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A Note on Public Domain Material

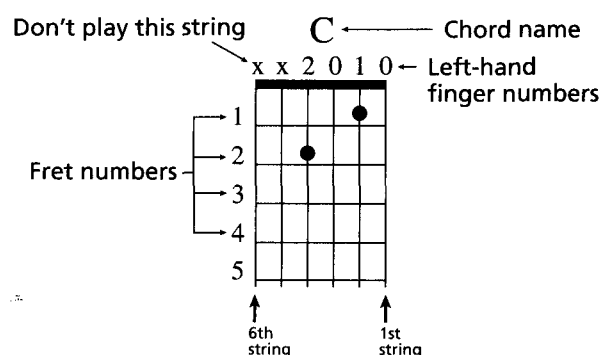
This book contains a number of traditional tunes and folk songs. Although reference is made to artists who have recorded and copyrighted their own versions of these songs, what appears in this book is the original public domain material.

How to Use This Book

This songbook is intended for beginning guitar players of every age, but can be used by players of any skill level. The great news, if you are an absolute beginner, is that there are thousands of songs you can play with just three or four chords. This book is a great place to start learning these songs because: 1) It features a wide range of material, from the most current rock tunes to traditional folk songs of the 1920s, and, 2) It includes simplified chord forms and strumming patterns that will help the beginner sound great playing these songs. If you're jamming with friends, doing a sing-along, or just playing by yourself, you'll find these tunes fun and easy to play. Although you don't need to know how to read music to use this book, you do need to know the basics of guitar playing. To learn these basics, check out *Guitar for the Absolute Beginner Complete* (Alfred/NGW #27815) for a full and easy introductory course. Enjoy!

How Do I Read the Chord Diagrams?

A *chord diagram* is shown to the right. The vertical lines represent the strings of the guitar. The horizontal lines represent frets. The numbers down the left side of the diagram tell you the fret numbers. The row of numbers along the top tell you which left-hand fingers to use for each string. The number 0 indicates an open string, and an x indicates you should not play that string. The dark circles show you where to place each finger on the fretboard.



How Do I Know What to Play with My Right Hand?

Unfortunately for all beginning and intermediate students, most books don't tell you which strumming pattern to use for each song. That's partially because the right-hand pattern is sometimes a matter of preference. In this book, the strumming patterns are at the top of each page. *Rhythmic notation* is used to indicate the strumming patterns. This type of notation only indicates the rhythm to be played, but not specific notes.

Rhythmic Notation

Count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Whole note (4 beats) Half notes (2 beats each) Quarter notes (1 beat each) Eighth notes (1/2 beat each)

The Strumming Patterns

To the right is an example of a strumming pattern. Strum the chords in the song down (▣) and up (∇) as indicated. Notice in this pattern, there is a *tie* connecting the second and third eighth-note strums. This tells you to let the first strum ring out for the value of the two strums combined. If this sounds complicated, don't worry. Just listen to the CD to be sure you're getting the strums right.

The Bass-Strum Technique

To the right is a pattern using the *bass-strum technique*. The first note in the pattern has a stem going upward and it is labeled "bass." This tells you to play the lowest note of the chord by itself, then strum the remaining strings for the rest of the pattern. For example, if you were applying this pattern to the C chord at the top of the page, you would play the note on the 4th string 2nd fret by itself on beat 1, then strum the rest of the chord on beats 2 and 3.