

Unit 5

Using Guitar TAB and Playing Chords

In this unit you will play some simple pieces using Guitar TAB and begin to play some common chords.

You will learn to:

Read Guitar TAB to play songs that are familiar;

Play some notes in unfamiliar positions and on unfamiliar strings;

Use chord diagrams to work out how to play chords;

Play some simple chord patterns for familiar songs;

Play some simple strumming patterns;

Reading Guitar TAB

TAB is another way of writing down music to make it easier to play on the guitar. It uses lines to represent the strings of the guitar and numbers to tell you which fret space to place your finger upon. Very often, guitar TAB is written with 'normal' music notes above it but can also be used alone.

The top line is the 'E' string - the highest string on your guitar.

The next line is the 'B' string - the next highest string.

Here, the zero means that we play the 'E' string for open without pressing it to play the E note.

Here, we press in the first space for F and then the third space for G. It shows that both notes are still on the 'E' string.

Now, the numbers have changed to the lower line, so it means that we have changed to playing notes on the B string. First, zero for the 'B' and then pressing in the first space for 'C'.

Try these exercises that just use the E and B strings. Aim to read the TAB and use the notes above to help with the rhythms.

1.

2. This uses the notes on the E and B strings.

3. Now, we've taken the note names away. Use the TAB but think of the note name as you play.

Try these short TABS below. Don't worry if the music above looks complicated - use the TAB below to help you find the notes. You could try to listen to the pieces on Youtube. This will make it easier to play the rhythms accurately. All the pieces on this page use notes on the E and B strings like we have been practicing.

Smoke On The Water

B D E B D F E B D E D B

TAB: 0 3 0 | 3 1 0 | 0 3 0 3 | 0

Seven Nation Army

E E G E D C B E E G E D C D C B

TAB: 0 0 3 0 | 3 1 0 | 0 0 3 0 | 3 1 3 1 0

Harry Potter Theme

B E G F# E B A F# E G F# D# F B

TAB: 0 | 0 3 2 | 0 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 3 2 | 4 1 | 0

This TAB has three lines. The lowest line represents the G string (the third string on your guitar).

Star Wars Theme

G D C B A G D C B A G D C B C A

The next line is the 'G' string - the third string.

Here, we are pressing in the 2nd space on the G string.

Batman Theme

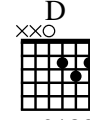
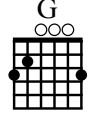
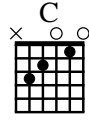
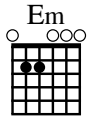
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D D C#C#C C C#C# D D C#C#C C C#C# A A G#G#G G G#A G G F#F#F F F#G

D D C# C# C C C# C# D D C# C# C C C# C# D

Playing Chords

Hall of Fame

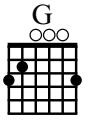


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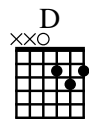
The Script

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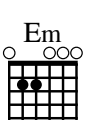
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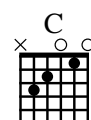
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0132



23000

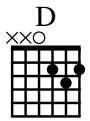


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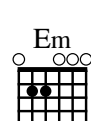
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Marry You



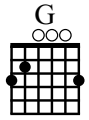
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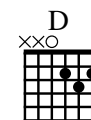
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Bruno Mars

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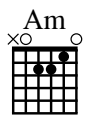
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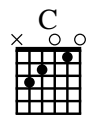
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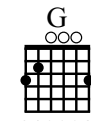
Shake It Off



02310



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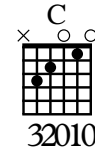
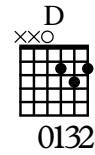
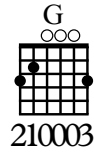
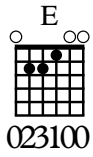


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Taylor Swift

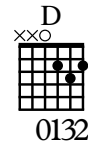
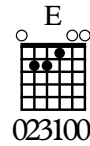
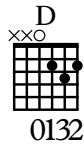
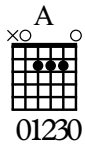
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Old Town Road



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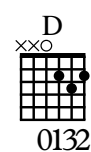
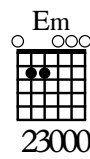
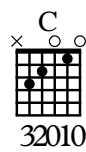
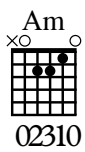
Wild Thing



The Troggs

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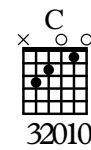
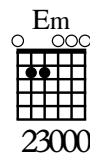
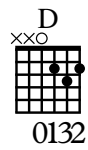
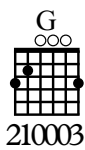
Get Lucky



Daft Punk

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Price Tag



Jessie J.

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