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**For
Beginners**

GUITAR

for left-handed players

**Also includes ideas and tips
for right-handed players.**

Written by Terry Allen. Illustrated by Terry Allen.

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Introduction

Let's Play Guitar - two for the price of one!

The first part of “Let’s Play Guitar” has been specially designed for the left-handed beginner, with diagrams and pictures portraying left-handed playing and techniques. This book has been designed with the absolute beginner in mind, with sections dealing with what each piece of the guitar is called; the easiest way to tune the instrument; changing a broken string; explanations and diagrams of chords; and how chords are joined to create songs. There is a detailed introduction to fifteen chords essential to the beginner, laid out in easy-to-read diagrams. Three well-known songs with chords above the lyrics and arrows to indicate where to strum are also included.

The second part of the book presents relevant information for the right-handed beginner, for use in cases where there may be one of each in a family or tuition group. However, much of the material in the first part of the book can be used by either left-handed or right-handed learners and has not been repeated in the second section.

This book is a great place to start to learn about the guitar and music in general. It will take students to a basic level of understanding and knowledge, from which point they can then pursue their desired style of playing.

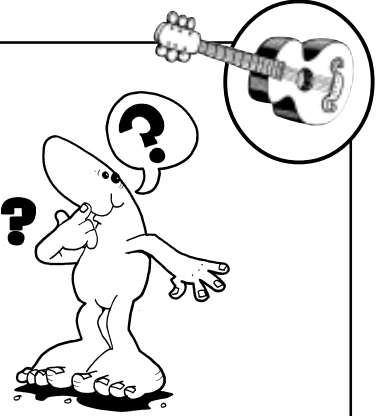


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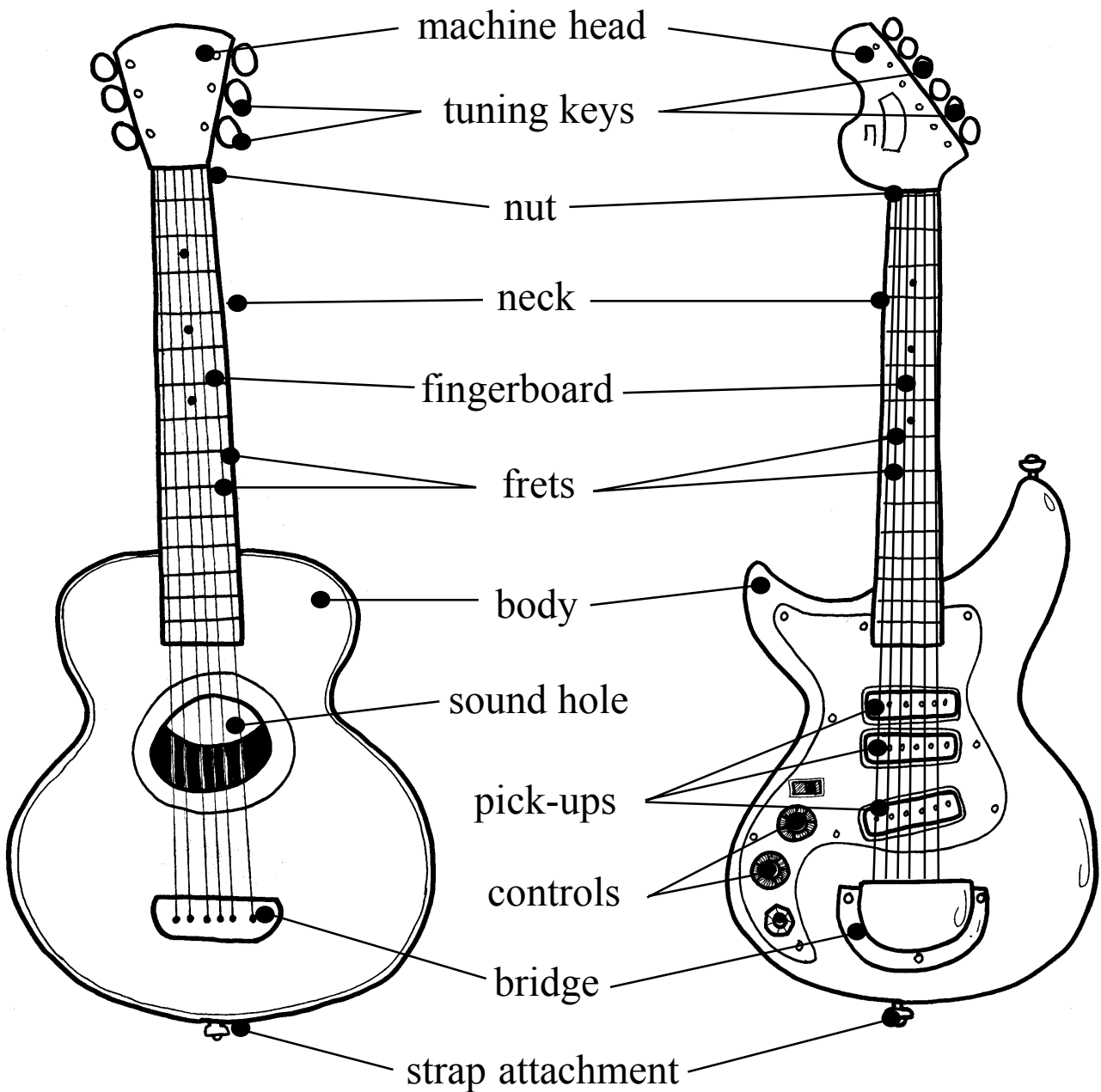


What's What on Your Guitar?



acoustic guitar

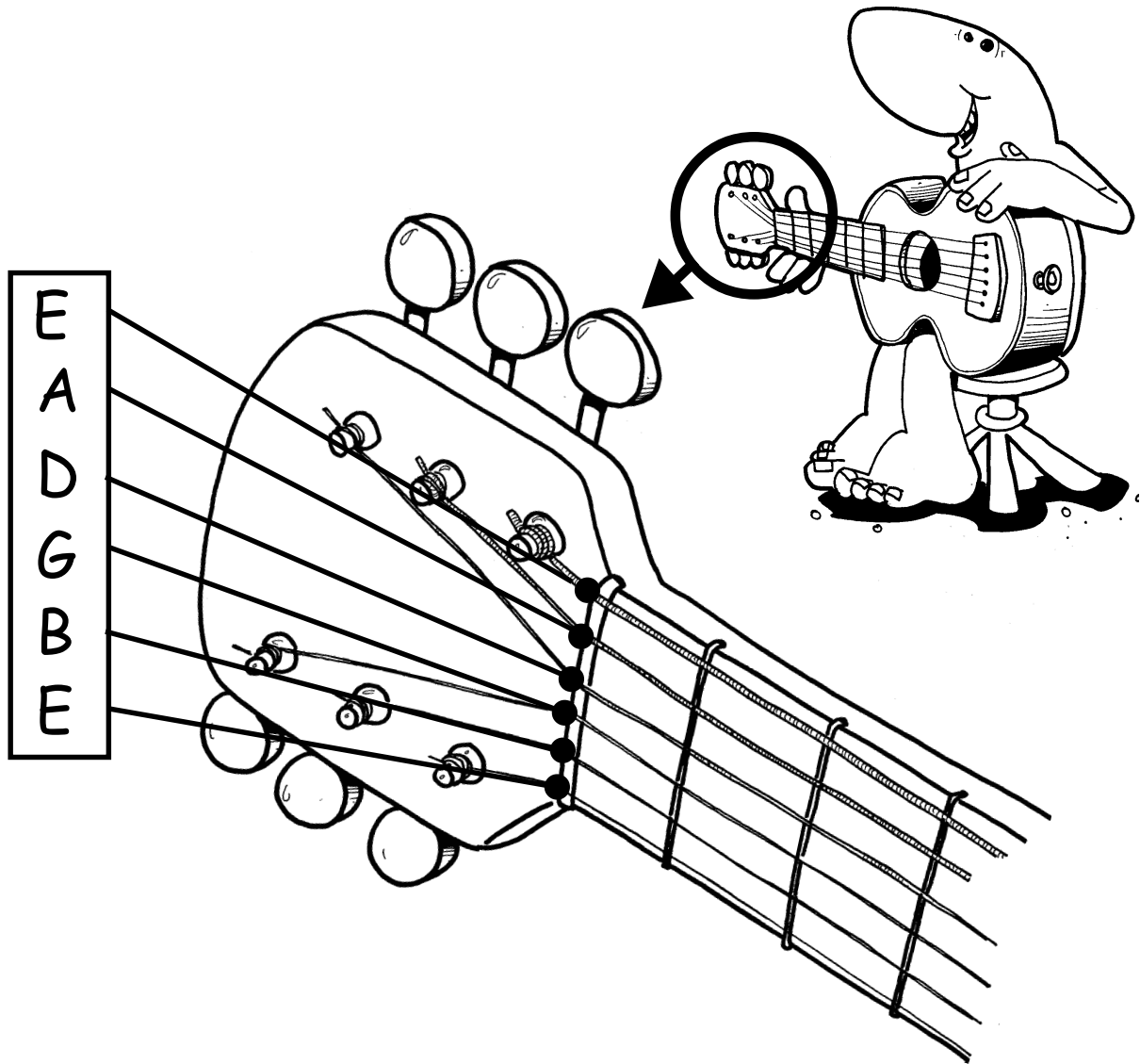
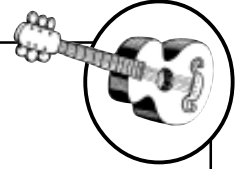
electric guitar



An electric guitar needs an amplifier and electricity to be heard, while an acoustic guitar has a sound hole.

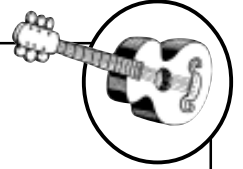


The Six Strings



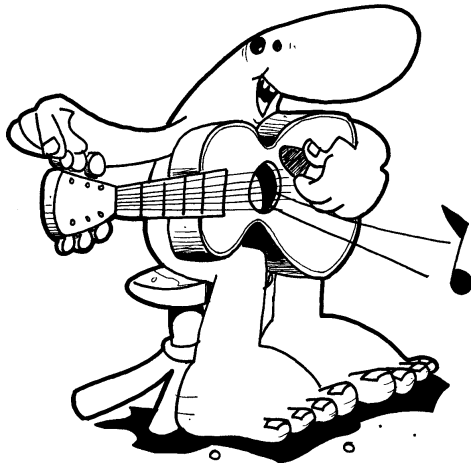
The six strings on a guitar each have a name. Starting with the string at the top (the thickest one) the names are E A D G B E. You will notice the top and bottom strings have the same name, which is because they are the same note but are two octaves (group of 8 notes) apart.

If you sing 'doh ray mi fah soh lah ti doh', that is a major scale of one octave. Sing it twice in a row, only keep going up the scale, and you will have sung two octaves. The first 'doh' you sang and the last 'doh' you sang are two octaves apart. Likewise, on the guitar the thickest string 'E' and the thinnest string 'E' are two octaves apart.



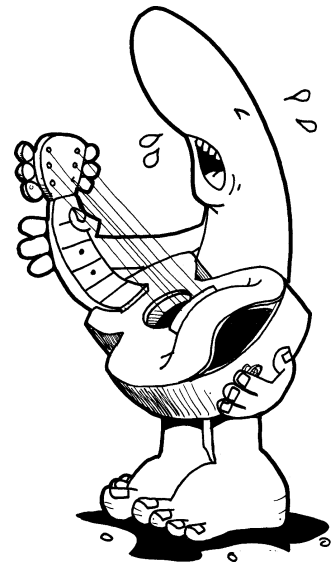
Tuning Your Guitar - 1

Tuning a guitar can be tricky. However, you can't properly play a guitar that is not in tune – it simply won't sound right. So before we go any further, you need to learn how to get your guitar in tune. This is how we do it.

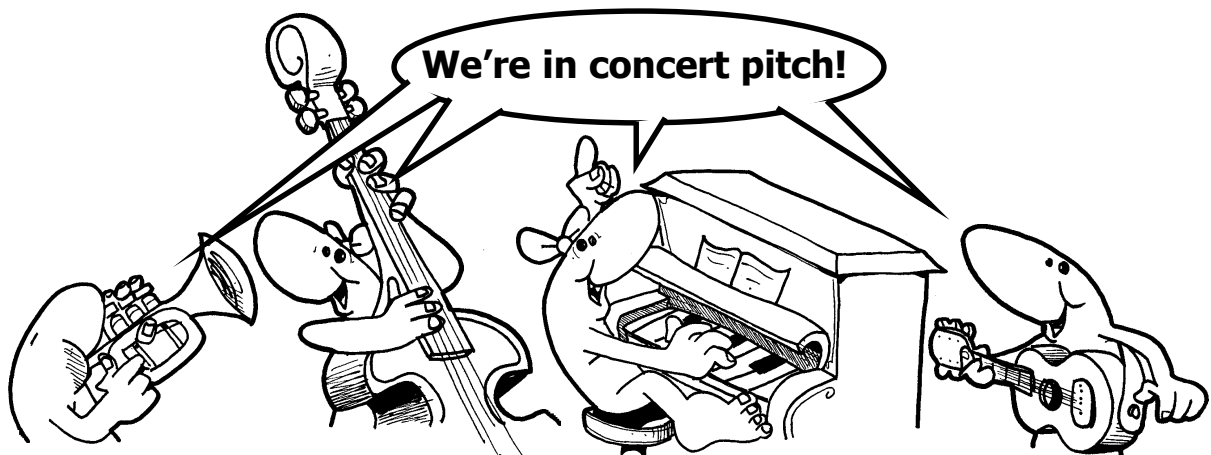


Turning the tuning peg will either raise the pitch of a note or lower it. If you play the string as you do this you will hear the sound go up or down depending on which way you turn the peg.

Be careful not to tighten the peg too much as the string can snap. Strings that are left too tight can pull the guitar's body out of shape and bend the neck.



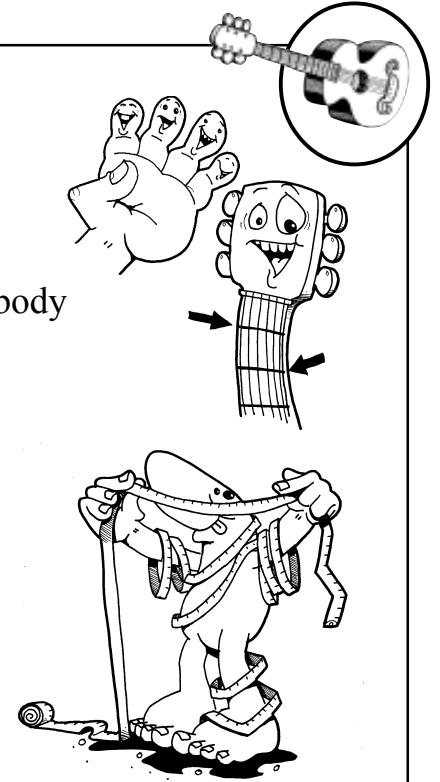
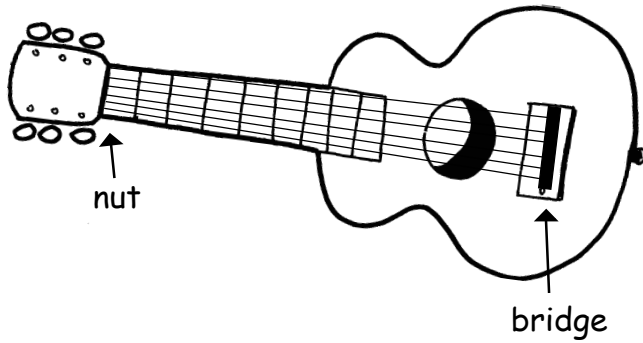
It is a good idea to tune your guitar to what is called 'concert pitch', which is a standard tuning used by musicians all over the world. Most recorded music, either on television, CDs, or tapes has been recorded with the instruments tuned to concert pitch. Most bands and groups play tuned to concert pitch.





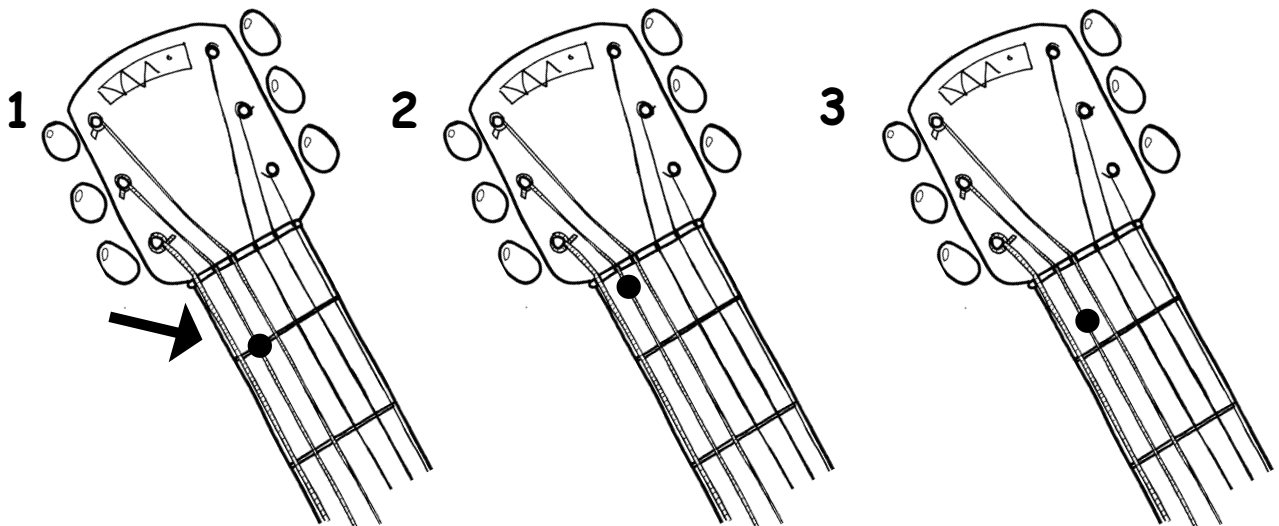
Fingers and Frets

Guitar strings are a certain length, from the bridge on the body to the nut on the neck.



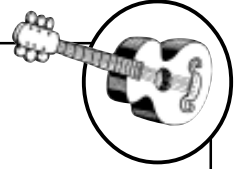
If you press a finger down on a string, say at the first fret, then it shortens that string. It now runs from the bridge to the first fret only. The note the string then plays is higher because the string is shorter. This is how notes and chords are made on the guitar.

Fingers need to be put in just the right place on the fingerboard to make a nice clean-sounding note. If you put your finger on top of the fret, as in the first picture, and play the string, it will just make a dull 'dud' sound. If you put your finger too far from the fret, as in the second picture, you will get what is called 'fret buzz'. This is a sound made when the string vibrates against the fret. The best place is just before the fret, as in the third picture, which should make a clean-sounding note. If you still hear some fret buzz then press down on the string a little harder.

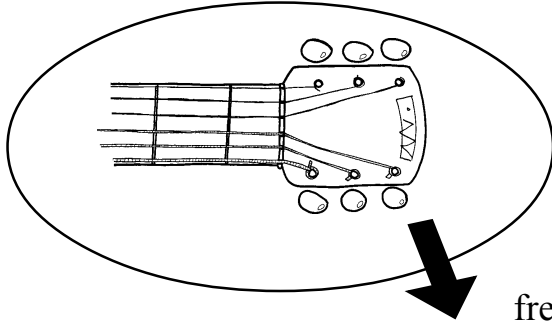




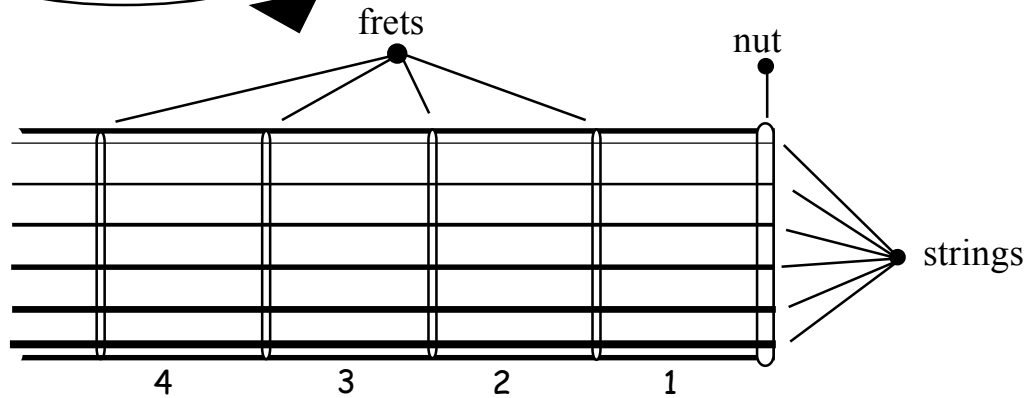
Chord Pictures - 1



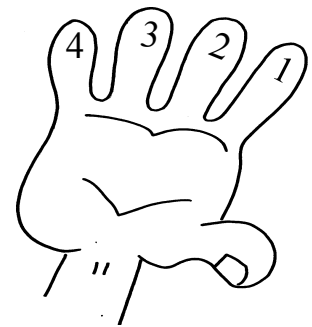
Chord pictures are diagrams that tell you where to put your fingers on the fretboard to make a chord. In this book the diagram itself is a picture of the fretboard, as you would see it from a playing position.



The space between each fret has been numbered from one to four. This will help you place your fingers in the right space.

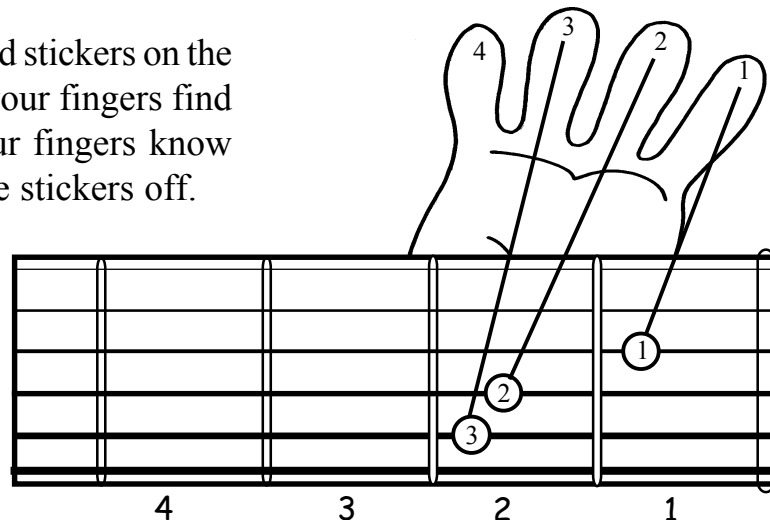


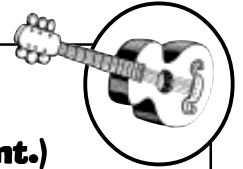
A chord is written on the fretboard using circles and numbers. The circle means this is where you put a finger and the number tells you which finger to put there. Some chords use three fingers, some chords use four fingers, and some only one finger.



Tip

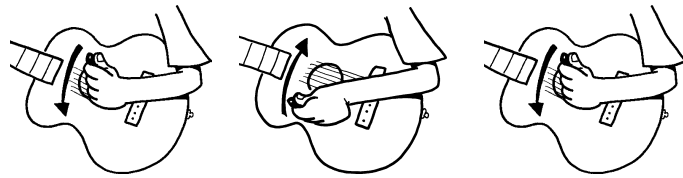
Placing little coloured stickers on the fretboard will help your fingers find the chord. Once your fingers know where to go, take the stickers off.





Learning a Chord - E major (cont.)

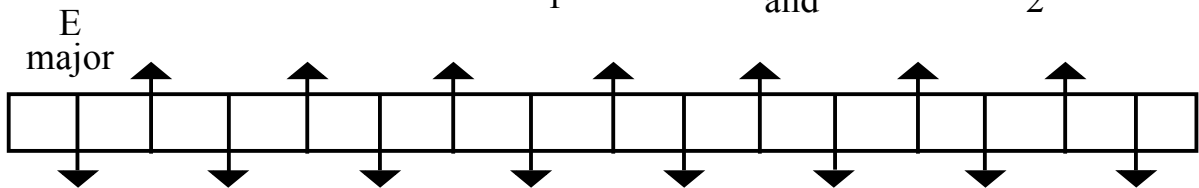
Use down and upstrokes together.



1

and

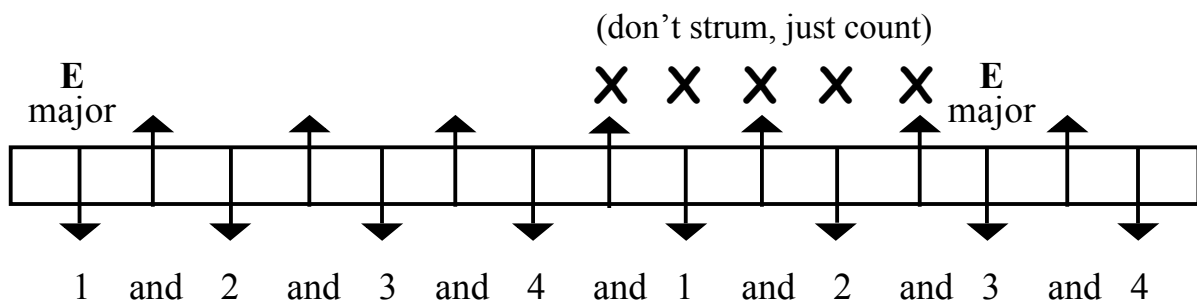
2



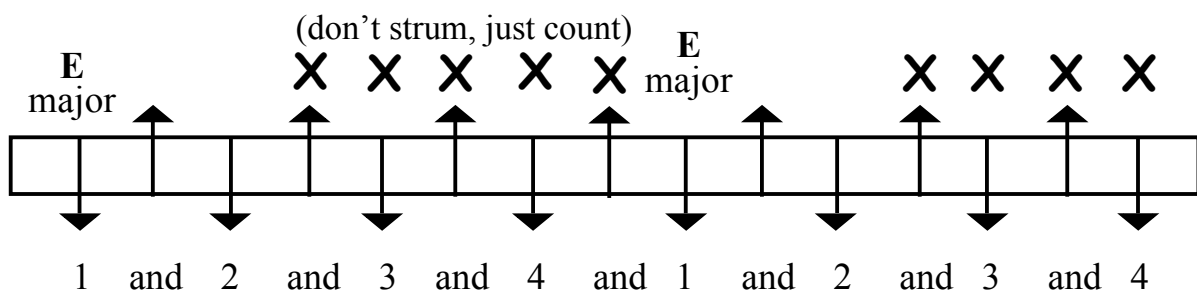
count 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and 1 and 2 and 3 and 4

Here is an exercise designed to practise making an E chord.

Strum the chord 1 and 2 and 3 and 4. When you get to the strums marked with an 'x' let go of the chord, don't strum, but keep counting: 'and 1 and 2 and'. Then make an E chord again and strum: '3 and 4'.



Here is a different one.



You can do this exercise lots of different ways. Try making up your own patterns.