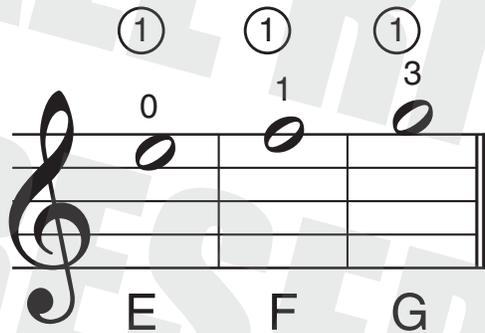


Introducing the Notes on the 1st String, Left Hand Position

Notes on the 1st String

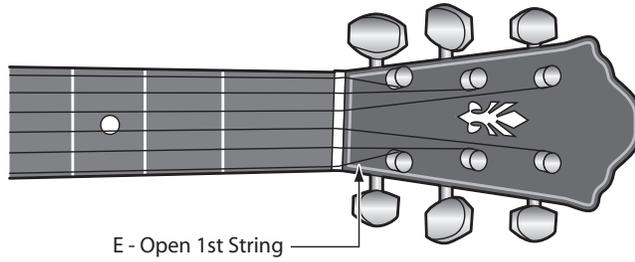
Our first goal with learning the notes and how to read and sight-read the music is to learn the basic notes on the first 3 frets of each string. Here are the notes on the 1st (E) string:



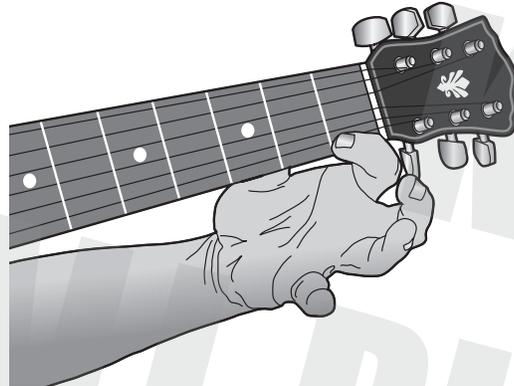
The numbers by the notes indicate two things:

1. Left hand fingering. This is normally what the numbers mean.
2. The corresponding fret on the string where the note is. This rule will work for quite a while, making it easier for you to find the note. For example, 1 means first fret, first finger. This is good for the first 4 frets on each string (also called the first position) when playing single line melodies. It won't apply to playing the chords or notes that are beyond the 4th fret. You do need to memorize your notes on the staff, not just the numbers.

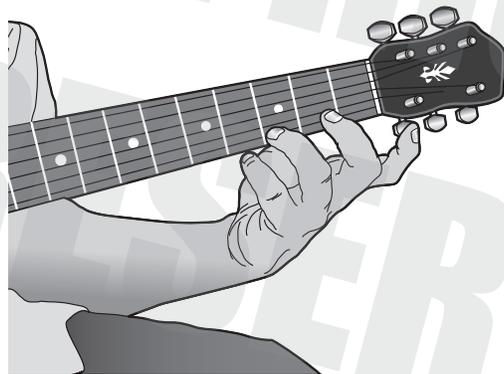
Left Hand Position



E – Open 1st String



F – 1st String
1st Fret
1st Finger



G – 1st String
3rd Fret
3rd Finger



Important

1. The fret, as I mentioned before, is a space between two fret wires or the nut and the fret wire in case of the first fret.
2. For the beginning guitar player, such as yourself, remember the first position rule I stated earlier: each finger plays on its corresponding fret. First finger plays on the first fret (on any string, in our case right now, on the 1st), second finger on the second fret, etc.
3. Use your fingertip to hold the note down.
4. Put your finger next to the end of the fret to play a note. That'll be next to the second fret wire.
5. Arch all of your fingers except the thumb.
6. I recommend cutting your fingernails of the left hand short to be able to use your fingertips and to produce a clean sound.
7. Don't apply too much pressure, just enough to get the notes to sound nice and clean.
8. With the thumb apply some counter-pressure from behind the neck of the guitar to hold it. Use the pad of your thumb on the neck of the guitar.
9. Bend your thumb out, not in, unlike the rest of the fingers (see the illustration on the previous page).
10. Make sure that the thumb doesn't move above the neck of the guitar.
11. Memorize the notes both visually on the fret board and on the staff.

Important

Throughout the book your instructor (if different from the author) might suggest a different preference for picking, fingering, and also might use a different way to approach some subjects in this book.

That is absolutely natural, and you should, of course, follow your instructor's advice. There are many ways to teach guitar. Quite a few subjects related to the guitar playing can be approached from several different angles. Most of these basic subjects are covered in the book, and your instructor is relying on his or her experience and preference in teaching when passing the information on to you.

Remember this – the bottom line is to learn how to play the guitar. That's what all of us are trying to teach you.

Whole Notes Exercise

im (mi)

□ ∇ (∇ □)

E. Shapiro

Guitar

Count: 1 (2 3 4) 1 (2 3 4) etc.

Half Notes Exercise

im (mi)

□ ∇ (∇ □)

E. Shapiro

Guitar

Count: 1 (2) 3 (4) 1 (2) 3 (4) etc.

Quarter Notes Exercise

im (mi)

□ ∇ (∇ □)

E. Shapiro

Guitar

Count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 etc.



First Song

im (mi)
□ ∇ (∇ □)

E. Shapiro

Track 2—Slow Version (♩ = 50)

Track 3—Fast Version (♩ = 76)

Guitar

Count: 1 2 3 4 1 (2) 3 (4) 1 (2) 3 (4) 1 (2) 3 (4)

1 2 3 4 1 (2) 3 (4) 1 (2) 3 (4) 1 (2 3 4)

Second Song



im (mi)
□ ∇ (∇ □)

E. Shapiro

Track 4—Slow Version (♩ = 50)

Track 5—Fast Version (♩ = 76)

Guitar

1 2 3 4 1 (2) 3 (4) 1 (2) 3 (4) 1 (2 3 4)

Note: Track 1 features the Tuning Note (E)

Sunny Day



im (mi)
□ ∇ (∇ □)

E. Shapiro

Track 6—Slow Version (♩ = 50)

Track 7—Fast Version (♩ = 76)

Guitar

The guitar notation for 'Sunny Day' consists of two staves in 4/4 time. The first staff shows the first four measures with fingerings: 3, 0, 1, and 1. The notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7, D7, E7, F7, G7, A7, B7, C8, D8, E8, F8, G8, A8, B8, C9, D9, E9, F9, G9, A9, B9, C10, D10, E10, F10, G10, A10, B10, C11, D11, E11, F11, G11, A11, B11, C12, D12, E12, F12, G12, A12, B12, C13, D13, E13, F13, G13, A13, B13, C14, D14, E14, F14, G14, A14, B14, C15, D15, E15, F15, G15, A15, B15, C16, D16, E16, F16, G16, A16, B16, C17, D17, E17, F17, G17, A17, B17, C18, D18, E18, F18, G18, A18, B18, C19, D19, E19, F19, G19, A19, B19, C20, D20, E20, F20, G20, A20, B20, C21, D21, E21, F21, G21, A21, B21, C22, D22, E22, F22, G22, A22, B22, C23, D23, E23, F23, G23, A23, B23, C24, D24, E24, F24, G24, A24, B24, C25, D25, E25, F25, G25, A25, B25, C26, D26, E26, F26, G26, A26, B26, C27, D27, E27, F27, G27, A27, B27, C28, D28, E28, F28, G28, A28, B28, C29, D29, E29, F29, G29, A29, B29, C30, D30, E30, F30, G30, A30, B30, C31, D31, E31, F31, G31, A31, B31, C32, D32, E32, F32, G32, A32, B32, C33, D33, E33, F33, G33, A33, B33, C34, D34, E34, F34, G34, A34, B34, C35, D35, E35, F35, G35, A35, B35, C36, D36, E36, F36, G36, A36, B36, C37, D37, E37, F37, G37, A37, B37, C38, D38, E38, F38, G38, A38, B38, C39, D39, E39, F39, G39, A39, B39, C40, D40, E40, F40, G40, A40, B40, C41, D41, E41, F41, G41, A41, B41, C42, D42, E42, F42, G42, A42, B42, C43, D43, E43, F43, G43, A43, B43, C44, D44, E44, F44, G44, A44, B44, C45, D45, E45, F45, G45, A45, B45, C46, D46, E46, F46, G46, A46, B46, C47, D47, E47, F47, G47, A47, B47, C48, D48, E48, F48, G48, A48, B48, C49, D49, E49, F49, G49, A49, B49, C50, D50, E50, F50, G50, A50, B50, C51, D51, E51, F51, G51, A51, B51, C52, D52, E52, F52, G52, A52, B52, C53, D53, E53, F53, G53, A53, B53, C54, D54, E54, F54, G54, A54, B54, C55, D55, E55, F55, G55, A55, B55, C56, D56, E56, F56, G56, A56, B56, C57, D57, E57, F57, G57, A57, B57, C58, D58, E58, F58, G58, A58, B58, C59, D59, E59, F59, G59, A59, B59, C60, D60, E60, F60, G60, A60, B60, C61, D61, E61, F61, G61, A61, B61, C62, D62, E62, 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