

Contents

Acknowledgements	4
Why a Rock Guitar Book for Women?	5
Do I Need to Read Music to Use this Book?	6
Section 1: The Defining Moment— Knowing Your Guitar	7
To Start Rockin', You Need to Know	14
Section 2: Rock Rhythm Guitar— The Essential Skills	15
Measures and the Double Bar Line	16
Power Chords—The Sound of Rock	17
<i>Baby, You Got Me</i>	17
Power Chords with Open Strings	18
<i>Runaway Nights</i>	18
A Raw, Edgy Sound	19
<i>Teen Spirits</i>	19
<i>Iron Lady</i>	19
5 Chords — Another Name for Power Chords.....	20
How to Learn the Power Chord Names	21
The Repeat Sign	22
Rock, Indie, and Blues Rhythm Playing	22
<i>Can't Stand Myself – I Love You</i>	22
<i>Courtney's Dolls</i>	22
<i>Stingin' Bee Blues</i>	23
Riffs with Power Chords	24
<i>Smoky Waters</i>	24
Playing Power Chords with Three Strings	24
Palm Muting	25
<i>Palm Muting Strings</i>	25
<i>Palm Muting, Americana-Rock Style: "She Can't Wind Down"</i>	25
<i>Palm Muting Exercise—Metal and Punk-Style: "Never More"</i>	26
Blues Rhythm Guitar: The Shuffle	27
<i>The Shuffle Sound</i>	27
<i>First Shuffle Exercise: Rollin' Down the Big Road</i>	27
<i>Can You Shake It Like That?</i>	27
<i>Play It in G</i>	28
<i>Love Me Like You Can (for more experienced players)</i>	28
Correct Fingering Makes All the Difference	29
<i>Fingering Exercise: Up and Down the Staircase</i>	29
Walking Bass Lines and Chord Walk-Ups	30
<i>You Rock Me Alright</i>	30
<i>Higher and Higher</i>	30
Accented Rhythms	31
<i>I Could Use Someone</i>	31
<i>I Need Another Hour</i>	31
<i>A Plant, Rag and a Bag</i>	31
Putting It All Together	32
<i>She Wrote on the Ceiling</i>	32
Open Chord Playing in Rock	33
First Open Chords.....	33
<i>Dirty Cheap Deeds</i>	33
<i>My Sweet Child</i>	33
<i>How Many Times</i>	34
First Minor Chord	34
<i>Dancing with Her Bare Feet</i>	34
Picking Arpeggios	35
<i>Broken E Minor</i>	35
<i>Minor Chimes</i>	35
<i>Hotel Laurel Canyon</i>	35
Bass-Chord Strums, Walking Bass, and Drone Chords	36
<i>Rock 'n' Roll Effigy</i>	36
Walking Bass	36
<i>If Only You Were Here</i>	36
Drones and Slash Chords	37
<i>Spanish Wine</i>	37
<i>Across the Hills and Gone</i>	37
Putting It All Together	38
<i>You Won't Remain the Same</i>	38
Barre Chords	39
Making the Transition to Barre Chords	39
<i>No, Lady, Don't Cry</i>	40
Why Learn Barre Chords if I Know Power Chords and Open Chords?	41
E-Shaped Barre Chords	42
<i>Ladder to the Clouds</i>	42
Silence and Rests.....	43
A-Shaped Barre Chords	44
<i>She's Watching from the Tower</i>	44
<i>Barricade</i>	44
Sharps and Flats.....	45
Sharps and Flats on the Guitar	45
Whole Steps and Half Steps on the Guitar	45
<i>Stoke My Fire</i>	46
<i>He Won't Speak</i>	46
Exercise for Memorizing Barre Chords.....	47
Rock Strumming.....	48
Must-Know Strum Patterns in Rock	49
Putting It All Together	52
<i>Chains</i>	52
I–IV–V Chords— The Secret to Learning Lots of Songs	53
What Effect Does a I–IV–V Have in a Song?.....	53
Counting Four and Five Letters from the I Chord	53
<i>Emma Is a Guitar Shredder (in A)</i>	54
<i>Glasses in My Pocket (in G)</i>	54
A Term Used in Songwriting, Rehearsals, and Jams	54
Non-Musicians Feel the Power of I–IV–V	54
The 12-Bar Blues.....	55
More About Riffs	56
Hammer-Ons	56
Pull-Offs	56
Bends.....	57
Slides	58
Vibrato	59
Riffology: From Funk to Metal, Indie, Glam, Rockabilly, & More	60
<i>In the Style of Albert King's "Oh, Pretty Woman (Can't Make You Love Me)"</i>	60
<i>In the Style of The Beatles' "Day Tripper"</i>	60

Classic Rock, Hard Rock, and Metal Riffs.....	61	<i>Classic Rock Jam</i>	77
<i>In the Style of T. Rex's</i>		<i>Indie Rock Jam</i>	78
"20th Century Boy"	61	<i>Classic Metal Jam</i>	79
<i>In the Style of Jimi Hendrix's</i>		<i>Jam Band/Slow Funk Jam</i>	80
"Purple Haze"	61	<i>New Wave/Ska Jam</i>	81
<i>In the Style of The Donnas'</i>		You Made It!	82
"Fall Behind Me"	62	Section 3: Lead Guitar Soloing	83
<i>In the Style of Prince's "Let's Go Crazy"</i>	62	The First Female Lead Guitarists	83
<i>In the Style of David Bowie's</i>		Fretboard 101—Finding Your Way on the Guitar	84
"Rebel Rebel"	62	<i>Sugary, Sexy, Magical</i>	
<i>In the Style of Black Sabbath's</i>		(Playing Octave Licks).....	85
"Supernaut"	63	The Major Scale	86
<i>In the Style of Guns N' Roses'</i>		Five Major Scale Patterns	87
"Sweet Child O' Mine"	63	Chords That Sound Good with the C Major Scale.....	89
<i>In the Style of Iron Maiden's</i>		Wrapping Up—Octaves and Major Scales	
"The Trooper"	64	Are Connected.....	89
<i>In the Style of Metallica's</i>		Changing Keys—It's Easy and Quick on Guitar	90
"Through the Never"	64	The Natural Minor Scale	90
Funk Rock Riffs	64	Chords That Sound Good with the Natural Minor	
<i>In the Style of Funkadelic's</i>		Scale in A.....	91
"Hit It and Quit It"	64	Five Natural Minor Scale Patterns.....	91
<i>In the Style of Betty Davis's</i>		The Minor Pentatonic Scale.....	93
"They Say I'm Different"	65	Chords That Sound Good with the	
<i>In the Style of Lenny Kravitz's</i>		A Minor Pentatonic Scale	101
"Always on the Run"	65	How to Build a Solo.....	108
Rockabilly.....	66	Putting It All Together—12-Bar Bluesy Rock	
<i>In the Style of Cordell Jackson's</i>		Solo in A Minor	108
"The Split"	66	More Advanced Rock Techniques.....	110
Indie Rock Riffs.....	66	Section 4: All About the Song	114
<i>In the Style of The Breeders'</i>		The Most Popular Song Structures in Rock	114
"Cannonball"	66	<i>Say What You Think</i>	117
<i>In the Style of Sleater-Kinney's</i>		Section 5: Amps, Effects, and Guitar Care	118
"Dig Me Out"	67	Understand Your Amp.....	118
<i>In the Style of Sonic Youth's</i>		A Guide to Effects Pedals	121
"Teen Age Riot"	67	Caring for Your Guitar.....	126
<i>In the Style of Muse's "Thoughts of a</i>		Section 6: Practicing Tips and Inspiration	127
Dying Atheist"	67	Practicing on Your Own	127
<i>In the Style of Death Cab for</i>		Practicing with Other Musicians.....	129
Cutie's "Cath..."	68	Everyone's Path Is Unique	129
<i>In the Style of The Smiths'</i>		Tips if You're Uninspired.....	130
"How Soon Is Now?"	68	Section 7: Essential Listening	131
<i>In the Style of Radiohead's "Creep"</i>	68	Appendix A: Advanced Concepts	133
<i>In the Style of PJ Harvey's "The Letter"</i>	69	How to Figure Out Songs by Ear.....	133
<i>In the Style of The White Stripes'</i>		Alternate Tunings	134
"Seven Nation Army"	69	<i>Pumpkin Bullet</i>	134
The Moody Minor Songs	70	<i>Outraged</i>	135
<i>A Minor Blues</i>	70	<i>Shake Her Up</i>	136
<i>In the Style of "Bang Bang</i>		<i>Girl Hears Angels</i>	136
(My Baby Shot Me Down)"	70	Appendix B: Quick Review of the Basics	137
Chords	71	Tuning Your Guitar	137
More About Chords.....	71	Music and Guitar Fundamentals.....	138
Chords that Add More Color	73	<i>The Grand Finale Song:</i>	
<i>No More War</i>	73	"High and Low Echoes"	144
<i>Lord Knows I'm Down</i>	73	The Open Chords.....	145
<i>Cat Rocks NYC</i>	74	Counting Time: How to Read Basic	
Dynamics—from Quiet to Loud	74	Rhythmic Notation	146
<i>Whisper and Shout—Playing with</i>			
Dynamics	74		
<i>River of Soul</i>	75		
<i>She's Got Fire</i>	75		
<i>Fish on a Rift</i>	76		
Jam Tracks: Putting Your Rhythm Guitar			
Skills Together	77		

Why a Rock Guitar Book for Women?

First of all, thanks for picking up this book! I truly believe that playing rock guitar is one of the coolest ways you can express yourself.

With this book, I want to help you: broaden your rock rhythm and lead guitar skills, get familiar with the basics on amps and effects, understand rock song structures, and gain a few other useful skills needed to play on your own or in a band. My intention is to encourage *your* creativity so that you have a good palette for expressing yourself. I also want to help you avoid obstacles that could slow your growth.

These topics, of course, also apply to men who want to play guitar. So why a rock guitar book for women?

Well, I also want to make you aware that you're part of a cool but rarely acknowledged community. When *Rolling Stone* magazine lists the 100 most important guitarists of all time, they usually only include two or three women. Many male guitarists or teachers don't think about mentioning the great female players that are out there. Few realize that some of the first pioneers of the electric guitar were women. In this book, you'll find the learning experiences and playing advice from some world-class female guitarists, including Jennifer Batten, Kat Dyson, Sue Foley, Lita Ford, Kaki King, Ann Klein, Bibi McGill, Orianthi Panagaris, Vicki Peterson, Ana Popovic, and Nancy Wilson.

Also, some girls and women who sign up for guitar classes often find the vibe a little intimidating because soloing, technique, and gear—topics which many guys can debate for hours—can seem mystifying. I want to demystify these things for you. While becoming a great guitar player does take work (I won't lie about that!), it's also a lot of fun and very empowering. With this book, I want to make your experience of learning rock guitar fun and exciting.

It also includes a list of essential recordings by female electric guitar pioneers like Memphis Minnie; influential all-girl bands like The Runaways, and excellent lead guitarists of today like Orianthi Panagaris and Ana Popovic. It's impossible to cover everyone deserving of mention, but hopefully the list will provide a unique rock guitar history lesson and lots of inspiration!

Today, there are great female guitarists in every genre of rock. As I started writing this book, hard rock icon Alice Cooper hired guitarist Orianthi Panagaris to play on his tour, TV commercials and billboard ads started featuring young women playing electric guitars, and girly pop teen idols are now strumming guitars on stage and in music videos. As a result, I've seen a clear increase in the number of female guitar students, and many of these girls—some as young as seven years old—are showing up to class with electric guitars. Guitar companies like Daisy Rock Guitars are making guitars that are easier for girls to play, guitar stores are hiring more women, and bands are more open to recruiting female guitar players. This is a great cultural change.

This book moves quickly and is best used with a teacher. There is no substitute for a good teacher who can watch and listen to you play. If you use this book without a teacher, take your time and be sure you are able to play each example smoothly and evenly before moving on.