

Teach Yourself To Read Music for Guitar

DAN FOX

Preface.....	2
Introducing Written Music.....	3
Quarter Notes & Quarter Rests	5
Notes on the E or 1st String.....	6
Half Notes & Half Rests	7
Reading Music on the 1st String.....	8
Notes on the B or 2nd String	9
Whole Notes & Whole Rests.....	10
Notes on the G or 3rd String	11
The Dotted Half Note	12
Sharps, Naturals, and the G Major Scale	13
Keys and Key Signatures	14
Ties.....	15
Pickups	16
Chords	17
Chord Symbols.....	18
Eighth Notes	19
Notes on the D or 4th String.....	21
The Key of D Major.....	22
Sharps in First Position.....	23
Notes on the A or 5th String.....	25
The Key of C Major	26
The Flat.....	28
The Key of F Major.....	30
Enharmonics	31
Dotted Quarter Notes	32
Notes on the Low E or 6th String.....	34
Two-Octave Major Scales.....	35
Eighth Rests.....	36
High A on the 1st String.....	37
Dynamics	38
The Eighth-Note Triplet	40
Articulations	41
Sixteenth Notes.....	42
The Dotted 8th/16th Note Rhythm	46
Tempo	48
$\frac{6}{8}$ Time.....	49
$\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{9}{8}$ Time	51
$\frac{12}{8}$ Time	52
The Dotted 8th/16th Rhythm in $\frac{6}{8}$ Time.....	53
Cut Time	54
The Quarter-Note Triplet	55
Repeat Signs.....	57

The Key of B \flat Major	59
Relative Minor Scales	60
Harmonic Minor Scales	61
Melodic Minor Scales.....	62
The Key of A Major	65
The Swing Feel.....	66
Syncopation	68
The Anticipated 3rd Beat (Straight Feel)	70
The Anticipated 3rd Beat (Swing Feel).....	72
Second Position.....	74
Intervals.....	75
Second Position, Key of D Major	76
The Anticipated 2nd Beat (Straight Feel).....	79
The Anticipated 2nd Beat (Swing Feel).....	80
Third Position	81
Third Position, Key of A \flat Major	82
Third Position, Key of E \flat Major.....	83
Syncopation in Third Position.....	84
Changing Positions.....	85
The Anticipated 4th Beat	86
Fourth Position	88
Fourth Position, Key of A Major	89
Fourth Position, Key of E Major.....	90
Grace Notes	91
Triplets and Anticipated Beats.....	92
The Anticipated 1st Beat	93
Fifth Position.....	95
Fifth Position, Key of B \flat Major	96
Fifth Position, Key of F Major	97
Rhythm and Position Review.....	98
Two Syncopations per Measure.....	99
Sixth Position	102
Seventh Position	102
Seventh Position, Key of C Major.....	103
Seventh Position, Key of G Major	104
Syncopation in Seventh Position.....	105
Double Time	106
First Position, Key of D \flat Major.....	108
Odd Meters.....	109
Syncopated Accents	110
Where To Go from Here	111
Guitar Fingerboard Chart	112

Copyright © MMVI by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in USA.

ISBN 0-7390-3779-X (Book and CD)

Cover photos: Martin acoustic guitar courtesy of Martin Guitar Company.
Daisy Rock Stardust Elite guitar courtesy of Daisy Rock Guitars.

SHARPS, NATURALS, AND THE G MAJOR SCALE



Sharps

This sign \sharp is called a *sharp*. Placing a sharp before a note means to play that note one fret higher than the unaltered note. For example, F is played on the 1st string, 1st fret; F \sharp is played on the 1st string, 2nd fret.

The diagram illustrates the concept of sharps. On the left, a small guitar neck diagram shows the 1st string with six frets. The 2nd fret is highlighted with a circle containing 'F#2'. On the right, a musical staff in G clef shows a note at the 2nd fret of the 1st string, with a circled 'F#' below it.

A musical staff in common time (C) shows a sequence of notes. Fingerings (circles with numbers) indicate note positions: 2, 3, 2, 3, 2, 3, 3. Sharps are placed before the second and third notes of each measure, indicating they apply to all notes in those measures.

The sharp applies to the note it precedes as well as other notes of that pitch in the same measure.

A musical staff in common time (C) shows a sequence of notes. Arrows point from the sharp signs in the first measure to the 'F#' notes in the subsequent measures, labeled 'still F#', illustrating that the sharp applies to all notes of that pitch in the same measure.



Naturals

This sign \natural is called a *natural*. It restores a sharp note to its original pitch. If a natural note follows a sharp note in the same measure, the natural sign is used.

A musical staff in common time (C) shows a sequence of notes. Fingerings (circles with numbers) indicate note positions: 1, 2, 3, 2, 1. A sharp sign is placed before the second note, and a natural sign (\natural) is placed before the third note, labeled 'F'. This indicates that the note was sharp in the previous measure but is now restored to its original pitch.

A musical staff in common time (C) shows a sequence of notes. The notes are mostly open circles, indicating they are natural notes.

A musical staff in common time (C) shows a sequence of notes. The notes are mostly open circles, indicating they are natural notes.



The G Major Scale

The *major scale* is very important because it is used in music to construct melodies and build chords. The *G major scale* begins and ends on G and consists of the notes G A B C D E F \sharp .

A musical staff in common time (C) shows the G major scale. The ascension is labeled 'Ascending' and the descension is labeled 'Descending'. Fingerings (circles with numbers) indicate note positions: 2, 1, 3, 2, 3, 3, 2, 1, 3, 1, 2, 0. The notes correspond to the letters of the scale: G, A, B, C, D, E, F \sharp , G, A, B, C, D, E.