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Track 1

**INTRO SONG**

Track 2

**TUNING NOTES**

# Section Two: Open-Position Chords

## THE SIX BASIC OPEN-POSITION CHORDS

These are the most fundamental chords to all styles of guitar playing. "Open"-position chords contain open strings, which ring out loud and clear. The sound of a ringing open chord is probably the most identifiable guitar sound there is. Whether you play acoustic or electric guitar, these six chords will be some of the main chords you will use throughout your lifetime.

### E MAJOR Track 5


The dots indicate which notes to play with your finger, the zeros indicate open strings and "x" indicates a string that should not be played. Play the E chord. Make sure you get a clear sound without any buzzing or muffled notes. Your fingertips should be placed just behind the fret—not on top of it or too far behind it. Also, the fingertips should be perpendicular to the fingerboard; if they lean at an angle they will interfere with the other strings and prevent them from ringing.

# = *Sharp*. A sharp sign indicates the note is played one fret higher than its *natural* position.

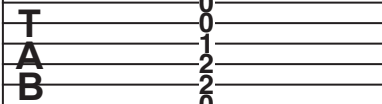
E

023100

1					
2	•	•			
3					
4					
5					



G-sharp



### A MAJOR Track 6

#### Alternate Fingering

A


x02340

1					
2	•	•			
3					
4					
5					

A

x0111x

1					
2	•	•			
3					
4					
5					



T	0
A	2
B	2
	2
	0

T	0
A	2
B	2
	2
	0

Notice that in the alternate fingering there is no 1st-string "E." This is OK; it's still an A chord.



**EXAMPLE 41**

Track 55

This example combines the fingerpicking patterns with a complete chord progression.

**D**  
xx0132

5

**G**  
210003

9

**C**  
(3)32010

13

**B7**  
(2)21304

**E**  
023100

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a treble clef staff, a bass clef staff, and a guitar tablature staff. The tablature staff is labeled with T (thumb), A (index), and B (middle) fingers. The first system (measures 1-4) is in D major, the second (measures 5-8) in G major, the third (measures 9-12) in C major, and the fourth (measures 13-16) in B7 and E major. The fingerpicking pattern is consistent throughout: T (down), A (up), B (down), T (up).

Once the alternating thumb begins to feel "automatic," you'll be able to begin developing many variations on this pattern. Experiment with adding your middle and ring fingers in developing new patterns.