

**A Beginner's Guide**

# **Basic Guitar**



**Get started  
playing guitar  
NOW!**

**Craig Bostick**

# Basic Guitar

A starter guide to playing guitar today  
1<sup>st</sup> Edition

By  
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## **Introduction**

Playing guitar is a *lifelong journey*. I have great memories of learning my first chords, learning how to read different types of guitar music, starting my first band, playing my first gig, recording my first song and on and on. These were great times that I shared with other musicians that are still lifelong friends today.

I would encourage you to start playing with other musicians as soon as possible. It is a great way to learn new songs and improve your skills.

## **Two ways to play the guitar**

In music, you are usually hearing two parts at once. The *Lead* and the *Rhythm*. In a rock song, the band is playing the rhythm and the singer is singing the lead. In a church setting, the choir may be singing the lead and the piano or organ playing the rhythm. The point is, you are usually hearing two pieces of music at once, the melody of the song and the accompaniment.

In this introduction to guitar playing, we are going to focus on playing lead guitar.

## Playing Lead Guitar

What is lead guitar? In it's most basic form, lead guitar is playing one note at a time. A great way to get started is by playing melodies of songs that you know.

Playing lead guitar is easier than playing rhythm guitar. It builds right-hand-left-hand coordination, and finger strength. Let's start by learning how to read tablature.

## How To Read Tablature

Tablature (sometimes referred to as “tab”) is one of the many ways to read and write guitar music. It uses a system of lines and numbers to show which strings and frets are played. Tablature looks like this:

The image displays a musical score for guitar. At the top, it specifies 'STANDARD TUNING' and a tempo of '♩ = 120'. The music is written in 4/4 time. The upper staff is a treble clef containing a melody of quarter notes: G4 (fret 1), A4 (fret 2), B4 (fret 3), and C5 (fret 4). The lower staff is a guitar tablature with six lines representing strings. It shows the sequence of frets for each note: 1 on the 1st string, 2 on the 2nd string, 3 on the 3rd string, and 4 on the 4th string. A dynamic marking 'mf' is placed above the first note. The score concludes with a double bar line and a final chord consisting of G4, B4, and D5, represented by a single '3' on the 3rd string line in the tablature.

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Here you see standard notation on the top section, and TAB on the bottom section. The six lines represent the six strings. The numbers are the frets played.

A musical score snippet showing standard notation on a treble clef staff and guitar TAB below it. The time signature is 4/4. The standard notation has a melody starting on the first line (F4) and moving down. The guitar TAB has six lines representing the strings. Numbers on the TAB lines indicate frets: 0 on the 1st line, 3 on the 2nd line, 2 on the 3rd line, and 0 on the 4th line. A 'mf' dynamic marking is present. Arrows on the left point from string labels to the corresponding TAB lines: 1<sup>st</sup> string to the 1st line, 2<sup>nd</sup> string to the 2nd line, 3<sup>rd</sup> string to the 3rd line, 4<sup>th</sup> string to the 4th line, 5<sup>th</sup> string to the 5th line, and 6<sup>th</sup> string to the 6th line.

*The first string is the smallest string, the sixth string is the largest.*

This is the 1<sup>st</sup> string open (1<sup>st</sup> line, “o” fret).

A musical score snippet similar to the one above, but with an annotation. The title 'STANDARD TUNING' is at the top. Below it, a quarter note is followed by '= 120'. The standard notation and guitar TAB are the same as in the previous image. An arrow points from the text 'This is the 1<sup>st</sup> string open (1<sup>st</sup> line, “o” fret).' to the '0' on the first line of the guitar TAB.

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This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> string-3<sup>rd</sup> fret (2<sup>nd</sup> line with the number “3”).

STANDARD TUNING  
♩ = 120

5-Gr

mf

0 3 2 0

T  
A  
B

The image shows a musical score and guitar tablature. The musical staff is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120. It contains a melody of quarter notes: G4 (1st fret), A4 (2nd fret), B4 (3rd fret), and C5 (4th fret). The guitar tablature below shows the corresponding fret numbers for the 5th, 4th, 3rd, and 2nd strings. An arrow points from the text above to the '3' on the 2nd string tab.

This is the 6<sup>th</sup> string open (6<sup>th</sup> line with the “0”)

STANDARD TUNING  
♩ = 120

5-Gr

mf

0 3 2 0

T  
A  
B

The image shows a musical score and guitar tablature, identical to the one above. An arrow points from the text above to the '0' on the 6th string tab, which corresponds to the open low E note in the melody.

Now that you know how to read tablature, we can start playing songs!

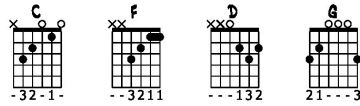
Here are 3 songs to get started. When playing these, try to use the “one finger per fret” rule. The first finger plays 1<sup>st</sup> fret notes, second finger plays 2<sup>nd</sup> fret notes, etc.

***REMEMBER:*** The skills you've learned reading tab will allow you to  
*play any style of music!*

# JINGLE BELLS

JAMES LORD PIERPONT

ARRANGED BY CRAIG BOSTICK



STANDARD TUNING

$\text{♩} = 190$

**C**

**1**

**mf**

JIN- GLE BELLS JIN- GLE BELLS JIN- GLE ALL THE WAY

0 0 0 0 0 0 3 1 3 0

**TAB**

**F** **C** **D** **G**

OH WHAT FUN(IT) IS TO RIDE(M\_A) ONE HORSE O- PEN SLEIGH HEY!

1 1 1 1 0 0 0 3 3 0 3 3

**C**

**9**

JIN- GLE BELLS JIN- GLE BELLS JIN- GLE ALL THE WAY

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 1 3 0

**F** **G** **G** **C**

**13**

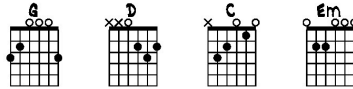
OH WHAT FUN(IT) IS TO RIDE(M\_A) ONE HORSE O- PEN SLEIGH HEY!

1 1 1 1 0 0 3 3 1 3 1 8

# ODE TO JOY

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

ARRANGED BY CRAIG BOSTICK



STANDARD TUNING

$\text{♩} = 120$

Sheet music for "Ode to Joy" in standard tuning, featuring a treble clef, 4/4 time signature, and a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic marking. The music is arranged in four systems, each with a treble staff and a guitar tablature staff. The tablature staff is labeled "S-AT" and "TAB". The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the tempo is 120 beats per minute. The music is written in G major and D major, with some E minor chords. The tablature includes fret numbers (0, 1, 2, 3) and bar lines. The first system starts with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The second system starts with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The third system starts with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The fourth system starts with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature.

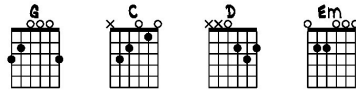
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# AMAZING GRACE

JOHN NEWTON

ARRANGED BY CRAIG BOSTICK



STANDARD TUNING

$\text{♩} = 120$

5-Str

1

G C G

mf A- MAZ- ING \_ GRACE NOW SWEET THE SOUND THAT

TAB

0 0 0 2 0 2 0 0

6

D

SAVED A \_ WRETCH LIKE ME - I

0 0 0 2 3 2 2 0

10

G C G

ONCE \_ WAS \_ LOST BUT NOW \_ AM FOUND WAS

3 0 3 0 0 2 0 2 0 0

14

Em D G

BUND BUT \_ NOW I SEE

0 0 0 2 0 3 0 0

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## Conclusion

I hope you have enjoyed this free ebook!

In conclusion, I'd like to share a few tips and resources.

### **PRACTICE:**

I would recommend practicing for a few minutes everyday. It can be as short as 10 minutes or as much as 30. The key to getting better at guitar (or anything) is consistency!

Set up a space as your personal practice studio. You should have your guitar on a stand, a comfortable chair, a tuner, music stand, picks, and sheet music ready to go. If you have to stop and look for any of these items, you will get distracted by “life” and may not get back to it.

### **GUITAR:**

Buy the best guitar you can afford and have it serviced by a reputable guitar repairman (or luthier). A good luthier can make most any guitar play better. A guitar that is hard to play will discourage you from playing. Acoustic or Electric? That's your choice.

Whichever gets you excited about playing music!

### **Resources:**

Here are some websites that will help you along your journey.

[www.bostickmusic.com](http://www.bostickmusic.com) My website. Private lessons are the fastest way to get moving on the guitar.

[www.ultimateguitar.com](http://www.ultimateguitar.com) A good source for guitar music. Remember, its free, so some of the information is worth what you paid for it...

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) If you are having trouble learning a song, you can often find the original artist playing it live or other guitar teachers giving a lesson.