

Strumming Success: Learn to Read Guitar Notation and Play C, G, and E minor Chords

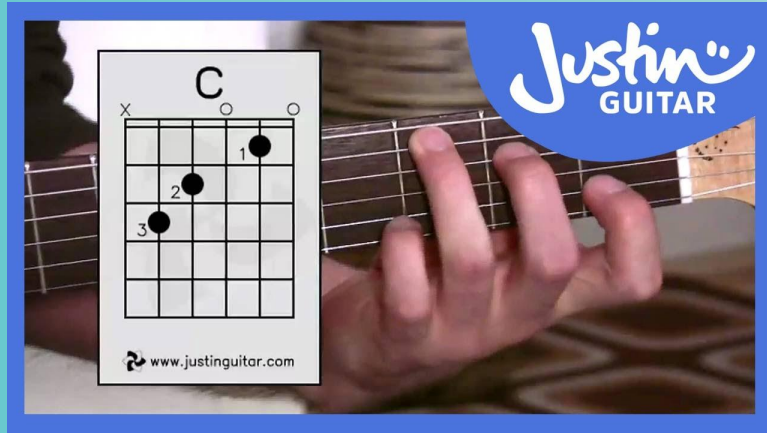


Introduction to Guitar Notation

- Guitar notation uses chord diagrams and tablature
- Chord diagrams show finger placement on the fretboard
- Each line represents a string, dots show where to place fingers
- Numbers indicate which finger to use (1=index, 2=middle, 3=ring, 4=pinky)
- Let's learn to read and play three common chords: C, G, and E minor
- Question: Why do you think it's important to learn how to read guitar notation?



The C Chord



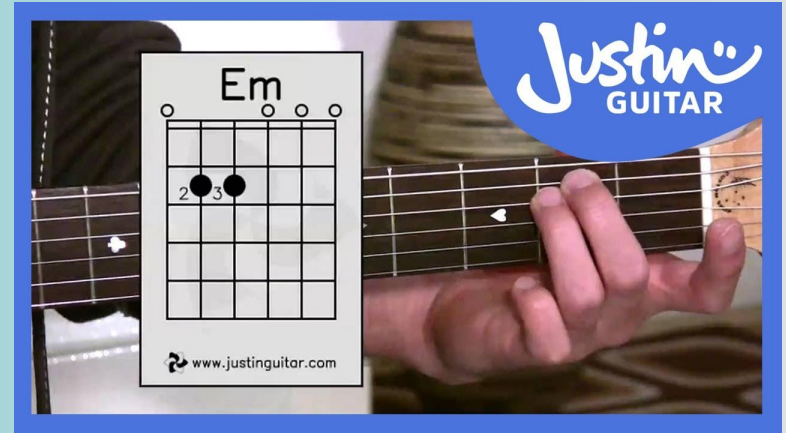
- C chord is one of the most common chords in popular music
- To play C chord:
 1. Place your first finger on the first fret of the B string
 2. Put your second finger on the second fret of the D string
 3. Put your third finger on the third fret of the A string
- Strum all strings except the low E (thickest string)
- Practice strumming the C chord slowly, making sure each note rings clearly
- Question: What challenges do you face when trying to form the C chord?

The G Chord

- G chord is another essential chord for beginners
- To play G chord:
 - 1. Place your second finger on the third fret of the low E string
 - 2. Put your first finger on the second fret of the A string
 - 3. Put your third finger on the third fret of the high E string
- Strum all six strings
- Try transitioning between C and G chords, taking your time to form each one correctly
- Question: How does the shape of the G chord feel different from the C chord?

The E minor Chord

- E minor (Em) is a simple yet expressive chord
- To play Em chord:
 1. Place your second finger on the second fret of the A string
 2. Put your third finger on the second fret of the D string
- Strum all six strings
- Notice how Em has a different "feeling" compared to C and G (major chords)
- Question: What kind of mood or emotion do you think the E minor chord conveys?



Practicing Chord Transitions

- Smooth transitions between chords are key to playing songs
- Start by practicing transitions between C and G:
 1. Form C chord and strum once
 2. Switch to G chord and strum once
 3. Repeat, gradually increasing speed
- Add Em to your practice:
 1. Play C, then G, then Em
 2. Try different orders: G, Em, C or Em, C, G
- Focus on accuracy first, then work on speed
- Question: What tips can you think of to make chord transitions smoother?

Putting It All Together



- Now that you know C, G, and Em, you can play many songs!
- Try this simple progression: C - G - Em - C
- Strum each chord four times before moving to the next
- Once comfortable, try different strumming patterns
- Remember to practice regularly - even 10 minutes a day can make a big difference
- Be patient with yourself - learning guitar takes time and practice
- Question: What song would you like to learn that uses these chords?