

Complete Basic Course- Stage One

No Previous Playing Experience Needed

- We begin by assuming that you know absolutely nothing about guitar
- Special practice and study considerations and advice for younger players
- Players with some experience can review the basics, break bad habits or fill in the gaps in their knowledge
- Whether you want to master the instrument or just have some fun, this is the place to start
- Tips for getting the most from the course, including practice schedule, study pace, setting goals, when to move to next lesson and words of encouragement

Equipment

- An acoustic will work for getting started but an electric guitar is recommended
- Special equipment tips for younger or smaller players
- Selecting and purchasing a guitar; what to look for in a new or used instrument
- Parts of the guitar identified and explained, including bridges, pickups, selector switches and the signal path of your guitar sound
- How to measure the action (string height) on your guitar

Tuning

- How to tell when your guitar is out of tune
- How to tune your guitar to itself or another
- Electronic tuners

Basic Techniques

- How to fret a note
- Correct hand positioning and muscle movement for maximum results with minimum effort. Relaxed muscles are faster!
- Elbow positioning and arm angle; expand your fretboard reach
- How to hold and use a pick
- Up, down and alternate picking
- Legato and staccato
- Leaving your fingers on the fretboard for economy of motion

Reading

- How to read guitar tab and chord diagrams
- Reading note durations in standard notation and guitar tab
- Half, quarter and eighth notes; 4/4 time signature

Learning the Notes on the Guitar

- A simple trick to remember the names of the open strings
- How to determine the names of notes as you go up the neck
- The chromatic scale
- Sharps and flats

Chords

- Open Position and Barre Chords
- Start with simple chords on three strings
- Easy steps to gradually develop the barre technique
- Root notes
- Combine chords with single note lines
- Play 24 chords with two movable shapes
- Major and minor barre chords
- Use chords that you already know as movable shapes
- Examples of riff and chord based rhythm guitar and how they can be combined in a song structure (verse and chorus)

Dexterity

- Several exercises for developing coordination
- Making your pinky finger stronger
- Using a metronome

And more...

- Do you need a college degree to be a professional musician?
- How to practice so that playing becomes second nature
- Selecting tab for a simple song and getting started on it
- Using our message board for support and encouragement