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A recording is included with this book. This audio can make learning with the book easier and more enjoyable. The symbol shown to the left will appear next to every example that is on the recording. Use the audio to help insure that you are capturing the feel of the examples, interpreting the rhythms correctly, and so on. The track numbers below the symbols correspond directly to the example you want to hear. Track 1 will help you tune your guitar to this recording.

**Have fun!**

# About the Author

Massachusetts-born Nick Vecchio has been providing guitar and bass instruction since 1988. A graduate of the Berklee College of Music, Nick has been performing regularly since his late teens. He currently teaches and administrates for The National Music Workshop, a division of The National Guitar Workshop.



## Acknowledgements

Thank you to Dave Smolover and Nat Gunod for all the opportunities. Thank you to my wife Christine, my mother Josephine and the rest of my family for always encouraging me.



## Dedication

This book is dedicated to the memory of my father, Carmen A. Vecchio, who I'm sure would have been proud.



Nick Vecchio

## Tuning Your Guitar

It is very important to make sure the guitar is in tune before each practice session. There are a variety of ways this can be done. The traditional method is to tune by ear. This is called *relative tuning*. To do this, you need only purchase a tuning fork to give you a starting pitch.

A tuning fork will give you one pitch—either E (to tune the 6th string) or A (to tune the 5th string). From there, you tune on your own. (see Relative Tuning, page 14).



Some people use a pitch pipe, which gives a pitch to match for each string.

The pitch pipe has six individual pipes that correspond to the strings on the guitar. Just blow into the pipe and match the corresponding string to the sound.



Alternatively, you can purchase an electronic tuning device. They can be bought for between \$30 and \$80 in most music stores. This is probably your best choice, since it is easy and will train your ear, although everyone should eventually learn relative tuning.

An electric tuner will read a pitch and tell you if it is sharp (high) or flat (low).



# lesson 7: whole notes

A *whole note strum* is four beats in duration and is shown as a diamond shape with no stem:



A whole note is struck on beat 1 of the measure and lasts the whole measure:

13

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

14

Track 5

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Make sure you are comfortable with the G and D7 chords before continuing. It's always best to master each step before taking the next.