

## INTRODUCTION

One of the best ways to develop basic musical skills is performing solo or group vocal music with guitar accompaniment. Senses of pitch, rhythm, and harmony can all be improved dramatically if a person learns to smoothly make chord changes while singing.

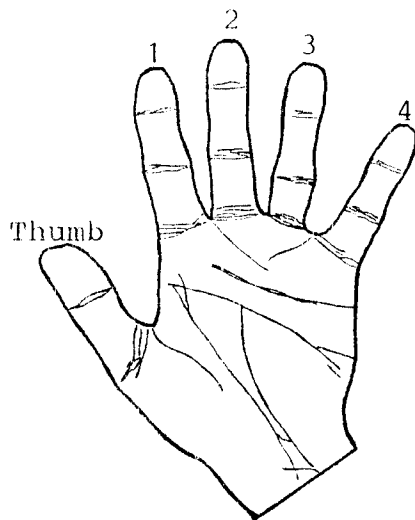
To my thinking as a guitar teacher, a beginner's chord book should start with a smooth, graduated study of basic open chords. Songs must be selected which fit into the overall plan of learning and are widely known by today's students.

After mastering open chords, the serious guitar student must learn to play bar chords and other moveable chord forms. This enables the student to play songs in every key.

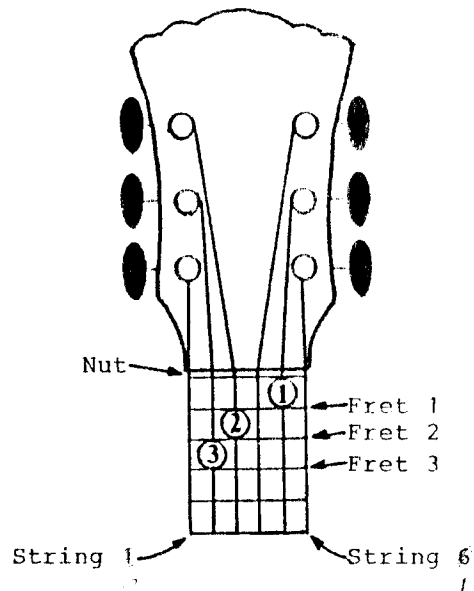
This chord book also addresses the rhythmic aspect of strumming and gives some basic arpeggio fingerings for those who play without a pick. I have also included transposition and capoing guides to help the guitarist perform music in the key most suitable for their guitar and/or vocal abilities.

**CAUTION:** This work is not intended as a sole source of guitar instruction. I assume that a serious guitar student is also learning to read and play from musical notation, preferably with the help of a well qualified instructor. Therefore, no explanations of such things as bar lines, measures, time signatures, and guitar note locations are included.

### PLAYING CHORDS FROM DIAGRAMS



Left Hand Fingering



1. Place the thumb on the back of the neck midway between frets one and two.
2. Arch the fingers around the fretboard and lightly place the **tips** of the fingers needed for each chord on the correct string and directly behind the fret. Do not allow any joint of any finger to straighten (or collapse). The fingertips should be as perpendicular to the fretboard as possible when fretting strings. Only the thumb and the fingertips should now be in contact with the guitar.

## PLAYING CHORDS FROM DIAGRAMS (contd.)

3. Apply equal pressure to those fingers being used for each chord. Do not squeeze with the thumb.
4. Strum the chord, then pick each string individually. Dead or buzzing strings can be caused by finger placement either too far from the fret or on top of the fret. Also, a string can be deadened by the side of another finger touching it.

### GETTING STARTED

At the beginning of each song is given the first note of the song's melody. This note is usually one of the notes of the song's first chord. Before starting, find the song's first note and sing it. Memorize this pitch before you begin to strum and sing. Once you are ready to start the song, begin strumming and start singing the words where the "X" is shown.

1st note  
sung C

Sing any "E"      Start singing on the first strum

1st note  
sung G

Sing any "G"      Start singing on the third strum

1st note  
sung D

Sing any "A"      Start singing between strums three and four

D7      G

Start singing here for the next verse

### ENDINGS

Shown below are examples of rhythmic notation used to show strums which are to last more than one count:

Whole Note	Dotted-half Note	Half Note
4 counts	3 counts	2 counts

Most of the songs included in this course do not have specific endings indicated. The usual way to end a song is by strumming a chord on a final, strong beat. Beats 1 and 3 in 4/4 time are strong beats. The following examples show two possible endings for a song in 4/4 time.

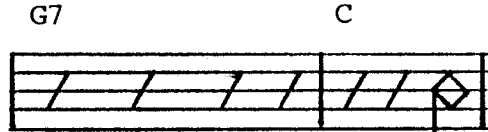
## ENDINGS (contd.)

### Original



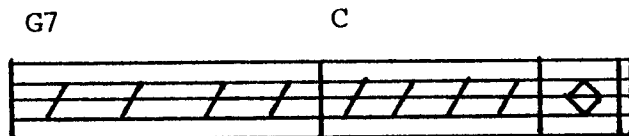
Skip to my Lou my Dar - lin'

### Ending on beat three



Skip to my Lou my Dar - lin'

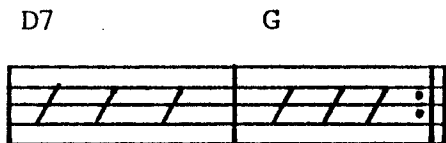
### Ending on beat one



Skip to my Lou my Dar - lin'

Beat 1 in 3/4 time is a strong beat. The following example shows an ending for a song in 3/4 time.

### Original



sorry, Clemens - tine

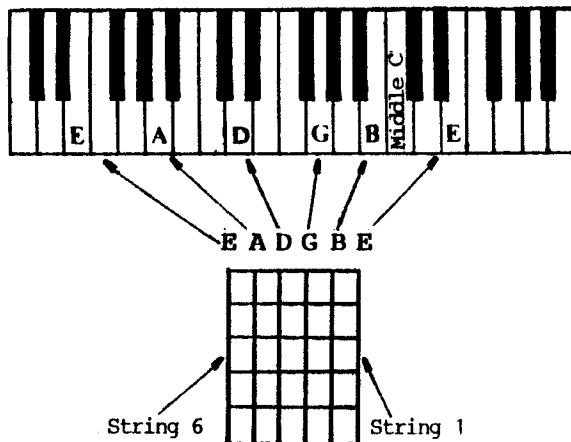
### Ending on beat one



sorry, Clemens - tine

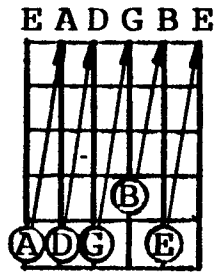
## TUNING THE GUITAR

The open (unfretted) strings of a guitar may be tuned to a piano or other keyboard instrument by matching the pitch of each string to the key shown.



## ANOTHER METHOD OF TUNING

### Locations of unisons



1. Tune string 1 to E above middle C by using a tuning fork, pitch pipe, another instrument, etc..
2. Tune string 2, fret 5 in unison with the open 1st string (E's).
3. Tune string 3, fret 4 in unison with the open 2nd string (B's).
  - a. Compare the octave between the open 3rd string and the 1st string, fret 3 (G's).
4. Tune string 4, fret 5 in unison with the open 3rd string (G's).
  - a. Compare the octave between the open 4th string and the 2nd string, fret 3 (D's).
  - b. Compare the octave between the 4th string, fret 2 and the open 1st string (E's).
5. Tune string 5, fret 5 in unison with the open 4th string (D's).
  - a. Compare the octave between the open 5th string and the 3rd string, fret 2 (A's).
  - b. Compare the octave between the 5th string, fret 2 and the open 2nd string (B's).
6. Tune string 6, fret 5 in unison with the open 5th string (A's).
  - a. Compare the octave between the open 6th string and the 4th string, fret 2 (E's).
  - b. Compare the octave between the 6th string, fret 3 and the open 3rd string (G's).