



ALFRED'S BASIC GUITAR METHOD 1

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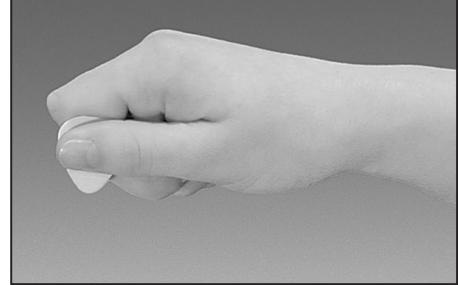
The Right Hand

To *strum* means to play the strings with your right hand by brushing quickly across them. There are two common ways of strumming the strings. One is with a pick, and the other is with your fingers.

Strumming with a Pick

Hold the pick between your thumb and index finger. Hold it firmly, but don't squeeze it too hard.

Strum from the 6th string (the thickest, lowest-sounding string) to the 1st string (the thinnest, highest-sounding string).



Important: Strum by mostly moving your wrist, not just your arm. Use as little motion as possible. Start as close to the top string as you can, and never let your hand move past the edge of the guitar.



Start near the top string.



Move mostly your wrist, not just your arm. Finish near the bottom string.

Strumming with Your Fingers

Decide if you feel more comfortable strumming with the side of your thumb or the nail of your index finger. The strumming motion is the same with the thumb or finger as it is when using the pick.

Strum from the 6th string (the thickest, lowest-sounding string) to the 1st string (the thinnest, highest-sounding string).



Strumming with the thumb.

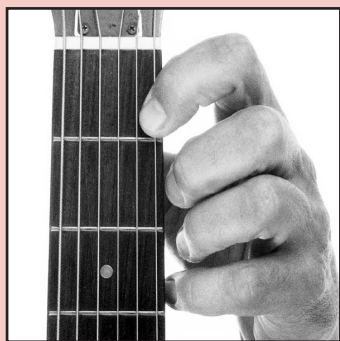
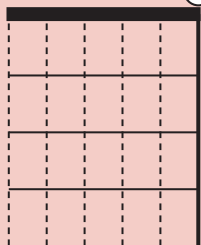


Strumming with the index finger.

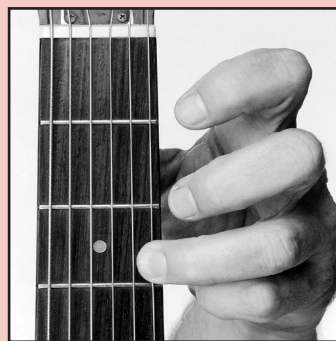
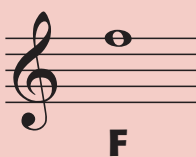
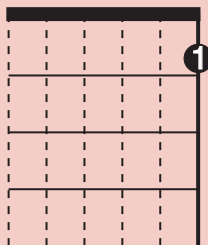
The First String E



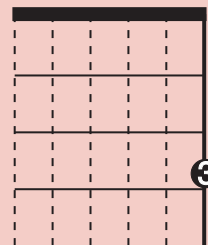
OPEN STRING*
(not fingered)



1st FRET



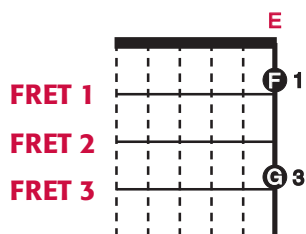
3rd FRET



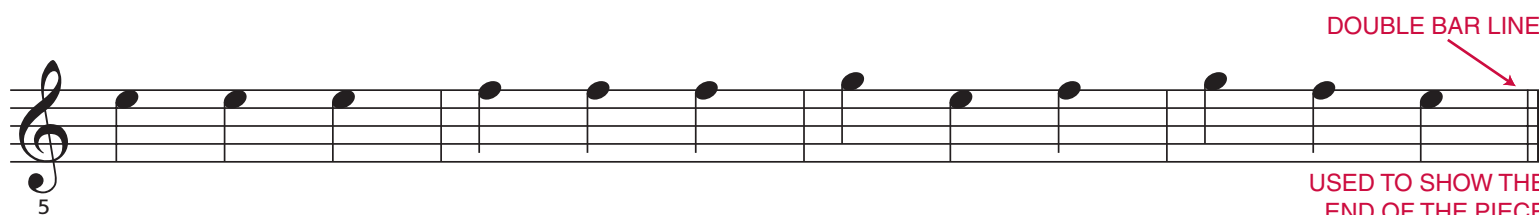
Dashed line means string is not to be played.

Use only down-strokes indicated by ▣.

The symbol ○ over a note means *open string*. Do not finger.



PLAYING WITH E, F, G



*Though no photo is shown for the open string, the fingers of the LH should remain slightly above the string to be ready to play the correct fret when needed. The thumb should also remain in its proper position.

Tempo Signs

The three principal *tempo signs* are
Andante (slow), Moderato (moderately), Allegro (fast).

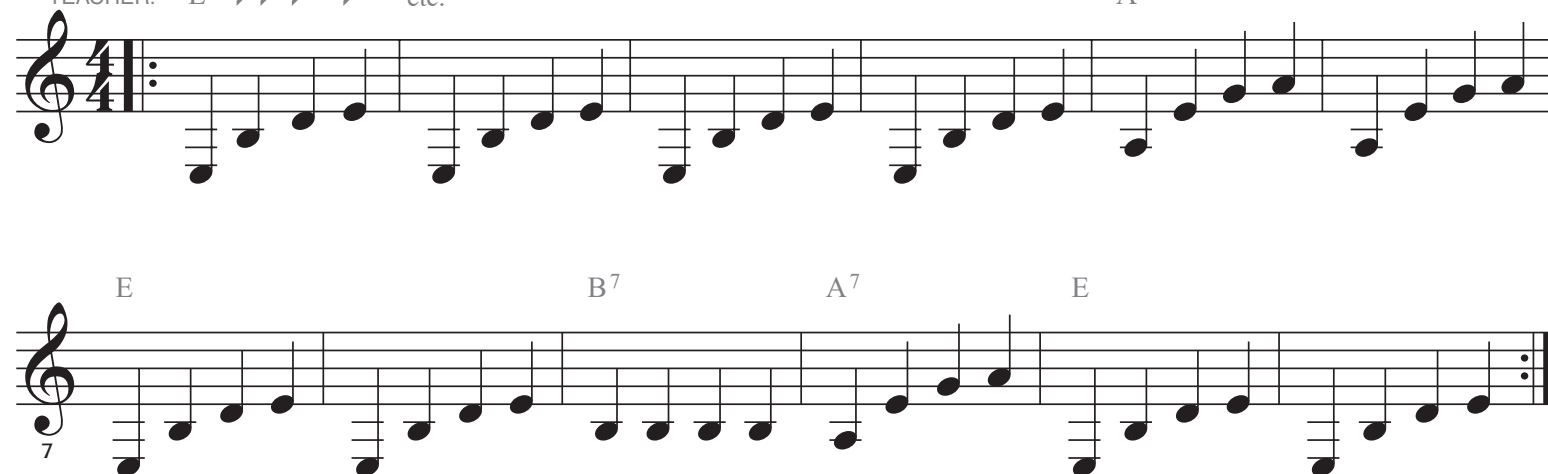
THREE-TEMPO ROCK



Play three times: 1st time Andante, 2nd time Moderato, 3rd time Allegro.

TEACHER: E  etc.

A⁷



THE BLUE DANUBE WALTZ



Johann Strauss

Allegro

TEACHER: C G G⁷



