

## *Unit 2*

# Using The Left-Hand

*In this unit you will learn to:*

Play with a comfortable left-hand position;

Fret the notes C,D,F and G using the left-hand;

Make up my own melodies (improvise) using notes that I know;

Change fluently between fretted notes keeping a sense of pulse;

Play short melodies from notation:

Include forte(loud) and piano(soft) expression in my playing;

Talk about my playing using musical words and suggest ways it can be improved;

# Lesson 1 - Left-Hand Position

## Learning:

I can make the spider position with my left-hand.  
 I can fret note F correctly and make a clear sound.  
 I can recognize higher or lower sounds.

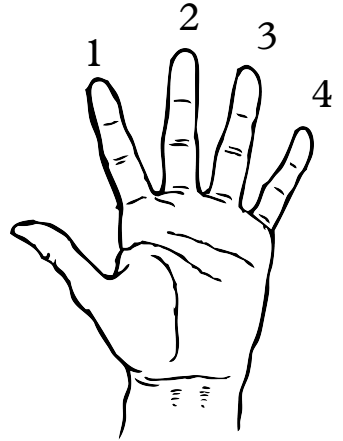
## The Left-Hand

The left hand is used to press strings down behind the frets. Pressing at different frets changes the **pitch** or sound of a note. The higher-up the neck we press - the **higher** the pitch or sound. The lower-down the neck we press - the **lower** the pitch or sound.

**Task:** Press the first string behind different frets going up and down the neck. Use your index finger. Notice how the **pitch** changes.

## Finger Numbers

Each finger on the left-hand has a number to help us to remember which finger we are going to use to press different notes. Look at the diagram.



## Making A 'Spider'

We try to make a spider shape with our left-hand. This will make pressing the notes a little easier. **Always check your hand is in this position before you start to play.**



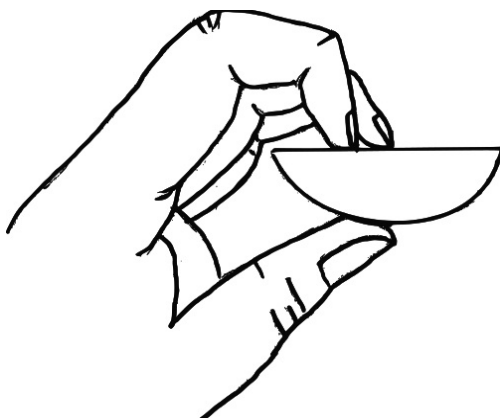
Place your thumb on the blu-tac on the back of the neck and make a thumbs-up. Notice how your thumb is always opposite your middle finger.

Spread your finger your fingers out in front of the fretboard, keeping them close to the strings.

Try to spread your fingers out so that each finger is over a different fret and all your fingers are in-line with the string.



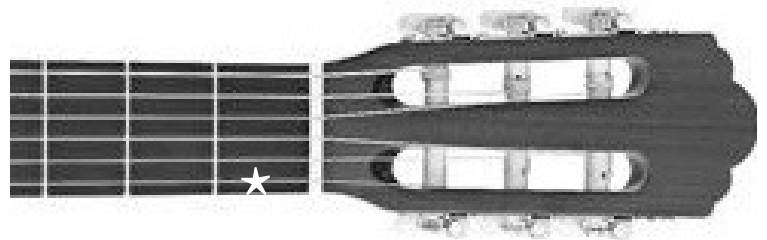
**Task:** A good way to practice this is to hold a pencil between your thumb and fingers - like we tried in the lesson.



When we press (or fret) a note we use our fingertips. **Can you see the 'circle' shape made by the fingers and the thumb?**

## Fretting Note F

To play note F, press string 1 at the first fret. Use 'finger 1' - the index finger. Press just behind the fret wire with the tip of the finger. Don't press on top of the fret wire - you will get a poor sound!



**Task:** Practice finding and pressing note F. Listen to the sound you make. Is it a good, clean sound? Once you have a good sound try playing some Fs on a pulse.

### Assessment:

I can make the spider position with my left-hand.

**Easy Ok More Practice**

I can fret note F correctly and make a clear sound.

**Easy Ok More Practice**

I can recognize higher or lower sounds.

**Easy Ok More Practice**

# Lesson 1 cont. - Fretting Note F

Try these examples. They use **note F** along with the open-strings **E,G,B** that you have already learned. Make sure you are sat correctly, with your hands in the correct positions and that you play each example to a pulse.

## Let's Rest

Andrew Leach

This means an empty bar, or a semibreve (4 beat) rest.

The first staff shows a sequence of notes: F (i), F (m), F (i), F (m), followed by a 4-beat rest, then F (i), F (m), F (i), F (m), and another 4-beat rest. The second staff shows: F (i), F (m), F (i), F (m), a 4-beat rest, F (i), F (m), F (i), F (m), F (i), and a final F (i) note.

## High n' Low

Andrew Leach

The first staff shows: E (i), E (m), E (i), F (i), E (m), E (i), F (i), and F (m). The second staff shows: E (i), E (m), E (i), F (m), F (i), F (m), F (i), F (m), F (i), F (m), and F (i).

## Two's Blues

Andrew Leach

The first staff shows: E (i), E (m), E (i), B (m), E (i), E (m), F (i), and F (m). The second staff shows: F (i), F (m), E (i), E (m), B (i), B (m), E (i), and E (m).

# Two-String Stomp

Andrew Leach

Musical notation for 'Two-String Stomp' in 4/4 time. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes with dynamics *i* and *m*. The chord progression is F, E, B, E. The second staff continues the melody with dynamics *i* and *m*, and the chord progression is B, F, F, E. The piece ends with a double bar line.

# Geein' It Up

Andrew Leach

Musical notation for 'Geein' It Up' in 4/4 time. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes with dynamics *i* and *m*. The chord progression is G, B, E, F. The second staff continues the melody with dynamics *i* and *m*, and the chord progression is E, B, F, E. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Don't forget to go back and fill in the assessment!

# Final Challenge

Andrew Leach

Musical notation for 'Final Challenge' in 4/4 time. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes with dynamics *i* and *m*. The chord progression is E, F, E, F, B, G, B, E. The second staff continues the melody with dynamics *i* and *m*, and the chord progression is E, B, F, E. The piece ends with a double bar line.

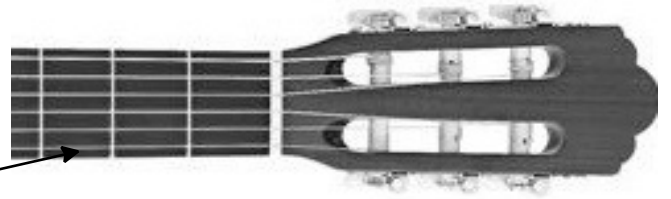
# Lesson 2 - Fretting the High G

## Learning and Assessment:

I can fret note G correctly and make a clear sound.	Easy	Ok	More Practice
I can change notes smoothly keeping the pulse.	Easy	Ok	More Practice
I can make sense of written music and perform it.	Easy	Ok	More Practice

### High G

We have already learned a note G on the third string. That note had a low sound so we will call it **low G**. This new note has a higher sound we will call it **high G**.



**High G** is played on the first string at the third fret, with the third finger.

## Eazy Geezy

Andrew Leach

Musical notation for "Eazy Geezy" in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the notes: G (high), G (high), G (high), G (high), E, G (high), G (high), E. The second staff contains: E, G (high), G (high), E. Dynamics markings *i* and *m* are placed above the notes.

## High to Low

Andrew Leach

Musical notation for "High to Low" in 4/4 time. The first staff contains: G-high, F, E, B. The second staff contains: B, F, G (high), E. Dynamics markings *m* and *i* are placed above the notes.

## Stomping Along

Andrew Leach

Musical notation for 'Stomping Along' in 4/4 time. The first staff shows a melody with notes marked *i* and *m* above them. The notes are E, B, G, F, E. The second staff shows a similar melody with notes marked *i* and *m* above them. The notes are E, G, F, E. The piece ends with a double bar line.

## Gee Whizz

Andrew Leach

Musical notation for 'Gee Whizz' in 4/4 time. The first staff shows a melody with notes marked *i* and *m* above them. The notes are G, F, E. The second staff shows a similar melody with notes marked *i* and *m* above them. The notes are B, F, G-high, E. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Don't forget to go  
back and fill in the  
assessment!

## Challenge

Andrew Leach

Musical notation for 'Challenge' in 4/4 time. The first staff shows a melody with notes marked *i* and *m* above them. The notes are E, F, G-high, B, F, G-high. The second staff shows a similar melody with notes marked *i* and *m* above them. The notes are E, F, G-high, G-high, F, B, F, E. The piece ends with a double bar line.

# Lesson 3 - Fretting the Note C

## Learning and Assessment:

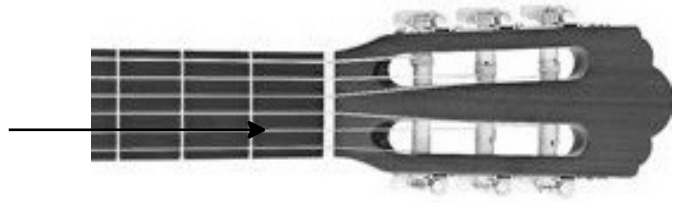
I can fret note C correctly and make a clear sound.	Easy	Ok	More Practice
I can change notes smoothly keeping the pulse.	Easy	Ok	More Practice
I can play tunes that change between <i>forte</i> and <i>piano</i> .	Easy	Ok	More Practice

### Note C

This is found on the second string by pressing the first fret with the first (index) finger.

### Remember:

**C lives across the road from F.**



## I C U

Andrew Leach

4/4

*i m i m i m i m i m i m*

C | B | C B | C |

*i m i m i m i m i m i m i*

B C | B C | C B | G-high :||

## 'Ceeing' is Believing

Andrew Leach

4/4

*m i m i m i m i m*

E | C | E F | G-high |

*i m i m i m i m i m i*

F | E F | B | C ||



# All At 'C'

Andrew Leach

4/4 C *p* | G-high | B F | G-high |

*i m i m i m i m i*

*m i m i m i* | *i m i* | *i m i* | *i m i* |

G-high B | C | E F | E ||

*f*

# Gentle 'C'

Andrew Leach

4/4 C *p* | B | E | G-high | F |

*i m i m i m i m i m*

*i m i m i m i m i m*

F E | F | B | C :||

*f*

*p*

# Challenge

Andrew Leach

4/4 C *f* | E | G-high | E F E F | G-high |

*i m i m i m i m i m*

*i m i m i m i m i m*

F G-high | E E F F | B | C ||

*p*

# Lesson 4 - Fretting the Note D

## Learning and Assessment:

I can fret note D correctly and make a clear sound.

Easy Ok More Practice

I can change notes smoothly keeping the pulse.

Easy Ok More Practice

I can play tunes that change between *forte* and *piano*.

Easy Ok More Practice

I can work out 3 notes by ear.

Easy Ok More Practice

### Note D

This is found on the second string by pressing the first fret with the first (index) finger.

### Remember:

**D lives across the road from high G.**



## D-Dream

Andrew Leach

*i* *m* *i* *m* *i*

*f*

*p* *f*

*i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i*

*p* *f*

4/4 C | D | D | B |

D | B | D | C :||

## D-lightful

Andrew Leach

*i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m*

*p*

*f*

*i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m*

*f*

4/4 D | B | E | D |

C | B | D | G-high ||

# Song

Andrew Leach

*i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i*  
  
 C D | E G | E F E F | G-high |

*i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m*  
  
 D | B | D | C ||

# Echo

Andrew Leach

*i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m*  
  
 C D | E | C D | E |

*i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i*  
  
 F E | F E | D B | C :||

# Challenge-Quick Changes

*i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m*  
  
 C D E F | G-high | E F E F | G-high |

*i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i*  
  
 C D E | D E F | B | C ||

# Lesson 5 - Improvising to Rhythms

## Learning and Assessment:

I can change notes smoothly keeping the pulse.

Easy Ok More Practice

I can make up my own tune for a given rhythm.

Easy Ok More Practice

I can work out 3 notes by ear.

Easy Ok More Practice

## Improvising means to make up your own tune straight away!

We start by making-up tunes for simple two-bar rhythms, then try four-bar rhythms.

Start by playing the rhythm on an open string to get it into your head.

Then, try using just two notes at first. When you become more confident add more note changes. Try to hear the sound you want to make in your head - does it go **high or low in pitch**. Always make sure you play the notes on the pulse!

Try this one just using **E, F or G** on the first string.



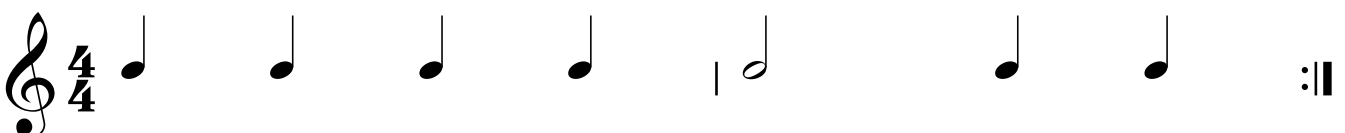
Try this one just using **B, C or D** on the second string.



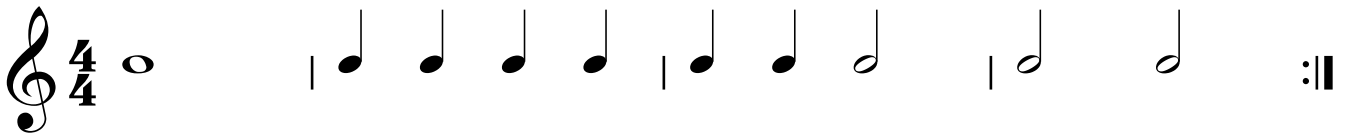
Try this one just using any notes you know.



Again use any notes.



Try this four-bar rhythm. Use a few notes at first and build it up. Play on the pulse.



Here is another to try.



## Lesson 6 - Writing and Playing your own Tune

### Learning and Assessment:

I can change notes smoothly keeping the pulse.

**Easy Ok More Practice**

I can write my own tune and perform it.

**Easy Ok More Practice**

I can play notes with a clear sound.

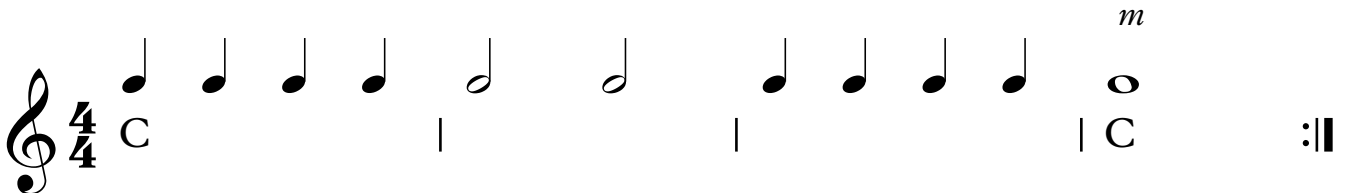
**Easy Ok More Practice**

Write notes under the rhythm to make your own tune. Notice how the first and last notes are the same - this is so that your tune sounds complete. Decide where you want your tune to go high or low. Only use the notes that you have learned on the first and second string of the guitar. Rehearse it and perform it keeping a steady pulse.

No.1



No.2



No.3

