

Strumming Your Way to Success:

Guitar Tuning and Rhythm Basics



Why Tune Your Guitar?

- Proper tuning is essential for your guitar to sound good
 - Helps you play in harmony with other instruments
 - Prevents damaging your guitar strings
 - Makes learning and playing more enjoyable
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- How do you think an out-of-tune guitar might affect your playing?



Standard Guitar Tuning



- From thickest to thinnest string: E A D G B E
- Remember the phrase: "Every Amateur Does Get Better Eventually"
- Each string has a specific pitch:
 - 1. E (lowest)
 - 2. A
 - 3. D
 - 4. G
 - 5. B
 - 6. E (highest)
- Can you come up with your own memory phrase for the string names?

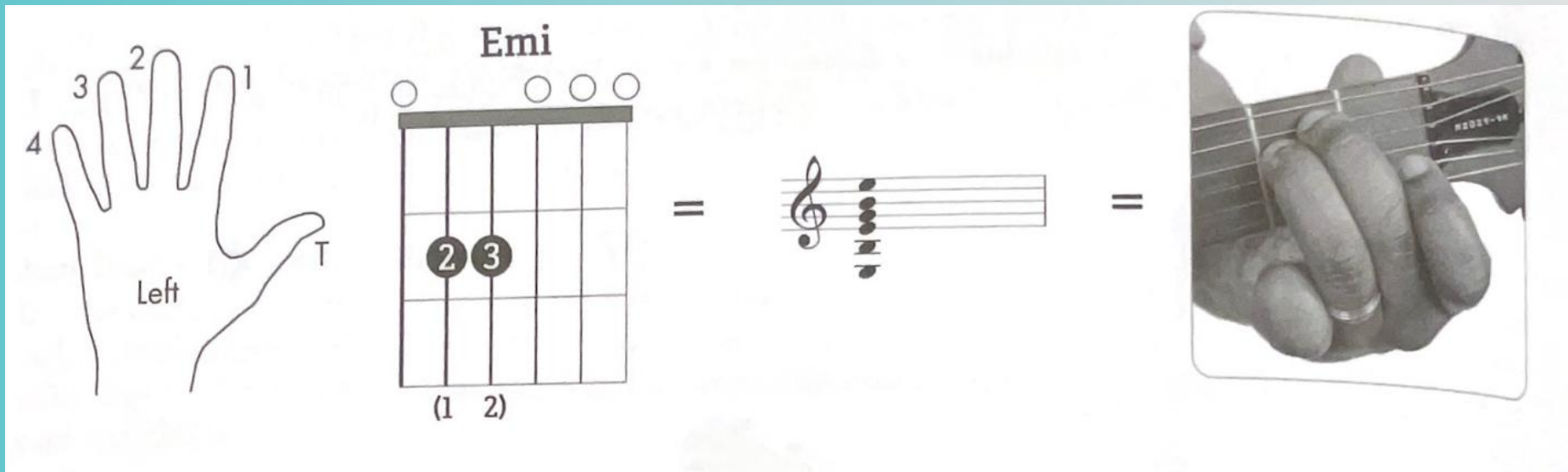
Tuning Methods

- Electronic tuner
 - Clip-on or pedal tuners
 - Tuning apps on smartphones
 - Online tuners
 - Tuning by ear (advanced method)
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- Shows if the string is sharp, flat, or in tune
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- Which method do you think would be easiest for beginners?

TIME TO PRACTICE

- Time to tune on your own
- I will call you up to tune with me
- Once tuned, DO NOT mess with the tuning pegs

Notation



Here are a few images that will show up throughout the class

- The numbers on the hand refer to the left-hand fingers used to press down the strings
- The open circles tell you to play a string open (without holding down any frets)
- An “X” tells you not to play that string

Strumming

Let's look at how we notate rhythms.

- Count these numbers steadily
- Strumming on the numbers is called playing the “on-beats”
- Strum down on the “On beats”

1	2	3	4
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1	2	3	4
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Strumming

Let's look at how we notate rhythms.

- The “+” sign (also known as “and”) between the numbers are called “off beats”
- When playing these, strum up through the strings rather than down

1 2 3 + 4

1 + 2 + 3 4

Basic Strumming Patterns

- Downstrokes: Strumming from top to bottom
- Upstrokes: Strumming from bottom to top

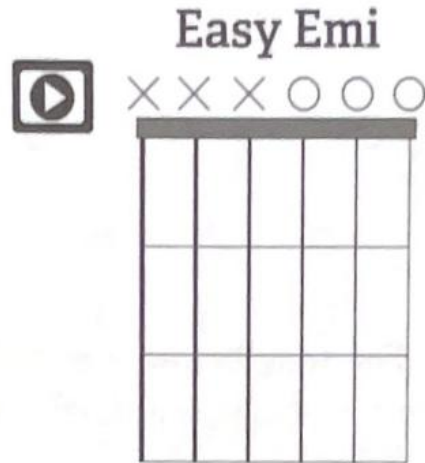
Common patterns:

- 1. All downstrokes: ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
- 2. Alternating: ↓↑↓↑
- 3. "Boom-chick": ↓ ↓↑

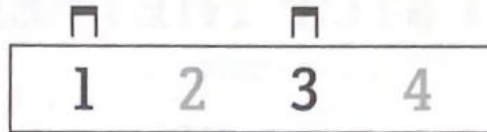
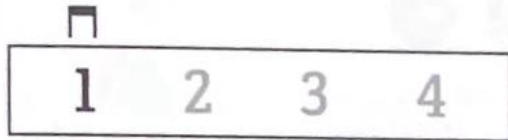
Tips for Improving Your Strumming

- Keep your strumming hand relaxed
- Use your wrist, not your entire arm
- Practice with a metronome to improve timing
- Start slow and gradually increase speed
- Experiment with different strumming patterns for songs you know

First Chords!



Count to four and strum down (▮) on every black beat. Don't play the grey beats.

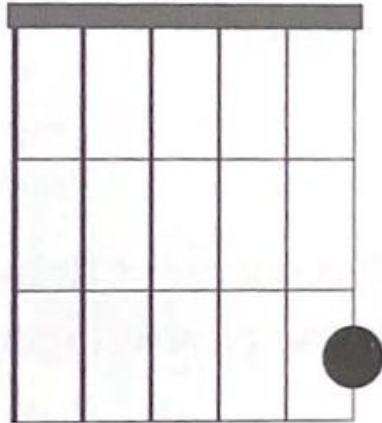


First Chords!



Easy G

X X X O O



1

1

2

3

4

1

1

2

1

3

4

1

1

1

2

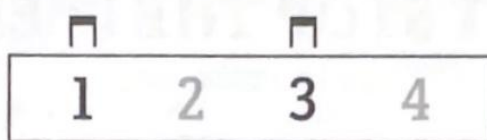
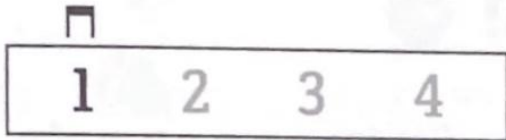
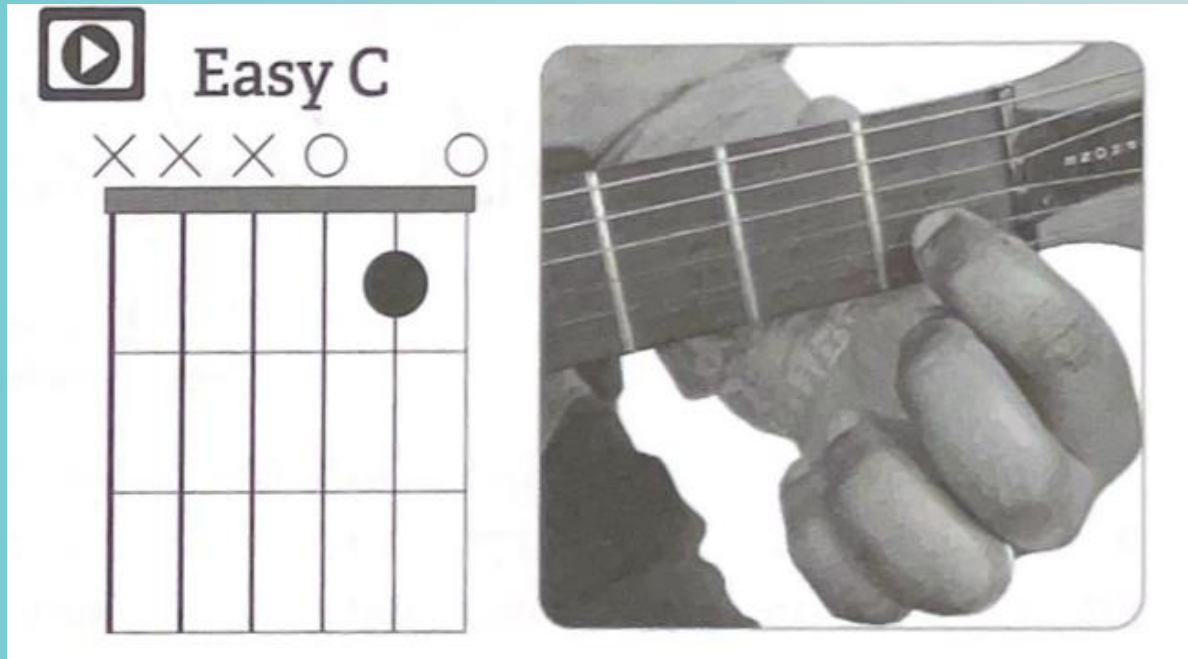
1

3

1

4

First Chords!



The Song Chart

- **Lead sheet** tells a musician how to play the chords of a song.
- The example below has four **measures** (or **bars**)
- Each measure is divided by vertical lines (**bar lines**)
- Each measure is made up of four beats, shown by **slashes**
- The measures are repeated over and over again, indicated by the **repeat bar**



Can't Stop The Feeling



CAN'T STOP THE FEELING!

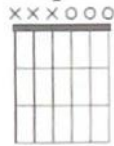


Justin Timberlake

Easy G



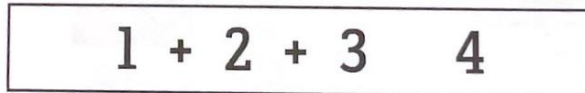
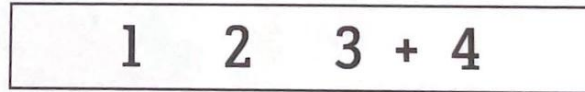
Easy Emi



Easy C



Easy Emi



Can't Stop The Feeling

G **Emi**
I've got this feeling inside my bones.

C **Emi**
It goes electric, wavy when I turn it on.

G **Emi**
All through my city, all through my home,

C **Emi**
We're flying up, no ceiling, when we in our zone.

G **Emi**
I got that sunshine in my pocket, got that good soul in my feet.

C **Emi**
I feel that hot blood in my body when it drops, ooh.

G **Emi**
I can't take my eyes up off it, moving so phenomenally.

C **Emi**
Room on lock the way we rock it, so don't stop.



WITHOUT YOU



David Guetta ft. Usher

Easy G



Easy C



Easy Emi



Easy C



G C Emi C
I can't win, I can't reign. I will never win this game without you, without you.

G C Emi C
I am lost, I am vain. I will never be the same without you, without you.

G C Emi C
I won't run, I won't fly. I will never make it by without you, without you.

G C Emi C
I can't rest, I can't fight. All I need is you and I, without you, without you.