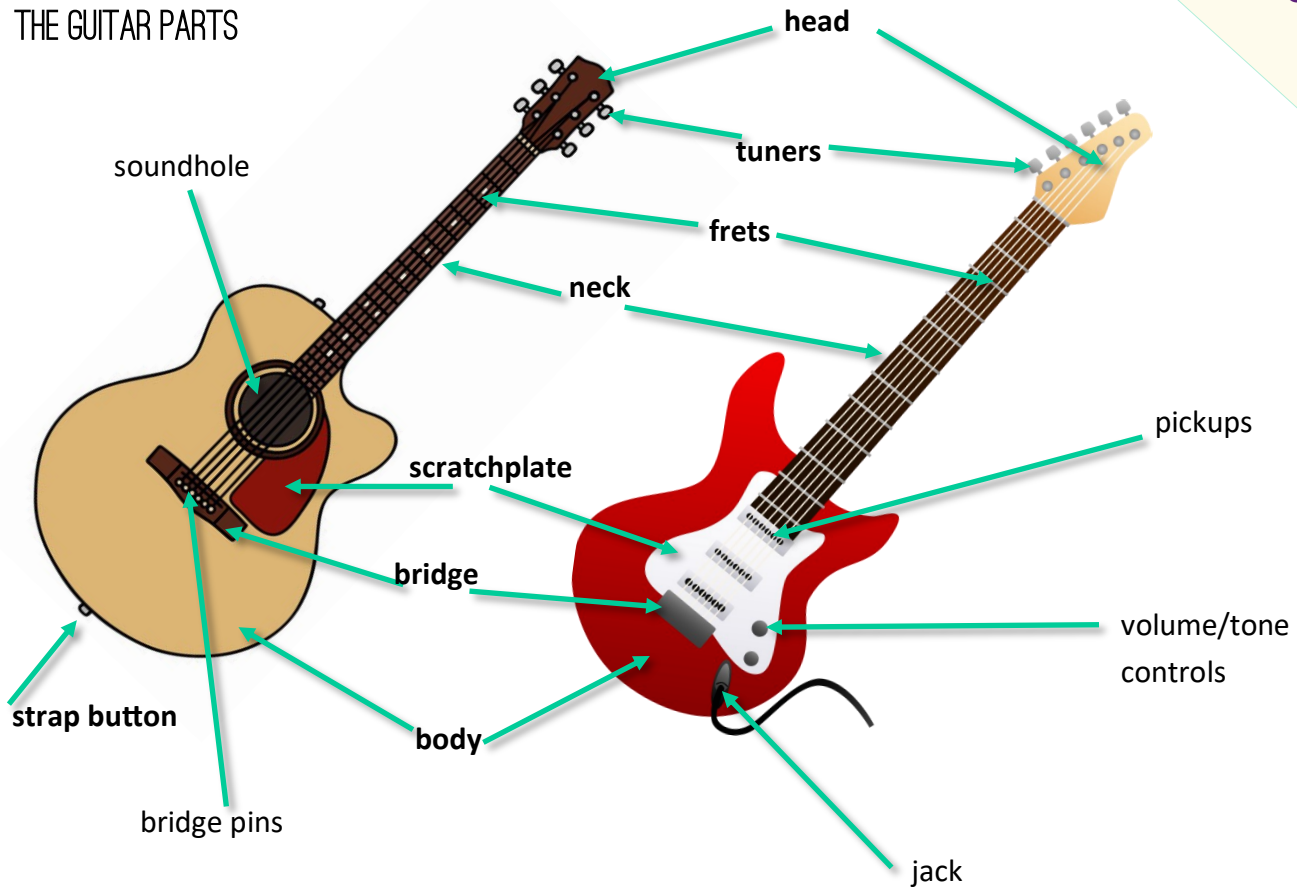
[WWW.ROCKADEMYMASTERS.CO.UK](http://www.rockademymasters.co.uk)

In this first lesson you will learn how the guitar works, you will find out what the parts of the guitar are, what TAB is (and how to read it), you will discover what the strings are tuned to and how to hold the thing too. Lets jump straight to it.

Lesson 1

getting to know the GUITAR

THE GUITAR PARTS



Do you have an acoustic (left) or electric (right)? Some parts of guitars are the same (**in bold**) others will be just found on either an acoustic or electric. Main thing to know is that the way you play an electric or acoustic is the same. The sound will differ a little bit and sometimes the strings can feel different. Acoustics are normally bigger bodied and lighter to hold than electrics, which are skinner but heavier.

HOW TO HOLD A GUITAR

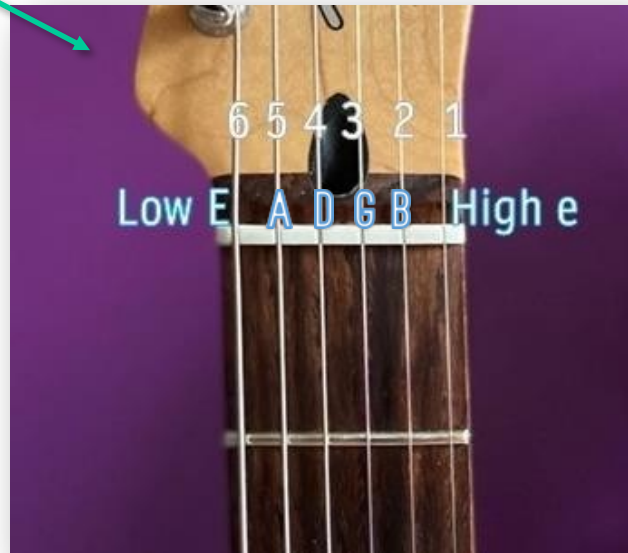
Sounds easy, I know, but you would not believe how many beginners are unsure of how to hold a guitar. The image below shows an example of correct posture sitting with the guitar. For right handed players...

- Body sits on the right leg, above the knee
- Keep the left hand thumb behind the neck, the fingers fret the strings
- Right hand plucks/strums the strings
- Never point the head down towards the floor, this will cause discomfort on your left hand
- Keep loose, avoid 'strangling' the neck



STRINGS & TUNING UP

You should have 6 strings on your guitar. Have a quick count. Any more or less and I recommend a quick visit to a local music shop to get that sorted! Assuming you have 6 strings, let's look at what they are.



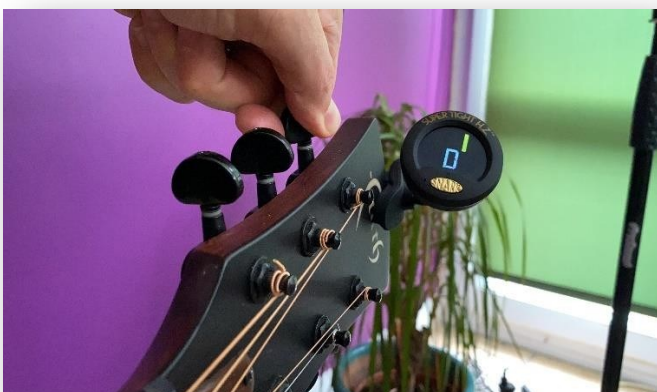
They each have a letter, tuned to a musical note (or pitch). From the lowest pitch (sounding) note, we have E A D G B E. Or, an easy way is to say Eddie Ate Dynamite Good Bye Eddie.

THIS WILL BE GOOD TO REMEMBER WHEN YOU START TO READ TAB

Now knowing the notes of the strings and seeing that each string is also numbered from 1 – 6... lets get you tuning the thing so it sounds pretty. HEADS UP electric tuners can display either letters or numbers, so do see the instructions to select what you prefer.

Always know which way to move the tuning pegs/machine heads.. Typically, clockwise will loosen the string, *flattening the note* – Anti clockwise will do the opposite- tightening the string, *sharpening the note*.

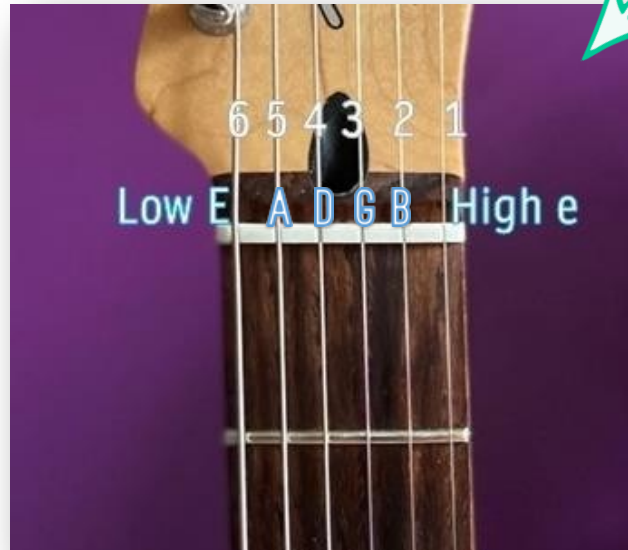
ELECTRIC TUNERS:



They come in all shapes and sizes, even some are operated by foot (a foot switch).

The principle to use them is the same. They will display the note of the string you are plucking. Be careful, do not pluck 2 or more strings, the device will only detect the loudest one. Also, try and pluck and nice medium volume.

MANUAL TUNING



I KNOW, WE USED THIS PICTURE ON THE PAGE BEFORE. IT IS A HERE TO REMIND YOU AND WILL SAVE YOU 4 SECONDS TURNING THE PAGE BACK :)

This is how to tune with no help from a gadget or an app. A little tricky at first but it speeds up the more you do it.

Strings are tuned in perfect 4ths (except the G-B which is a 3rd).. not sure what this means? Put simply, it means the musical interval between each string, which comes from the major scale. Quick example, the 4th note of the E major scale is A. Check out the lesson on Major Scale for more on this at www.rockademymasters.co.uk

Assuming the high e is tuned:

To tune the B string: Fret 5 on B, tune to the open e (high e)

To tune the G string: Fret 4 on G, tune to the open B

To tune the D string: Fret 5 on D, tune to the open G

To tune the A string: Fret 5 on A, tune to the open D

To tune the LOW E string: Fret 5 on low E, tune to the open A

PRO TIPS: ALWAYS PLUCK AND TURN. THINK OF THE TUNER AS AN EAR THAT NEEDS TO HEAR THE NOTE. ALWAYS SMALL TURNS NEVER GO CRAZY TURNING A LOT OR YOU COULD SNAP A STRING!!

READING TAB

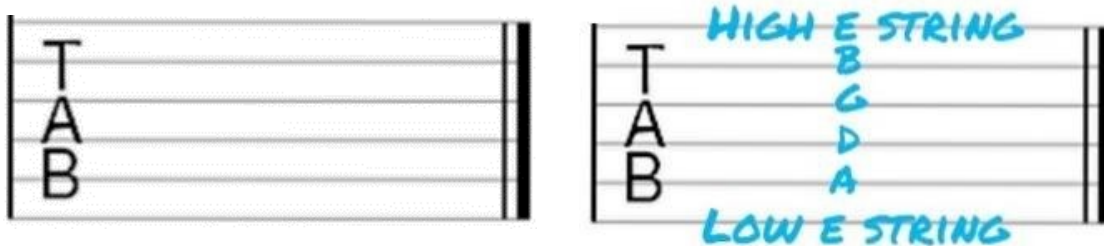
Tablature (or **tab**) is a way to read music for **fretted string instruments like a guitar, bass, uke.**

It's origins go back to the renaissance when a lot of music for the lute was originally written on tab. Nowadays tab is commonly used to notate modern guitar music.

A guitar tab *staff/stave* has **6 lines** that show each of the 6 strings. The **low E string** is the **bottom line**, the **high E string** at the **top**. When you hold your guitar these string will be opposite way round.

WE CALL IT LOW E BECAUSE IT IS LOWER PITCHED, AND HIGH BECAUSE IT IS HIGHER PITCHED.

This is a blank tab chart:

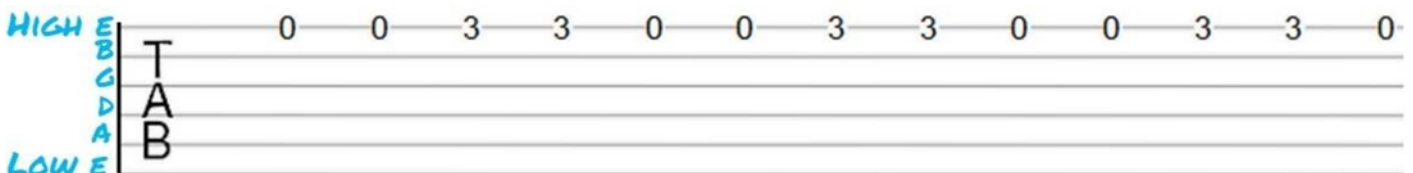
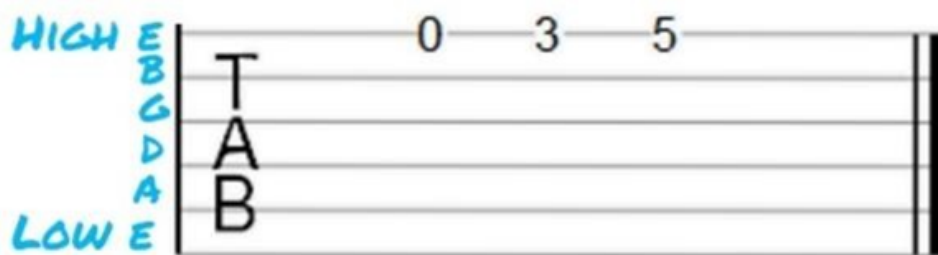


When numbers are written on the lines (see below), each **number** represents a note to **fret** on the guitar.

A number **0** means an *open string* - no finger needed on a fret, a number **1** means first fret, a **2** second fret, etc etc.

When the numbers are **next to each other** on the tab staff they should be played **after each other**.

You read tab from the left to the right



You can't read the note values on tab but **tab is a very quick way to read music**. It will be a lot easier to read a guitar tab if you know the song or have a recording of it so you know the rhythm and use your ear to listen to the riffs as you try to play along. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO LEARN IS:

GUITAR TAB IS NOT A MIRROR IMAGE OF THE GUITAR. I KNOW THAT'S ODD BUT ITS TRUE.. THE BOTTOM TAB LINE IS THE LOW E STRING

Assuming you can count to 4, let's get you plucking the strings in time. Here we have what we call 4/4 - 4 beats per bar.

Lesson 2

open string

RIFFS

The first couple of songs are designed to get you plucking open strings in time to the beat. Read the letter (which is the string). TAB is also shown.

Count along out loud, or better still, in your head and aim to play the note at the same time as the beat as shown. The beats are the **GREEN** numbers. The strings are the **BLUE** letters.



SONG 1: 'FUNKEE BEET' - using the high E and B string

THE BEATS THAT ARE GREY... COUNT THEM TOO BUT DON'T PLAY A NOTE BUT IF THAT'S TOO TRICKY, JUST PLAY THE NOTE, IT'LL SOUND FINE

SONG 2: 'JINGLE BELL BLUES' - using the Low E, A and D strings

JINGLE BELL BLUES IS NAMED BECAUSE THE RHYTHM OF THE NOTES IS THE SAME AS THAT WORLD FAMOUS FESTIVE SONG, YOU GUESSED IT, JINGLE BELLS!!

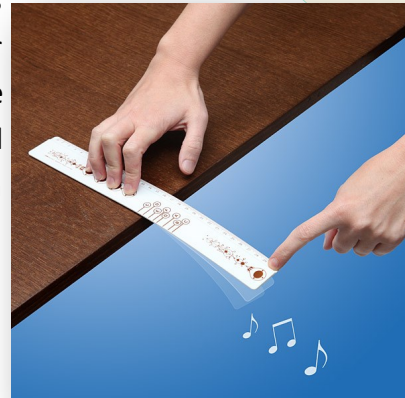
Lesson 3

FRETTING

This isn't as hard as you think. When you **fret** a note, it means to place a finger, or fingers down on the string (for now, let's just focus on one finger). What happens when you fret a note is you change the *pitch*. **You get a higher pitched note when you fret high up the neck** (closer to the body) because you have shortened the strings length. A bit like when you were in school and you hold a ruler down on the edge of a table and bring it up and down... the more ruler you have over the edge, the *lower* the **boing** and less ruler you have the higher the boing. Same goes with strings. **Lower frets = lower pitch / Higher frets = higher pitch.**

REMEMBER — HIGH FRETS NEAR THE BODY

LOW FRETS NEAR THE HEAD



HOW TO FRET RIGHT

There's a bit of technique to follow to get the best sound when you fret a note. Follow these instructions:

1. Keep your thumb at the back of the neck—this will let you *squeeze* down onto the fret
2. Try to have a hook shape with your finger
3. Use the pad of your finger tip—note; at first this may feel funny/tingly, after a few days of playing on frets may even begin to get sore. Don't worry, it has happened to all us guitar players. Take a day or so off for the skin to recover and it will begin to harden the more you play
4. Press firmly down just behind the fret wire. **TRY IT NOW. HOW DOES IT SOUND?**
5. Don't press too hard or it will hurt. And don't press too light or you will hear a dull note or buzz. Guitars vary... Practice finding that sweet spot and remember the amount of 'muscle' power you need to hear a perfect note.



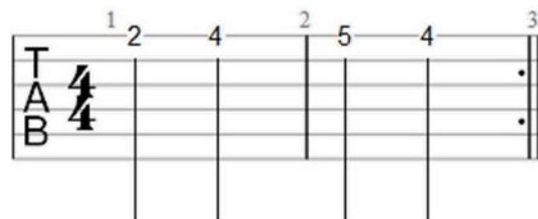
LET'S JAM-SONGS ON 1 STRING

My mission in this guide book is to have you become an **independent guitar player** and part of that will require you to be able to read songs, on your own, using TAB. The next few songs I picked for you will be all on **1 string only**, changing the frets up and down the neck. Remember, we need to change frets to get different notes, that's what makes music sound interesting!

PRO TIPS: TAKE IT SLOW AND STEADY. ALWAYS GET A CLEAR, BUZZ FREE SOUND WHEN YOU FRET A NOTE... THIS MEANS YOU MIGHT NEED TO ADJUST THE FINGER POSITION AS YOU LEARN THESE TUNES, THAT'S OKAY. YOUR FIRST FINGER (THE ONE YOU POINT WITH / PICK YOUR NOSE WITH) IS STATISTICALLY THE STRONGEST FINGER ON YOUR HAND, WHICH IS A RECOMMENDED FINGER TO USE.

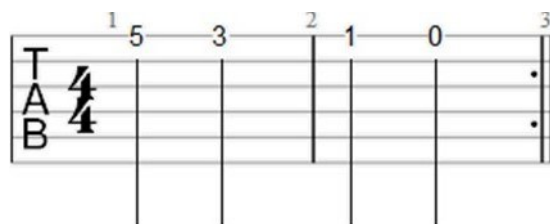
Okay, let's do this. Learn these songs in any order. Use the power of the internet to look up these famous pop/rock songs to get an idea of the rhythm of the riffs. TAB will show the notes to play but not the speed in which to play them.

BILLIE JEAN-MICHAEL JACKSON

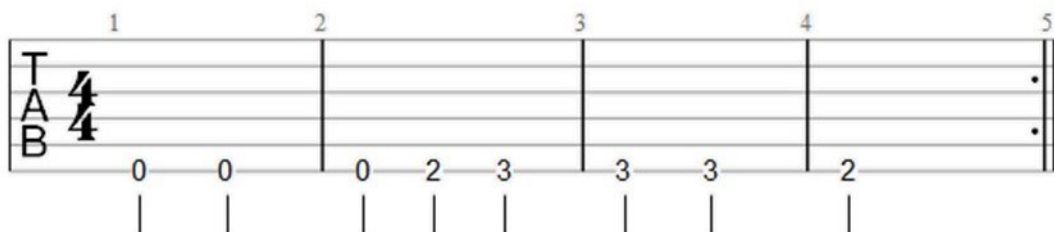


THE DOUBLE DOTS AT THE END ARE A 'REPEAT' MARKING. THIS MEANS PLAY THE WHOLE SECTION AGAIN

HIT THE ROAD JACK-RAY CHARLES



SATISFACTION-ROLLING STONES



SMOKE ON THE WATER-DEEP PURPLE

1 0 3 5 | 2 0 3 6 5 | 3 0 3 5 | 4 3 0 | 5

SHAPE OF YOU-ED SHEERAN

1 2 5 2 | 2 5 2 | 3 2 5 2 | 4 4 2 0 | 5

7 NATION ARMY-WHITE STRIPES

1 5 | 2 5 8 5 | 3 3 1 | 4 0 | 5

THE SECRET TO GETTING GOOD AT GUITAR IS TO HAVE A GO AT LEARNING AS MANY SONGS AS YOU CAN.

PLEASE EXPLORE LEARNING EASY SONGS YOU KNOW AND LOVE AT THIS STAGE, IT WILL REALLY HELP YOU. A WEBSITE I LIKE TO USE FOR FREE SONG TABS IS WWW.ULTIMATE-GUITAR.COM

REMEMBER THESE KEY BITS OF INFO...

Lesson 4

songs on TWO strings

Keep in mind the position of your fretted finger – you want to be just behind the fret and pressing down firmly. Keeping your thumb around the back of the neck too, as this will allow you to grip on the neck better.

There is a string guide on the left side of the stave next to the word TAB. I popped this here to help you see what string you should be playing.

Try playing along to these popular tracks a few times as it will now help you get used to moving your picking hand (the one that plucks the strings) and your fretting fingers. It takes more concentration here but it's all good fun...

JAMES BOND THEME - WARMING UP, MOVING FROM A TO E

A guitar TAB for the James Bond Theme. On the left, a vertical string guide shows strings E, A, D, G, B, E from bottom to top. The TAB is written on a six-line staff. The top line (E) has a dot at the end. The second line (A) has a dot at the end. The bottom line (E) has a series of fret numbers: 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0. The word 'TAB' is written vertically on the left side of the staff.

JAMES BOND THEME - THE INTRO

A guitar TAB for the James Bond Theme - The Intro. On the left, a vertical string guide shows strings E, A, D, G, B, E from bottom to top. The TAB is written on a six-line staff. The top line (E) has a dot at the end. The second line (A) has a dot at the end. The bottom line (E) has a series of fret numbers: 2, 0, 3, 0, 4, 0, 3, 0. The word 'TAB' is written vertically on the left side of the staff.

SMOKE ON THE WATER - DEEP PURPLE (PLAYED ON 2 STRINGS AT THE SAME TIME)

A guitar TAB for Smoke on the Water - Deep Purple. On the left, a vertical string guide shows strings E, A, D, G, B, E from bottom to top. The TAB is written on a six-line staff. The top line (E) has a dot at the end. The second line (A) has a dot at the end. The bottom line (E) has a series of fret numbers: 0, 3, 5, 0, 3, 6, 5, 0, 3, 5, 3, 0. The word 'TAB' is written vertically on the left side of the staff.

JINGLE BELLS

W
A
D
A
M
T
A
B

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 1 3 0 | 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 3 3 0 3

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 1 3 0 | 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 3 3 1 3 1

BLINDING LIGHTS-THE WEEKND

W
A
D
A
M
T
A
B

0 0 3 0 2 0 3 | 0 0 3 0 2 0 3

5 2 0 3 5 2 0 3 0

Each song here will get you playing on 3 strings. But in total, at the end of this page, you will have fretted over each of the 6 strings.

Lesson 5

songs on THREE strings

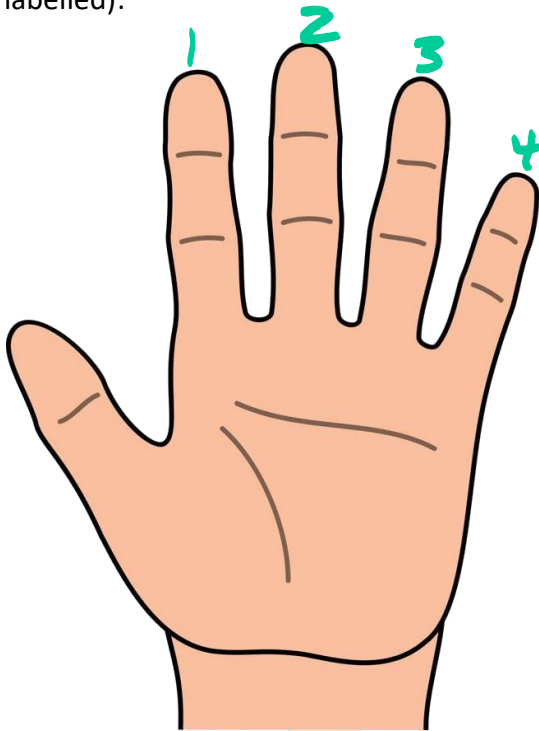
SUNSHINE OF YOUR LOVE-CREAM

THE OTHERSIDE-RED HOT CHILLI PEPPERS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3 STRING ROCK

On your fretting hand, each finger is numbered like this (thumb isn't labelled):



Lesson 6

finger strength EXERCISES

WHAT IS MY FRETTING
HAND? IF YOU ARE
PLAYING RIGHT
HANDED, ITS YOUR LEFT
HAND. IF YOU ARE LEFT
HANDED IT IS YOUR
RIGHT HAND

Warm up/strength exercises are good to because it will stretch the muscles in your hand and in your fingers. In the long term this will help your hand and fingers build muscle and strength, letting you play longer and eventually faster. Treat these exercises like going to the gym... After one sessions you won't look like The Hulk, but with consistent effort, you will see results. Follow the **GREEN FINGER NUMBERS** which will tell you which fretting finger to use for each note.

EXERCISE #1

T																					
A																					
B	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	2						
		1	2		1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2					

EXERCISE #2

T	2	1	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	2	1	0						
A																					
B																					
		2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	0	

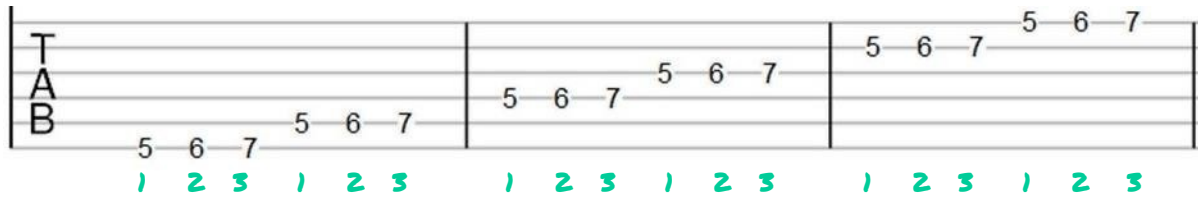
EXERCISE #3

T																					
A																					
B	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	
		1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2

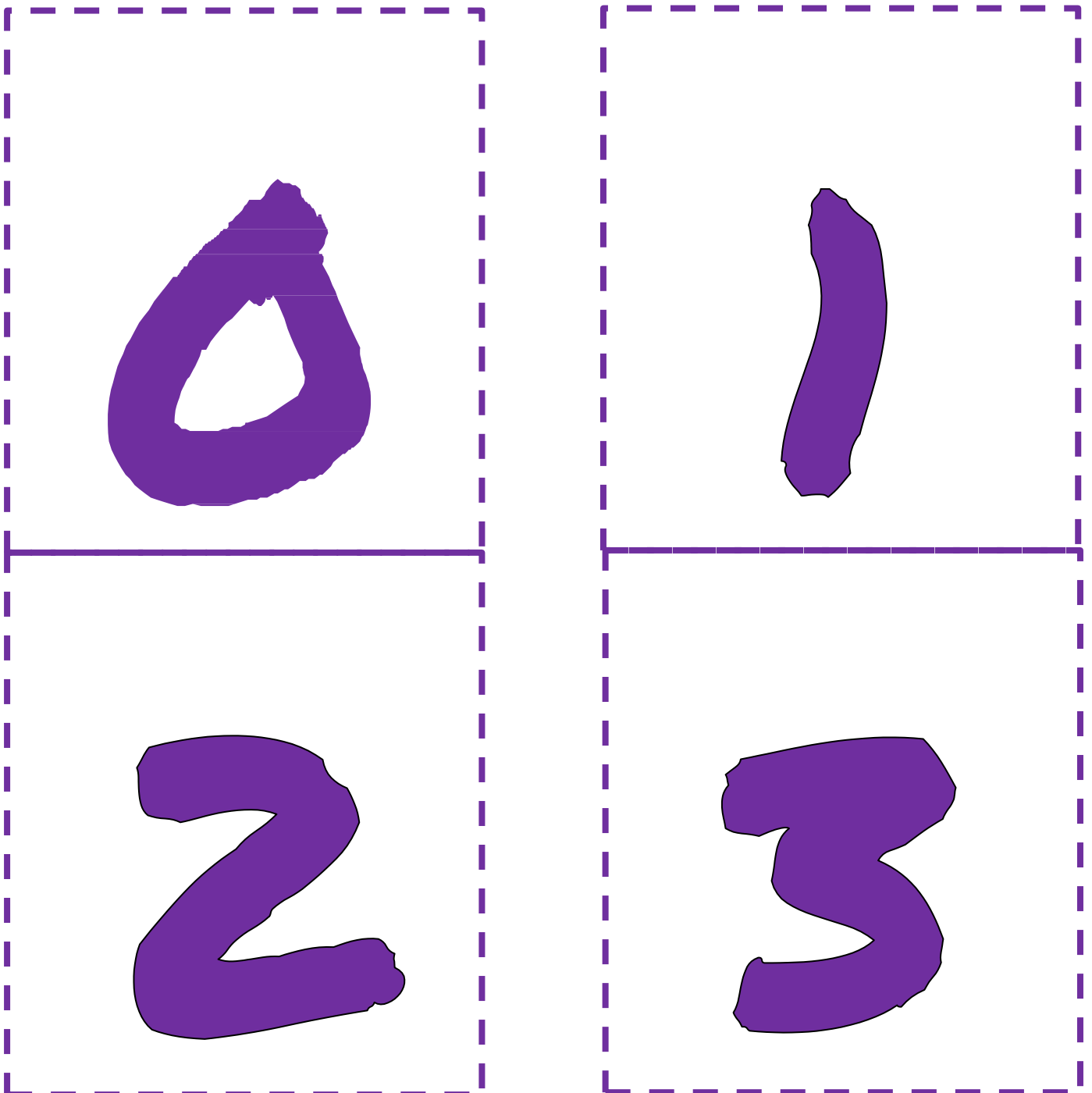
EXERCISE #4

T	3	2	1	0	3	2	1	0	3	2	1	0	3	2	1	0	3	2	1	0
A																				
B																				
	3	2	1		3	2	1		3	2	1		3	2	1		3	2	1	0

EXERCISE #5 - for this one you can use any 3 frets that are next to each other, we use 5,6 and 7



EXERCISE #6 - my favourite, I've been teaching this to students for years. This is to get you randomly generating the fingers and frets. You can cut these out, or copy them onto paper yourself to make 4 cards. Face down, shuffle the 'now' cards. Lay them out and you will have an order of numbers like; 2310 or 0132 or 1203 and so on. Each card is the finger to use and you can choose the frets. Keep it simple at first by playing frets that are next to each other.



Print Off

Blank

TAB SHEETS

E
B
G
D
A
E

E
B
G
D
A
E

E
B
G
D
A
E

E
B
G
D
A
E

The End...

...for now

I really hope you have enjoyed this guitar book and hope you are now on your way to becoming a real life Rock Star! I also want to thank you for choosing to sturdy the methods that are inside this book.

If I may *shamelessly* ask you to give us a like, a thumbs up and a follow on social media, tag us [@rockademymasters](#) and or [@rockademy](#), tag your friends, post vids and pics of your newly crafted savage guitar skills that you have learned in this book and, so long as we are tagged, we will 100% watch them and try to give you a big thumbs up too.



WHAT DID WE MISS?

Accidently (*on purpose*) there was little or no mention about whether you should use a guitar pick and until lesson 6, I never said you should use a particular finger to play the notes. Why? This book is a very fast track way to get you to play guitar, to play a bunch of rock and pop songs with no fuss and the bare minimum guitar theory. In the beginning, its more important you are:

- A. playing lots
- B. having fun
- C. getting better at the songs
- D. eager to learn more

and I hope that this book ticks those boxes.

If you are keen to progress further , then **you need to get the next book in this series asap**. Head to www.rockademymasters.co.uk and simply search for the books we have available.

For now, I'll say "cheerio", until next time...

leigh jones

