

Welcome to

It's never too late to play guitar

We realise that you may be completely new to the guitar or that you may only vaguely remember what you did know (we have difficulty remembering what we did last week, so it's not surprising that after a long break you might feel a bit rusty). Lots of books zoom straight into all sorts of complications and can be a bit discouraging, so we've tried to take it step by step to get you going. Everyone is eager to sound like a pro, but a little patience at the beginning will speed up your progress later on. The first few units cover the basics of notes and chords before putting them together to play some folk, blues, pop and classical pieces later on.

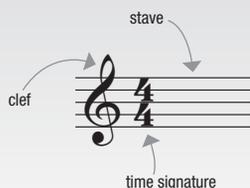
As well as information, exercises and songs, you'll find **TECH TIPS!** to help with the specifics of physical movements, **READING NOTES** with explanations (or reminders) of notation and **DID YOU KNOW?** snippets with which to bore your friends at dinner parties (or down at the pub when you need a break from all the practising!)

CD

The accompanying CD contains playalong tracks for lots of the songs and exercises.

Reading note

Throughout the book you'll see 'reading notes' with reminders of the way music is written down.



Reading music

*'How do you get a guitarist to shut up?'
'Put some music in front of him ... boom boom!'*

There's a lot of truth in this old joke: it can no doubt be a challenge to read guitar music, but working through the following steps will really help. Stick with it and you will enjoy the benefits.

- Each individual note has a letter name, from A up to G in the alphabet.
- The names of the notes in the spaces from bottom to top are **F A C E** – easy to remember as it spells 'face'.
- The names of the notes on the lines from bottom to top are **E G B D F** – you can remember this with the sentence, 'Every Good Boy Deserves Football'.
- Here are the note names of the six guitar strings. We know you won't need it, but we find it helps our younger students to remember the open-string note names by saying:

Elephants And Donkeys Grow Big Ears.

⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①

- Numbers in a circle tell you which string to play:

① = high E (thinnest) **⑥ = low E** (thickest)

- Here are the four main note-lengths that you will use:

♩ = semibreve = whole note = **4 counts**

♪ = minim = half note = **2 counts**

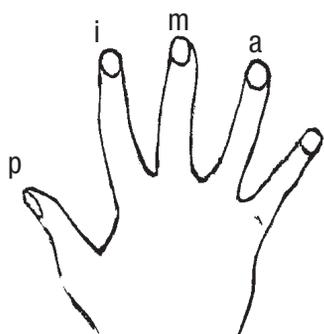
♫ = crotchet = quarter note = **1 count**

♫♫ = quaver = eighth note = **half-count**

At the back of the book you'll find a **Chord index**, **Notation and terminology index** and a **List of artists**. Take a photo or copy the index pages – you'll find them really useful for general reference.

- Fingerpicking technique
- Pattern 1: *pimi*
- Pattern 2: *pimami*
- Pattern 3: *p^m_i*
- Concert songs: Everybody hurts, Jolene

unit 6

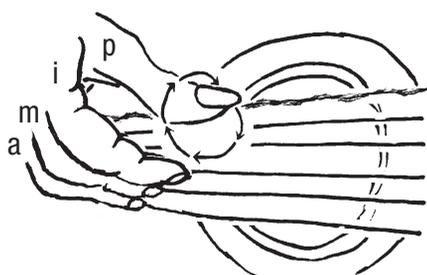


Fingerpicking technique

Now that you're familiar with strumming chords, let's find out about **fingerpicking**. This technique uses the thumb and three fingers of the right hand to play arpeggios or broken chords. We use the first letter of the Spanish names to label the fingers:

- p* = *pulgar* = thumb
- i* = *indice* = index finger
- m* = *medio* = middle finger
- a* = *anular* = ring finger

This is sometimes called ***pima* technique**.

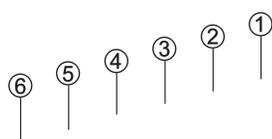


Getting started

- Get in position by placing the thumb (*p*) on string ⑥ and the fingers (*i m a*) on strings ③ ② ①. Keep your wrist high and support your arm on the side of the guitar.
- The thumb plays with a circular motion.
- The fingers move inwards towards the palm of your hand.
- Only touch one string with each movement (this is called **free-stroke** or ***tirando***).
- You will get a fuller sound if you move the fingers from the main knuckle.
- To get the feel of using your fingers, repeat each finger individually many times while holding the basic shape.

Numbered noteheads

In this unit the noteheads tell you which string to play. For the left-hand fingering, simply follow the chord that is written above.



Final solo Hotel California

New chord

Em/C#



Your final challenge is to play this hit song by The Eagles. The intro is based on the chords of the verse (with a few variations) and can be played either with a plectrum or fingerpicking. Practise each two-bar phrase separately before joining them together:

TECH TIP!

This arrangement tries to capture the essence of the song, but if you want to play it at the original pitch, you will need to use a **capo** at the 7th fret.

The arpeggios vary for each chord. Watch out: sometimes there is an extra note that isn't part of the chord before it changes.

CD

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Hotel California

Words and Music by Don Henley,
Don Felder and Glenn Frey

Intro