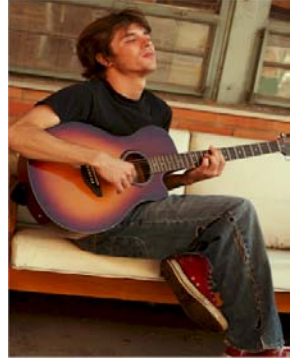


# "How To Play Your Guitar Covering The Basics"



## **H**ello Fellow Guitarist!

Here is a *free chapter* out of the Basic eBook...It means a lot to me if you can learn how to play guitar. If you EVER have any questions I am here for you!!

You can email me @ [support@howtoplayyourguitar.com](mailto:support@howtoplayyourguitar.com) **I truly want you to learn how to play guitar! That is why I am giving you this free chapter to help you get started.**

**A**fter you have tuned, you need to warm up before you play it helps with any instrument you play. It also strengthens and gives you better coordination with your fingers. Practice these exercises daily for about 10 minutes.

**Try and use down strokes first then go to all up strokes after that go to alternate picking down, up, down, up this is usually the best to use. Using a metronome can help to.**

### **Warm Up Exercise #1 'Using the first 4 frets start on the low E'**

E -1 2 3 4-----  
B -1 2 3 4-----  
G -1 2 3 4-----  
D -1 2 3 4-----  
A -1 2 3 4-----  
E -1 2 3 4-----  
**1<sup>st</sup> finger - 2<sup>nd</sup> finger - 3<sup>rd</sup> finger - 4<sup>th</sup> finger**

**Warm Up Exercise #2 'Go Backwards Now'**

E -4 3 2 1-----  
B -4 3 2 1-----  
G -4 3 2 1-----  
D -4 3 2 1-----  
A -4 3 2 1-----  
E -4 3 2 1-----

**Warm Up Exercise #3 'Start at the 5<sup>th</sup> fret now low E string'**

E -5 6 7 8-----  
B -5 6 7 8-----  
G -5 6 7 8-----  
D -5 6 7 8-----  
A -5 6 7 8-----  
E -5 6 7 8-----

**Warm Up Exercise #4 'Go Backwards Again'**

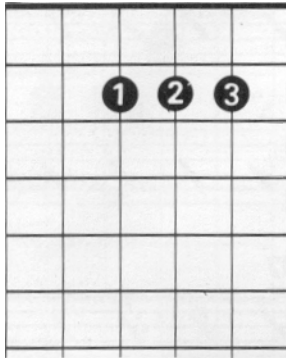
E -8 7 6 5-----  
B -8 7 6 5-----  
G -8 7 6 5-----  
D -8 7 6 5-----  
A -8 7 6 5-----  
E -8 7 6 5-----



## Here Is A Few Major Chords That Are Used

### A Major Chord

X

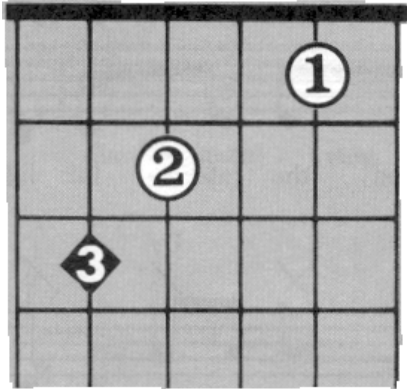


You can use the 1,2,3 fingers or **I prefer to use the 2,3,4** finger in the picture above. Doing it this way leaves your 1<sup>st</sup> finger open and ready to come down on the next string for the next chord. **When I teach my students I always tell them to get your first finger down first then the rest will follow in this case it would be the 2<sup>nd</sup> finger.**

So the A Major chord is on the **2<sup>nd</sup> fret using the D,G,B string strum 5 down from the A string to the high E.** **Do not play the strings with the X on them.** The numbers on the picture are your fingers 1 through 4 remember page 4 your fret hand?

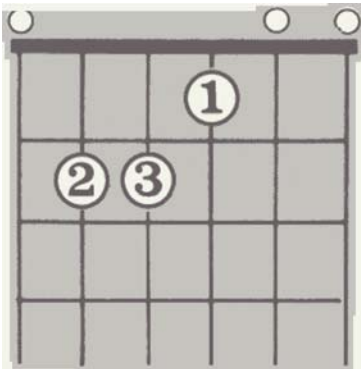
## C Major Chord

X



## E Major Chord

Strum all strings, think of all E chords are all strings strummed.



More of the basic guitar chords in the full version guide.



## Strumming Patterns

When you strum the chords you use quarter note strumming first **down strokes** in **4/4 time**. **Count 1,2,3,4 1,2,3,4 1,2,3,4 and so on**. Each number getting one strum. (**Down strum 4 times**) Tapping your foot helps too for keeping time. 4/4 beat is the fundamental rhythm from which all other beats are based on. All other beats are variation of it!

4/4= 1 2 3 4 Repeat...  
D D D Down Strum

Make sure the **tempo/speed** stays the same evenly strums 4 times each for each **bar/measure**. When you get this down you can do **eighth note strumming 1&2&3&4 down,up,down,up,down,up** strokes repeat. Only after you get the first strum pattern down.

Another common strumming pattern is **down, down, up, up, down, up** *repeat...*

4/4 = 1 2 3 4      Also 3/4 = 1 2 3  
DD UU D U      D UU UU Used for fast songs

16<sup>th</sup> = 1 e and a 2 e and a 3 e and a 4 **It's like fast eighth note strumming but faster**

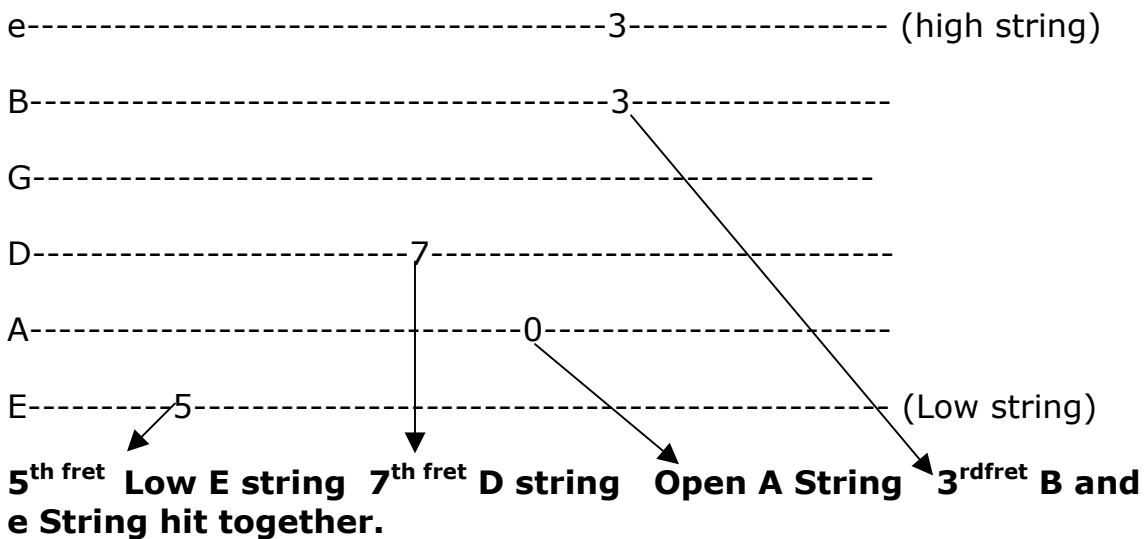
D, U, D, U  
1 e and a

This will take a lot of practice and you need to do this for a while because getting your rhythm guitar down is one of the most important things in the beginning.

I like to give you a *quote from Eddie VanHalen*, He says a lot of guys/gals want to learn lead guitar so bad and sound cool playing. But the important thing is get your strumming down and get good at **rhythm guitar first**, and work on the *12 bar blues*. Then you can learn lead guitar.

## How To Play Basic Acoustic Guitar TAB

Tablature or "Tab" is a shorthand notation for music. Most guitarists read tab because it's easier than reading standard music. Tab represents the fingerboard **each horizontal line represents a string** and **each number represents the frets**. It is known that tab goes way back to the 1600's



### Steps

1. Press down in between the space before the fret of the string. If you see "0", that means that it's an open string and you don't hold any frets down.
2. The numbers on the lines show you what fret to put your fingers.
3. Remember that most tabs **don't show rhythms**, so listen to the actual song so you know how it is played.
4. If there are a few numbers on top of each other, that is a chord. Fret all of those #'s at once and strum the strings that the chord is part of.

**Here is an easy beginners tab for "Mary Had a Little Lamb":  
Pick each number once.**

e-----  
•  
B-----3-3-  
•  
G-4-2-0-2-4-4-4--2-2-2---4-----  
•  
D-----  
•  
A-----  
•  
E-----  
•  
e-----  
•  
B-----  
•  
G-4-2-0-2-4-4-4-4-2-2-4-2-0-----  
•  
D-----  
•  
A-----  
•  
E-----

• Here are three main chords and how they look in a tab:

• **E Chord-----D Chord-----A Chord**

• e--0-----2-----  
• B--0-----3-----2-  
• G--1-----2-----2-  
• D--2-----0-----2-  
• A--2-----0-  
• E--0-----

## "Guitar Workout"

**Holding your guitar chords down-** As I always tell my students press & prop press hard and prop up your fingers so you don't get any duds/no sound. You want to check your chords by hitting the strings one at a time to make sure all the strings are ringing.

**Tuning-** Practice tuning you have to do this 1<sup>st</sup> thing before you play anyways. Use a pitch pipe to help train your ear.

**Strum-** Strum gentle across do not dig into the strings.

**Have fun-** This is very important, if it gets to be too much work put the guitar down and take a break then come back fresh :-)

**Practice changing chords-** Play your chords one at a time in 4/4 count 1,2,3,4, 1,2,3,4 1,2,3,4 switch to the next chord and repeat. Your goal is a steady beat and switching smoothly from one chord to the next. **Eventually as you get better you want to try and not look at your fretboard when switching chords.** This will make you a better player when you don't have to look at your fretboard all the time.

### **Playing Arpeggio Strumming**

It is when you play the individuals strings/notes instead of strumming all of them at the same time. Let the notes ring into one another. Arpeggio is good for ballads

**Tip-** When changing chord positions, do not remove your hand from the guitar neck. Do not move your hand/fingers away from the strings keep the hand close to the strings 'hovering' over the frets as your changing to your next chord.

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