The Guitar Picture Book

Your First 8 Chords

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome!

The idea in creating this book is to introduce students to a teaching method that allows beginners to simulate the environment of a one on one private lesson with the comfort of learning at your own pace.

The chords introduced in this book are some of the most commonly used guitar chords. With a little practice and dedication to this method you will be playing guitar and switching chords with perfect sound.

FRETS, STRINGS and tuning

FRETS? Fret wires are placed into the neck of the guitar. In between the fret wires are the frets where you place your fingers.(fig.1)

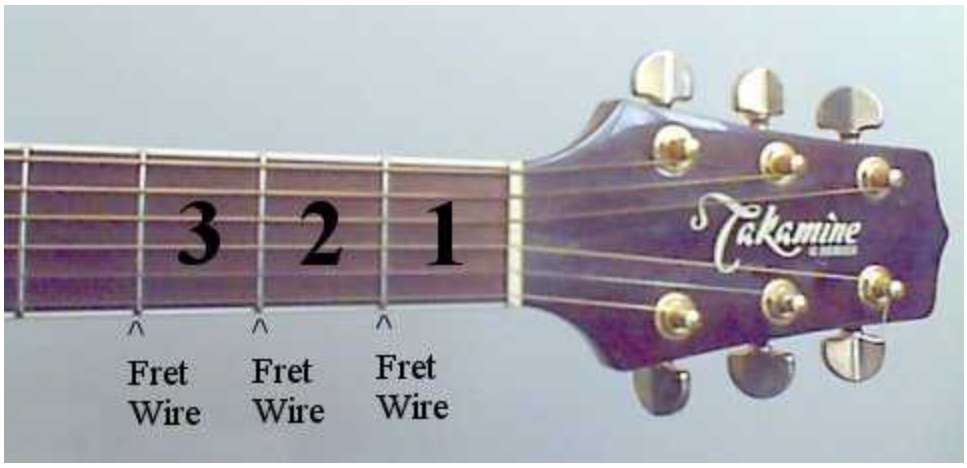


fig.1

STRINGS? There are six strings on a guitar. They are numbered starting from the thinnest (1) to the thickest (6). (fig.2)

fig.2

TUNING? There are various ways to tune a guitar. You can tune by ear, with a pitch pipe or an electronic tuner. Electronic tuners can be purchased for under $20.

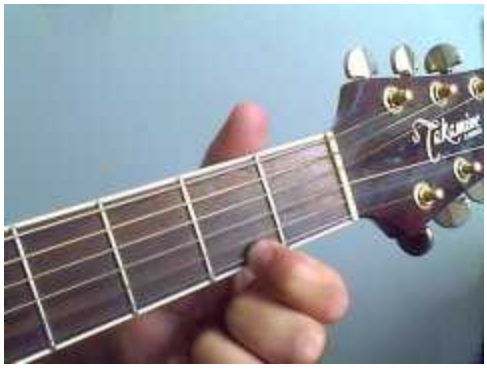
A guitar is tuned to the following notes.

6^{th} = E 5^{th} = A 4^{th} = D 3^{rd} = G 2^{nd} = B 1^{st} = E.

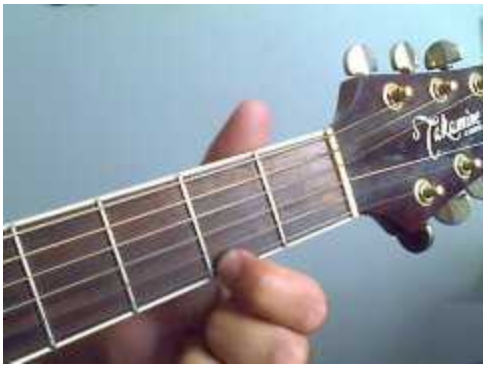
If you do not have a tuner you can visit www.guitarinstructor.ca.

TIPS

1. The closer your finger is to the fret wire the easier it is to produce sound. The example below shows a finger placed on the first string in the second fret.

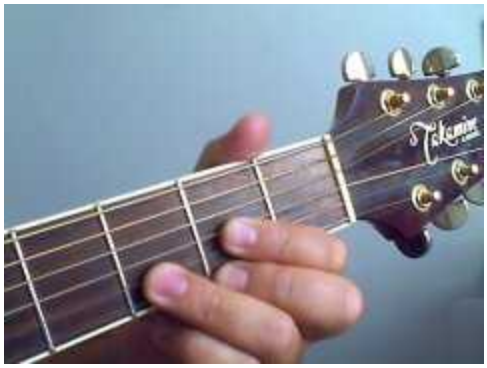


Harder to produce sound

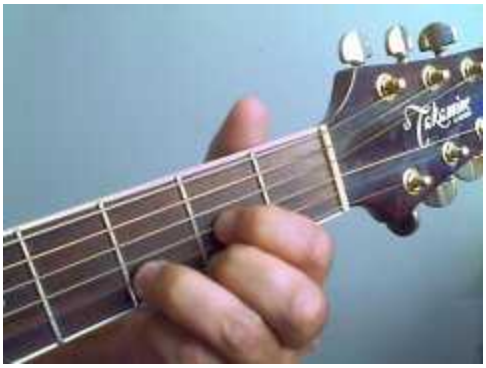


Easier to produce sound

2. Curl and use the tip of each finger to avoid muffling the other strings. The example below shows the difference between not curling your fingers and curling your fingers.



Fingers not curled



Fingers curled

3. When you are practicing a chord try to get a clear sound from every fretted string. Pluck the strings one at a time.

4. When practicing switching chords try and visualize the next chord before you move your fingers.

5. Relax! It is very important not create any tension. If you are tense it is harder to move your fingers and harder to switch chords.

6. Have fun! Allow yourself some time to adjust and get comfortable with your guitar.

A MAJOR CHORD

1. Place your 1st finger on the 3rd string in the 2nd fret. (fig.1)

fig.1

2. Place your 2nd finger on the 4th string in the 2nd fret. (fig.2)

fig.2

3. Place your 3rd finger on the 2nd string in the 2nd fret. (fig.3)

fig.3

The basic strumming of this chord is produced from strumming the 5th string down.

A MINOR CHORD

1. Place your 1st finger on the 2nd string in the 1st fret. (fig.1)

fig.1

2. Place your 2nd finger on the 4th string in the 2nd fret. (fig.2)

fig.2

3. Place your 3rd finger on the 3rd string in the 2nd fret. (fig.3)

fig.3

The basic strumming of this chord is produced from strumming the 5th string down.

C MAJOR CHORD

1. Place your 1st finger on the 2nd string in the 1st fret. (fig.1)

fig.1

2. Place your 2nd finger on the 4th string in the 2nd fret. (fig.2)

fig.2

3. Place your 3rd finger on the 5th string in the 3rd fret. (fig.3)

fig.3

The basic strumming of this chord is produced from strumming the 5th string down.

D MAJOR CHORD

1. Place your 1st finger on the 3rd string in the 2nd fret. (fig.1)

fig.1

2. Place your 2nd finger on the 1st string in the 2nd fret. (fig.2)

fig.2

3. Place your 3rd finger on the 2nd string in the 3rd fret. (fig.3)

fig.3

The basic strumming of this chord is produced from strumming the 4th string down.

D MINOR CHORD

1. Place your 1st finger on the 1st string in the 1st fret. (fig.1)

fig.1

2. Place your 2nd finger on the 3rd string in the 2nd fret. (fig.2)

fig.2

3. Place your 3rd finger on the 2nd string in the 3rd fret. (fig.3)

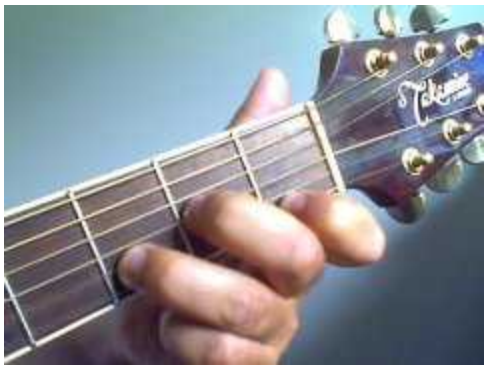


fig.3

The basic strumming of this chord is produced from strumming the 4th string down.

E MAJOR CHORD

1. Place your 1st finger on the 3rd string in the 1st fret. (fig.1)

fig.1

2. Place your 2nd finger on the 5th string in the 2nd fret. (fig.2)

fig.2

3. Place your 3rd finger on the 4th string in the 2nd fret. (fig.3)

fig.3

The basic strumming of this chord is produced from strumming the 6th string down.

E MINOR CHORD

1. Place your 2nd finger on the 5th string in the 2nd fret. (fig.1)

fig.1

2. Place your 3rd finger on the 4th string in the 2nd fret. (fig.2)

fig.2

The basic strumming of this chord is produced from strumming the 6th string down.

G MAJOR CHORD

1. Place your 1st finger on the 5th string in the 2nd fret. (fig.1)

fig.1

2. Place your 2nd finger on the 6th string in the 3rd fret. (fig.2)

fig.2

3. Place your 3rd finger on the 1st string in the 3rd fret. (fig.3)

fig.3

The basic strumming of this chord is produced from strumming the 6th string down.

Switching chords

The object of this exercise is to help eliminate or reduce the time it takes to switch from one chord to another.

1. Choose two chords that you would like to practice switching.

2. Hold one of the two chords in place and start strumming very slowly and consistently with your right hand.

3. Count 8 even strums and then without stopping your strumming hand switch to the second chord of your choice.

4. If you make a mistake when switching chords continue strumming and fix the chord.

Try this exercise with the various chords that you have learned from this book. You will notice that switching from certain chords will take a little more time and practice.

OVERVIEW

Congratulations! You've reached the end of *The Guitar Picture Book.*

Now that you have completed this book you should know the most common finger placements of the eight chords introduced.

At this time you should find some friends who share the same interest in learning the guitar. The next step to improving your new found guitar skills is to learn some strumming and picking patterns.

Have fun!