

How to Tune a Guitar (step-by-step)

NEEDED: Guitar + Tuning instrument (i.e. Electric Tuner or Tuning App)

Step #1 in playing guitar well is making sure you are in tune! A good guitar player still sounds bad when he is playing a guitar out of tune. Below is a step by step guide on how to tune your guitar.

Know the Notes

The standard tuning for guitar is EADGBE (visual of headstock with names of notes)

Find the Tuning Keys

To tune the guitar you will tighten and loosen the tuning keys on the headstock of the guitar. Follow each string up to it's tuning key. Tightening the string raises the pitch and loosening the string lowers the pitch.

Playing Position

Sit down and put the guitar in playing position on your lap.

Begin Tuning

Start by tuning the Low E string!

By Eyes

Use an electronic tuner or tuning app to match the low E string to E with the tuner. Continue this process with the rest of the strings.

By Ears

Use an electronic tuner, tuning app, piano, or pitch pipe to hear the correct pitch. Match the pitch of your low E string to the pitch of the sound of the tuner, piano, pitch pipe, etc.

Use tuning reference device to match ADG strings by ear OR match each string to the pitch of the string above it at the 5th fret.

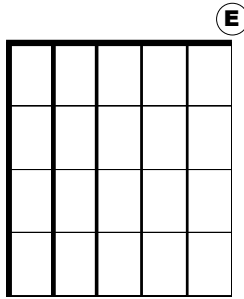
Use tuning reference device to match B string by ear OR match the B string to the pitch of the string above it at the 4th fret.

Use tuning reference device to match the high E string by ear OR match each string to the pitch of the string above it at the 5th fret.

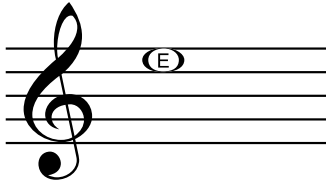
Note: Loosen the string a bit before tuning. It's easier to tune by ear when you tighten up to the correct pitch

First String Notes

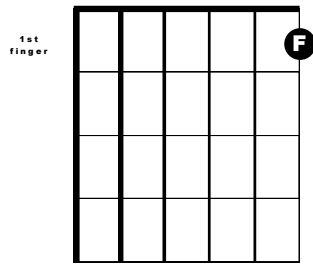
E note



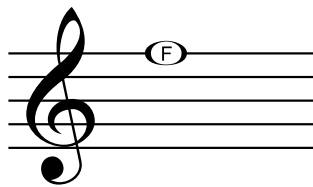
Play String Open



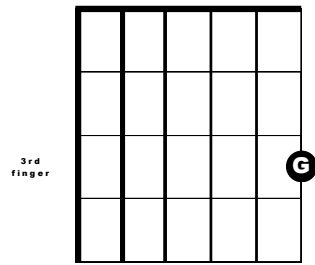
F note



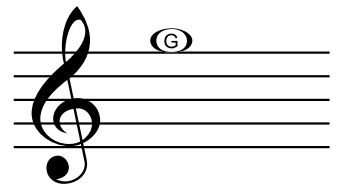
Play String with 1st finger



G note



Play String with 3rd finger



(This symbol tells you to play the string with a downward motion using the pick)

1

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

2

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

3

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

4

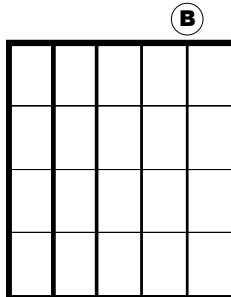
COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

5

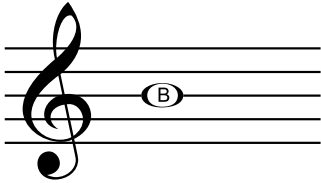
COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Second String Notes

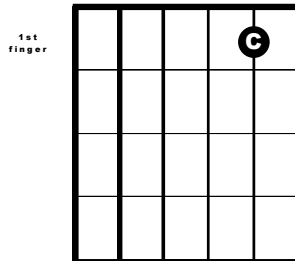
B note



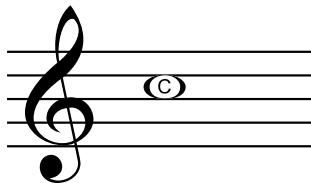
Play String
Open



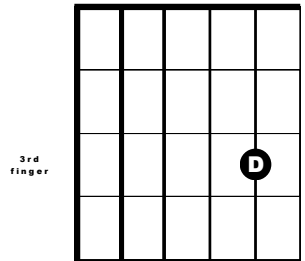
C note



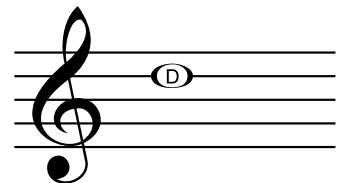
Play String
with 1st finger



D note



Play String
with 3rd finger



6

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

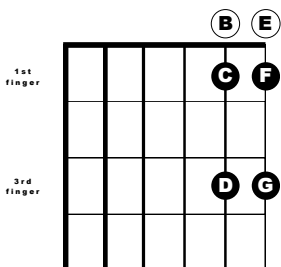
7

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

8

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

2-String Review



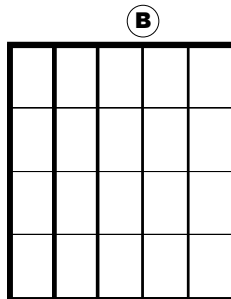
2-String Review

9

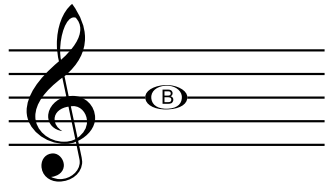
B C D E F G

Third String Notes

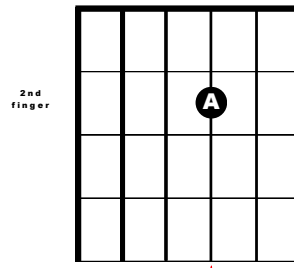
G note



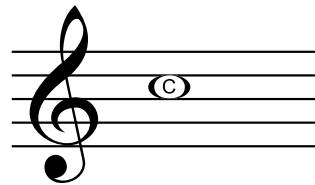
Play String
Open



A note



Play String
with 2nd finger



(This symbol tells you to play the string with a downward motion using the pick)

1

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

2

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

3

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

4

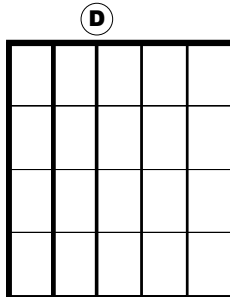
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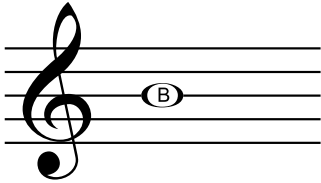
COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Fourth String Notes

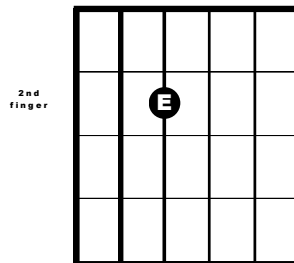
D note



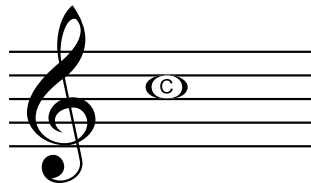
Play String
Open



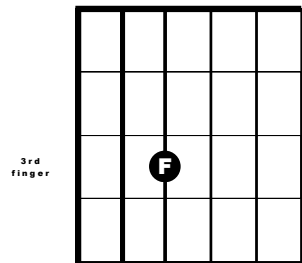
E note



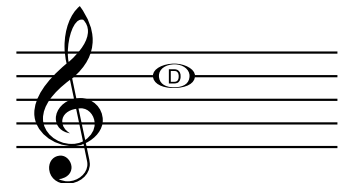
Play String
with 2nd finger



F note



Play String
with 3rd finger



(This symbol tells you to play the string with a downward motion using the pick)

1

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

2

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

3

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

4

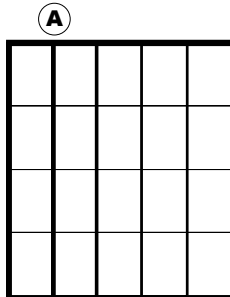
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5

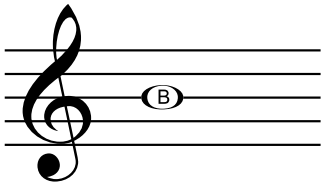
COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Fifth String Notes

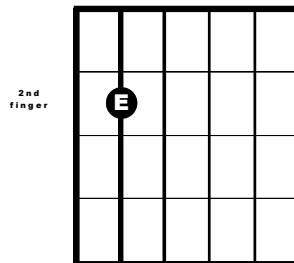
A note



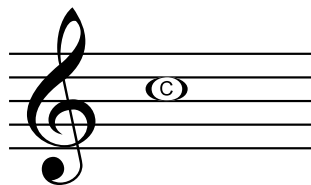
Play String
Open



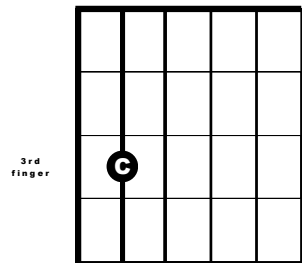
B note



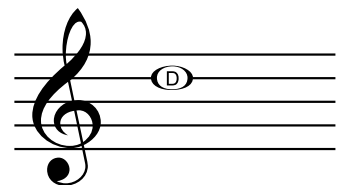
Play String
with 2nd finger



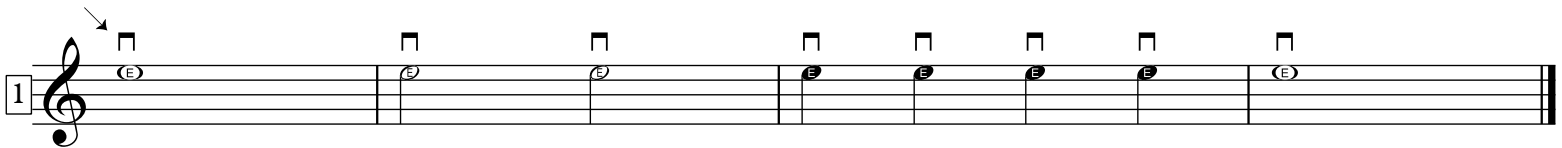
C note



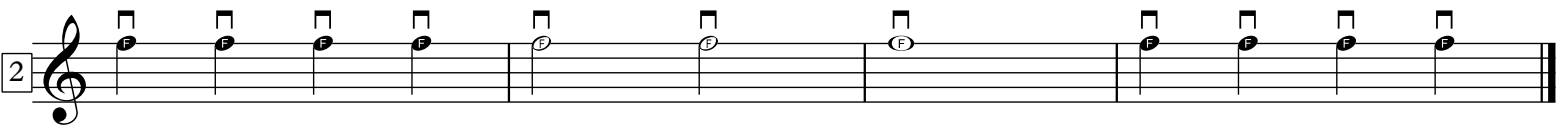
Play String
with 3rd finger



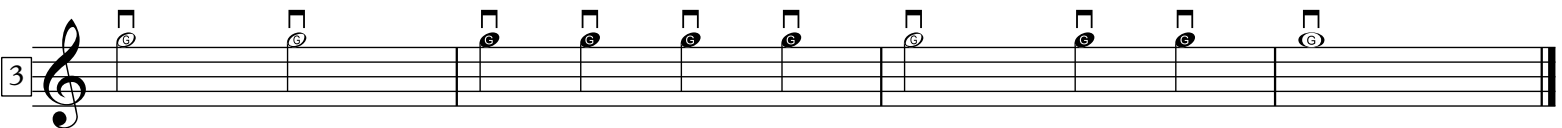
(This symbol tells you to play the string with a downward motion using the pick)



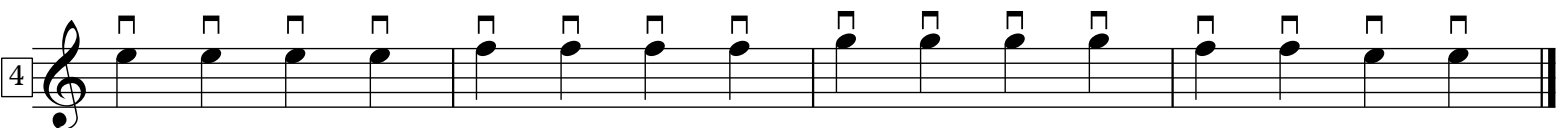
COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4



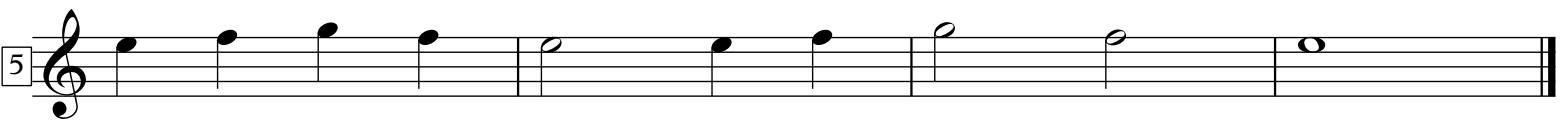
COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4



COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4



COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4



COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Sixth String Notes

E note

E

Play String Open

The diagram shows a guitar string grid with four frets. A red arrow points to the top line of the grid, labeled 'E'. Below it is a musical staff with a treble clef and a single note on the top line, labeled 'E'.

F note

F

1st finger

Play String with 1st finger

The diagram shows a guitar string grid with four frets. A red arrow points to the first fret, labeled 'F'. Below it is a musical staff with a treble clef and a single note on the first space, labeled 'F'.

G note

G

3rd finger

Play String with 3rd finger

The diagram shows a guitar string grid with four frets. A red arrow points to the third fret, labeled 'G'. Below it is a musical staff with a treble clef and a single note on the second space, labeled 'G'.

(This symbol tells you to play the string with a downward motion using the pick)

1

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

2

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

3

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

4

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

5

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

The practice section consists of five rows of musical notation. Each row starts with a box containing a number (1-5). Row 1: Treble clef, notes on the top line (E) with downward pick symbols above them. Row 2: Treble clef, notes on the first space (F) with downward pick symbols above them. Row 3: Treble clef, notes on the second space (G) with downward pick symbols above them. Row 4: Treble clef, notes on the second space (G) with downward pick symbols above them. Row 5: Treble clef, notes on the second space (G) with downward pick symbols above them. Each row has four measures, each containing four notes. The notes are grouped by fret: fret 0 (E), fret 1 (F), and fret 3 (G). The notes are beamed in pairs within each measure.

SONGS

2-strings

3-strings

4 Finger Exercise
C

Minor Pentatonic (1st position)

