

ABOUT THIS BOOK

To the Student

Learning to play the guitar should be fun. After all, we call it *playing* the guitar, not *working* the guitar! This book is designed to make the experience of learning as enjoyable as you hoped it would be. You'll learn to play real rock and blues music—but it won't feel like "going to school." There's no reason you shouldn't be having fun from the very beginning!

Remember that playing music is like anything else: the more you put into it, the more you'll get out of it. You'll be asking your hands and fingers to do things they may have never done before, so don't push yourself too hard. Just try to play as often as you can. Everybody's fingertips get a little sore at first...just don't press too hard, or play for too long at a stretch, until you have some calluses. Be patient with yourself—nobody is automatically able to play well. With some regular practice, you'll be sounding great soon!

This book is very different from other beginning guitar books because it starts on the lowest, heaviest-sounding string, and then almost immediately goes all the way up the neck to the 12th fret. Most beginning books start on the highest, thinnest-sounding string, and never get past the 5th fret. This book gets you playing full chords right away, instead of assuming you need to play little three- or four-string chords first. This book also assumes you're pretty smart, and perfectly capable of learning the whole neck of the instrument (or most of it, anyway). It assumes you're ready to dig in and start jamming, and it would not be helpful at all to make you somehow fearful of putting your hands *anywhere* on the instrument and just having fun! So let's get started!

To the Teacher

You have lots of choices for books and other products to use with your guitar students. So why choose this one?

Most beginning guitar methods concentrate on playing music within the first three or four frets of the guitar, implying that the notes higher on the neck are somehow more difficult to play. *As you know, they are not.*

Those books also teach students to play guitar in a very unique way...one where single-note melodies played with a pick are occasionally supported, or interrupted, by three- or four-string strums. *As you know, no one actually plays the guitar this way.*

These other books also teach just two or three notes on each string, and give the student some nice exercises and folk songs to play, like "Go Tell Aunt Rhody" and "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Maybe somewhere, there'll be an exercise called "G-String Rock" or "B-String Boogie." *We think playing should be more fun than that.*

This book is an updated approach to guitar. It gets students playing throughout the first 12 frets without fear, and assumes it is completely natural to know two or three places to play almost every note. That's the way the guitar works...why keep it a secret? It also assumes that subdividing a beat into eighth notes is not difficult. It also does not include "Go Tell Aunt Rhody" or "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

About the Author

Nathaniel Gunod is one of the founders and owners of DayJams, the original rock music day camp, and has observed many hundreds of students holding and playing the guitar for their first time. He has seen what a beginner will do instinctively, and knows it shouldn't be as hard to learn the instrument as most books make it seem. Plus, he has college degrees in music from a big deal music conservatory, and many years' experience as a guitar teacher, so he ought to know.

ABOUT THE CD

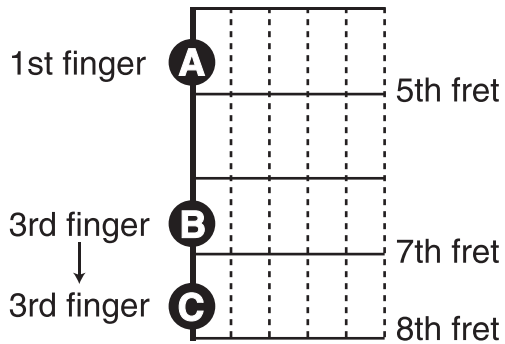


Track 1

A compact disc is available with this book. Using the disc will help make learning more enjoyable and the information more meaningful. Listening to the CD will help you correctly interpret the rhythms and feel of each example. The symbol to the left appears next to each song or example that is performed on the CD. The track number to the right of each symbol corresponds directly to the song or example you want to hear. Track 1 will help you tune to this CD.

MOVE UP THE NECK ON THE 6TH STRING

As you learned on page 9, the next note in the musical alphabet after G is A. Let's learn three more notes on the 6th string. All you have to do is move your left hand farther up the neck. A, B, and C are on the 5th, 7th, and 8th frets. You can play those three notes with either your 1st or 3rd finger, or even better, use both fingers, as shown in the diagram and photos below.



Another common way to count is in groups of three, as shown in the example below.

Practice A, B, and C



Track 9

Finger: 1 3 3 3 1

A B C C B A :

COUNT: 1 2 3 1 2 3

A NEW WAY TO COUNT AND STRUM

Below is another strumming exercise. It's easy! Instead of saying "1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4," say "1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and." That's it! But as you'll see later on, this new way of counting is really important.



Track 10

	strum	strum	strum	strum	strum	strum	strum	strum
	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Count:	1	and	2	and	3	and	4	and
	tap	lift	tap	lift	tap	lift	tap	lift