

How to play the Guitar within 5 hours

**An Easy and Effective
Guitar method for beginners**

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<https:guitarmethodbook.com>



The foreword of this method

Hours of fun and excitement...



- This method was written with the same exaltation and inner feeling I felt when I bought my first guitar. I wanted to share with the student the extraordinary feeling of being able to accompany oneself in song with this beautiful instrument. Because, let's not forget, the guitar is a wonderful friend. A light caress on the strings is enough to transmit and share our most secret emotions. Tame it and you will never be alone again. You will have the presence of a faithful companion at all times.
- Wasn't it once said that: "**THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE WERE FOUND AMONG THOSE WHO ADDRESS THE PRACTICE OF A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT**".
- Finally, may the study of the guitar bring you incomparable hours of pleasure and satisfaction.

[Summary](#)



Preliminary lesson

The main purpose of this introductory lesson is to outline some of the principles on which this method is based. Thus, this work is very up to date, as it spreads out the modern techniques and gadgets that will guide the student in the study of his instrument. So, first learn how to choose your guitar so that it corresponds to your personality and the style of music you are heading towards. Also, you will find the pitfalls to avoid when buying a guitar.

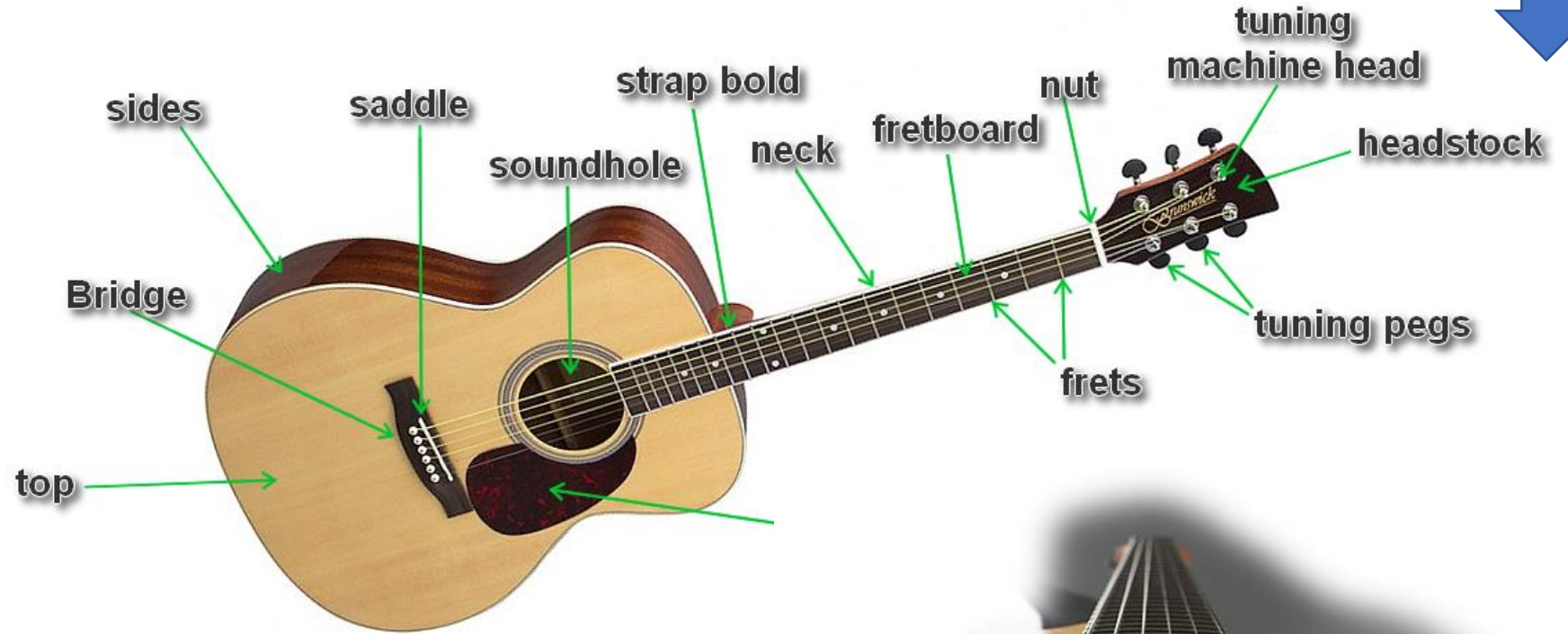


- ❑ The novice will discover in the following pages a modern and easy way to tune his instrument. In this way, he will always play well tuned and this will stimulate his desire to learn. Thanks to the tablature system the student has quick access to a vast repertoire of songs. No more need to be a graduate, since all the chords are shown to you by the position of the fingers on the diagrams.
- ❑ You will also learn how to accompany a multitude of songs on the guitar as soon as you learn your **FIRST THREE CHORDS**. This is certainly one of the most interesting aspects of this method. Moreover, if you want to deepen and perfect your playing you will find in this course a number of little tricks often used by experienced musicians.

[Summary](#)



- Sides
- Saddle
- Soundhole
- Strap bold
- Neck
- Fretboard
- Nut
- Machine head
- Headstock
- Tuning pegs
- Frets
- Pickguard
- Top
- Bridge

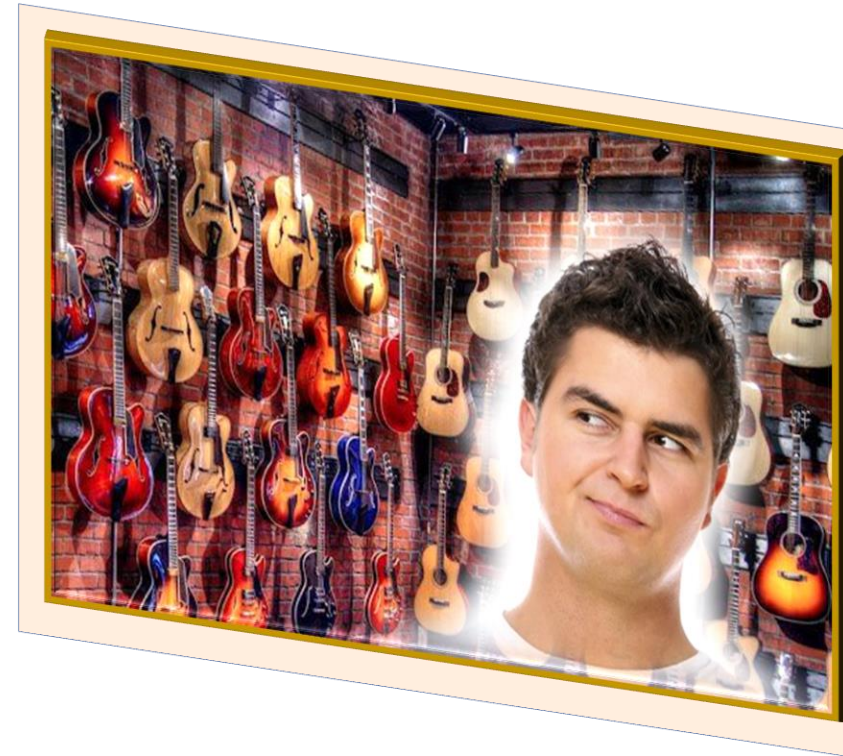


Parts of the guitar

[Summary](#)



- ❑ How to pick your guitar.
The style that suits you.
The neck of your guitar.
How to hold the instrument.
A well tuned guitar.
The basic way to tune your guitar.
The left hand.
The right hand.
How to practice?
How to read diagrams.



Choosing your guitar?

Choosing your first guitar is surely an unforgettable day in the life of a musician. This choice is very important and there can be no question here of taking the first one on the shelves of any store. Find a specialized store where you can find a wide selection of guitars. Then, if possible, choose a salesperson who is preferably a guitarist himself. The advice he will give you will surely be more judicious than that of a saxophonist. Don't buy a guitar just because you like it. For example, it can have a nice color, a nice glossy finish, nice engravings here and there. All this nice eye-catching is often to draw the customer's attention to a cheap product and make him believe it's a bargain.

The choice of your guitar will depend on your personality and the price you want to pay. But there are still some very important details that you will need to pay special attention to during your transaction.

[Summary](#)



The right style Guitar for you



The folk or standard guitar

- Commonly called dry guitar in the popular language, it is a favourite of chansonniers, folk or western singers. The strings are made of metal and the sound is produced by a balanced soundboard. It is a very good choice for your first guitar.

The classical guitar

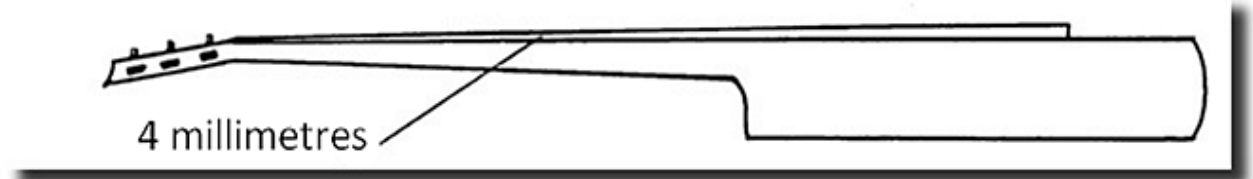
- With its nylon strings, this one is rather used by the romantics. It lends itself well to the performance of classical music. However, this music requires good dexterity and patient study, as all fingers, including the thumb of the right hand, are used to vibrate each string.

The electric guitar

- The sound box being absent, the sound is picked up directly on the strings by microphones (pickups). For this reason, it requires the use of an amplifier. Rock, blues or jazz musicians usually use it with a lot of decibels in bars and concert halls. Before making your choice of dry guitars, compare the tone, weight and volume of several models. A good guitar should be light and produce a good tone. The opinion of an experienced guitarist should guide the selection of your future purchase.

Summary

The neck of your Guitar



The neck is indeed one of the most important parts of the guitar.

In this perspective, it must have some essential qualities for accuracy and the purity of sound.

❑ A straight neck

To check its straightness, place the end of the handle a few inches from your face and, while closing one eye, carefully examine for any deviations in its path.

❑ A curved handle

- An inwardly curved neck will give a too high fingerboard. This problem is DIRECTLY related to the learning difficulties of the guitar. For example, if you have to apply three times more pressure than normal because the strings are stretched too high above the frets, you risk getting cramps in your wrist from the first chord. It is therefore understandable why beginners lose enthusiasm for this handicap.
 - The height of the strings above the fingerboard should never exceed four millimetres, measured in the middle of the neck.
- * Conversely, an outwardly curved neck will produce BUZZ in your sound. The strings touch the higher frets with each pick stroke.

[Summary](#)





A well tuned guitar

- ❑ Your guitar needs to be well tuned. But if a string is not at its true tuning level and you perform a chord with the right finger position, **that chord will still FALSE.**
- ❑ It is quite difficult for a beginner, who, let's say, doesn't always have the right ear, to tune his guitar to the right pitch. For this reason, we recommend the purchase of an electronic tuner.

To ensure that your instrument is always tuned to its maximum and not 60% or 75%, you can rely on electronic tuners.

An electronic tuner

With this little marvel, your guitar will always be right without having to remove yourself from endless tuning sessions.



[Summary](#)

The basic way to **Tune** your guitar



- ❑ After having given you the avant-garde way to tune up (previous page), here is the so-called conventional way. First of all, you must always tune internationally, that is to say to the LA 440 sound vibration. You will find a tuning fork that will give you this A 440 note at your local music store (there are also tuning forks that give the 6 notes that correspond to the 6 strings of the guitar).
- ❑ Make your tuning fork sound and it should sound in unison or like the 5th string (A) of your instrument.
 - **E (6th string):** Press the fifth fret. The resulting
 - **A (5 string)** Must sound exactly in unison. from A (5th string) to empty.
 - **D (4th string):** Must be the same sound obtained by pressing the fifth fret of the A.
 - **G (3rd string):** Must be the same sound you get when you press down on the fifth fret of the D.
 - **B (2nd string):** Must be the same sound obtained by pressing down on the 4th fret of the G.
 - **E (1st string):** The sound must be the same as the one obtained by pressing on the 5th fret of the B chord.

[Summary](#)



Left Hand



Unless you are left-handed, this hand will be the hand that executes the chords.

- ❑ It should therefore be placed correctly on the neck of the guitar in order to facilitate your playing.

Place your left thumb behind the neck. Bend your wrist a little so that your fingers fall smoothly on the strings.

Remember that the chords should be **made with the tip and not with the inside of the fingers**. The palm of your hand should never touch the neck of the guitar. The left elbow along the body should be relaxed and at its lowest level.

Your elbow should be as close to your body as possible or even touch it.



IMPORTANT:

The nails on your left hand must be trimmed very short.

Since your fingertips play the chords, nails that are too long may interfere with the pressure of the strings on the fingerboard.

Press the strings with your fingertips and not with the inside of your fingers. The neck should never touch the palm of your hand.

Very important:

Your elbow should be as close to your body as possible or even touch it.

The beginner is inclined to lift his elbow by looking at his guitar neck and therefore can only place the fingertips on the neck.

(Experiment...)

[Summary](#)

☐ Your first three Basic Chords

F chord

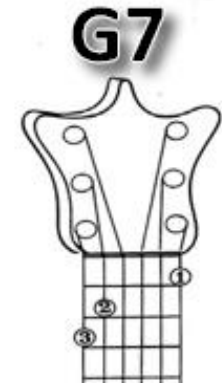
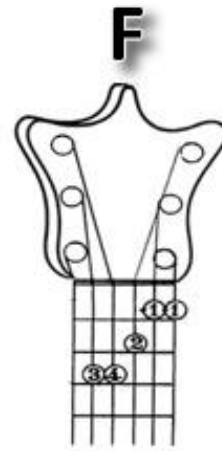
- Place the first phalanx of the index finger (1) on the first two strings of the first fret. Then position the other fingers, using your right hand if necessary. This chord is surely the least easy of the three, but with a little patience you will succeed. Relax your fingers and your hand between each try.

C chord

- Three fingers are enough. There's not really any significant difficulty with this chord. At the beginning, you are invited to help yourself with your right hand, but don't overdo it! Relax your hand and start again!

G chord 7

- The chord is almost identical to the DO. So once you have mastered the C chord you will have no problem with it. Relax your hand and start again!



[Summary](#)



Do not press the strings with too much pressure. Press just enough to get a clear sound. If the sound of your chord seems muffled, there may be several reasons for this:

1. Either you are not pressing one of the strings hard enough.
 2. One of your fingers is probably in contact with an adjacent string.
 3. Perhaps you are not pressing close enough to the fret or one of your fingers is placed directly on the fret.
- ❖ Be patient! Relax your hand between tries. After correcting all these small technical errors, you will be able to obtain a perfectly clear and precise sound.

❑ The right hand

- First, gently press the forearm on the highest edge of the guitar. The wrist should be above the strings at the place of the rosette (see parts of the guitar).
- To make the strings sound you will need to use a pick. Choose a pick of medium flexibility so that it is neither too stiff nor too soft. Hold it between thumb and forefinger and strike the strings back and forth just behind the rosette. At first, your movement will be simple, but don't worry, your playing will develop over time.
- PLEASE NOTE: the accompaniment is from the wrist, not the forearm. There are of course other modes of accompaniment, including Fingerpicking. But its technique is quite difficult to master, as it requires the interaction of all the fingers (including the thumb) of the right hand. The melodic possibilities of this technique are still amazing, so you will benefit from exploring it as soon as you have mastered your instrument.



[Summary](#)



You're finally ready to start!



What's a chord?

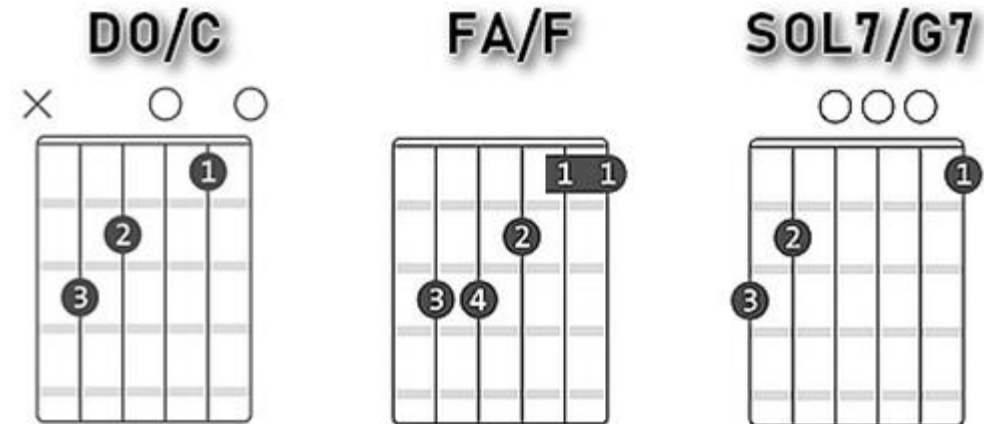
A chord is a collection of three or more notes that, when played simultaneously, will produce a harmony that is pleasant to the ear. MAJOR chords have something joyful about them, while MINOR chords produce a certain sadness in their sound.

The systematic use of these chords in music will make you experience a range of emotions that are often intense and very colourful.

N.B.: Remember the chords are simply indicated by the letters of the alphabet. It would be very useful for you to recognize them with a simple glance, here they are:

C D E F G A B

The key of C major



- * **THREE BASIC AGREEMENTS...** are enough to accompany in an elementary way most folk songs, westerns and popular songs.
- That's why once you have mastered the first group of three chords, you can already accompany several songs on the guitar.

[Summary](#)



How to accompany yourself and sing on the guitar?

- How do we know we have the right chord?
- What to play at first?
- How can we keep the rhythm while playing?

How do you accompany yourself on the guitar?

- ❑ Choose at the beginning an easy tune whose melody you know perfectly. If the song is too high or too low for your voice register, use the CAPO (see page 30). Once you know all your basic chords, using the CAPO will no longer be necessary.
- ❑ It is necessary to master the 3 basic chords you have just learned correctly. You may still have difficulty with their alternation after the first day. That's no big deal!
- ❑ Take another day to do it. **"WE'RE NOT IN A MARATHON!"**

[Summary](#)



The rhythm in song...

To get the rhythm in song, first count as follows by tapping your foot: 1,2,3,4/ 1,2,3,4/ 1,2,3,4/ 1,2,3,4/ 1,2,3,4/ and give a simple pick from top to bottom to each digit, tapping slightly harder on the number One. 1,2,3,4/ represents one bar.

First of all, be aware that a song **"UP AND DOWN"** according to its harmonies.

❑ The example that follows may seem childish to you, but for the beginner, it represents a simple and effective description of how a song is accompanied on the guitar.

You are going to imagine 3 levels with a child on each of them playing a ball from level to level (the ball represents the change of chord) and the middle level always represents the starting point of the game.

These children take turns singing the same song. Also, when the ball changes hands, the child who receives the ball sings the song. When a child is wrong, it is because he or she has kept the ball too long.



[Summary](#)

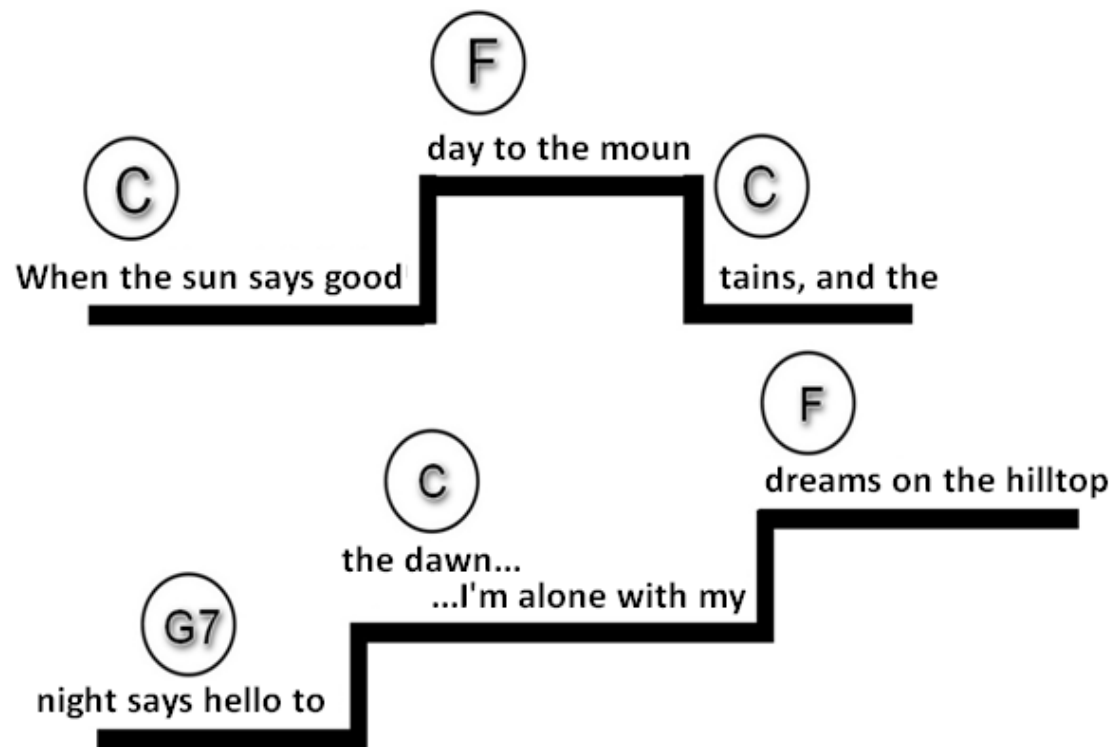




Just remember...

Remember the principle of children on their landing "(WHEN A CHILD SINGS FALSE IT IS THAT HE HAS KEPT THE BALL TOO LONG)". *So, when you sing wrong, it is because you have kept the chord too long.*

1. So the middle child (C) starts the song by singing "(WHEN THE SUN SAYS GOOD)".
2. Then he stops singing and throws the ball to his friend in the top (F). Immediately, he continues
3. the song where it was rendered (-DAY TO MY-) and so on ...



[Summary](#)

You are finally ready to accompany your first song on guitar!

Famous song

C F C
When the sun says hello to the mountains
 G7 C
When the night says hello to the dawn
 F C
I'm alone with my dreams on the hillside
 G7 C
I can still hear your voice although you're gone
F C
I hear at my door a love song in the wind
 D7 G7
It brings back sweet memories of you
 C F C
And when the sun says goodbye to the mountains
 G7 C
And the night says hello to the dawn



[Summary](#)



HOW TO PRACTICE

Don't think you'll become a guitar master by practicing only 15 minutes a weekend.



- ✓ So, you will have to practice every day with regularity. At the beginning, practice in 20-minute increments and rest. Let your brain assimilate the new exercises that you have imposed on your fingers. Come back after an hour and you will find that your chords are more easily executed.
- ✓ Practicing for 3 to 4 hours at a time will do you no good, as the tightness of the arm and finger muscles and psychological fatigue will hinder your assimilation. Therefore, it is advisable: practice, rest, practice, rest... etc.
- ✓ Also learn how to relax your hand and make your fingers supple. First, close and reopen your hand by stretching your fingers to the maximum and wave them one by one.

[Summary](#)

Oh, you're on!
Go ahead and cheer up!



The guitar CAPO: a simple and practical accessory!

Discover more songs that are easy and exciting to play!

Learn all the other chord groups in the same way as the previous one.

A few tips for beginners...



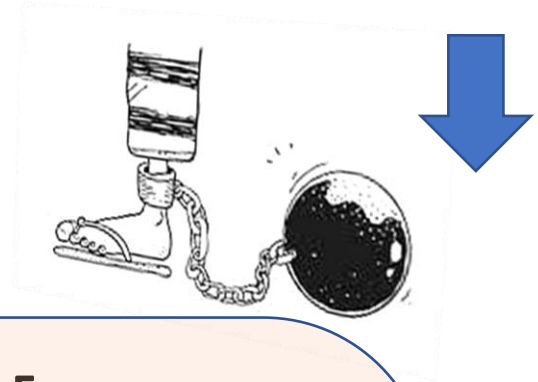
➤ The CAPO

...is a very useful accessory for the beginner. It can be adjusted in seconds on the guitar neck and allows to play in different tones while keeping the same chord positions. In this perspective, you will understand that it becomes a very appreciated asset.

[Summary](#)

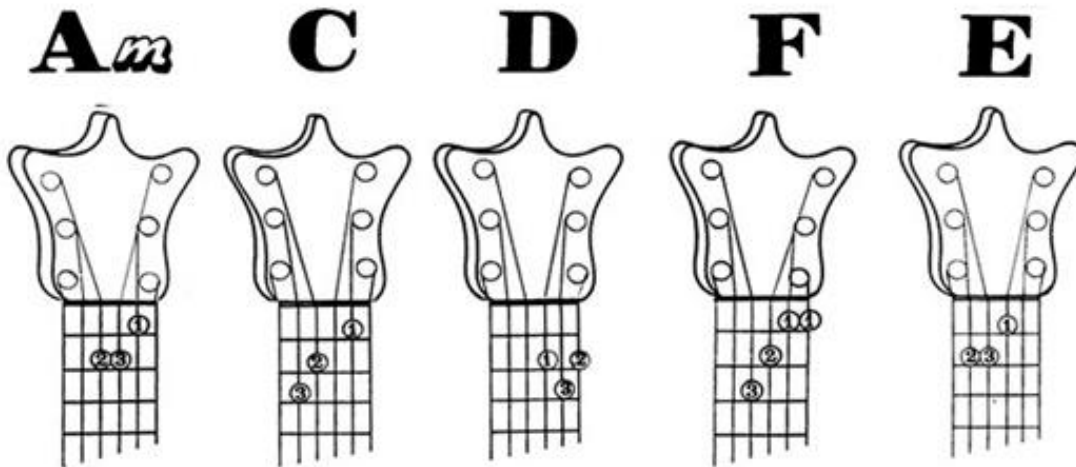


The House of the rising sun (Pop song)



This famous song has only 5 chords, here they are:

- Before you want to play the song, it is recommended to assimilate the technical execution of these chords. But, as you may have noticed, three of them are already part of your musical baggage.



Am C D F
There is a house in New Orleans
Am C E E
They call the Risin' Sun
Am C D F
And it's been the ruin of many a poor boy
Am E Am
And God, I know I'm one.
(Passing chords)

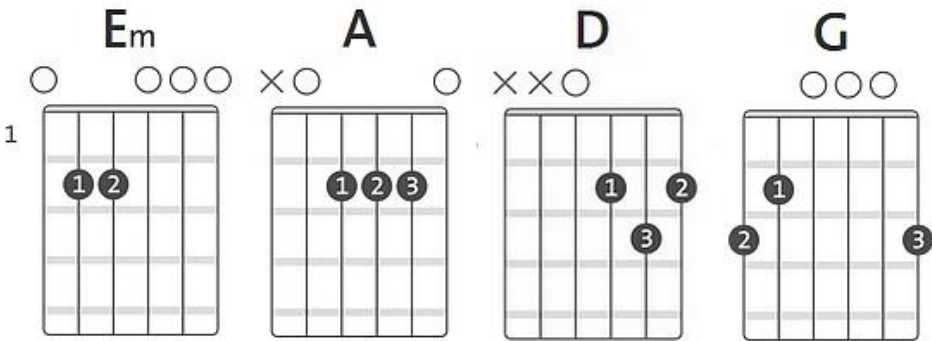
My mother was a tailor
She sewed my new blue jeans
My father was a gamblin' man
Down in New Or-leans.

[Summary](#)



Stewball

✓ Traditional song



D

Em

Stewball was a racehorse, and I wish he were mine.

A

D G A

He never drank water, he always drank wine.

D

Em

His bridle was silver, his mane it was gold.

A

D G A

And the worth of his saddle has never been told.

D

Em

Oh the fairgrounds were crowded, and Stewball was there

A

D G A

But the betting was heavy on the bay and the mare.

D

Em

And a-way up yonder, ahead of them all,

A

D G A

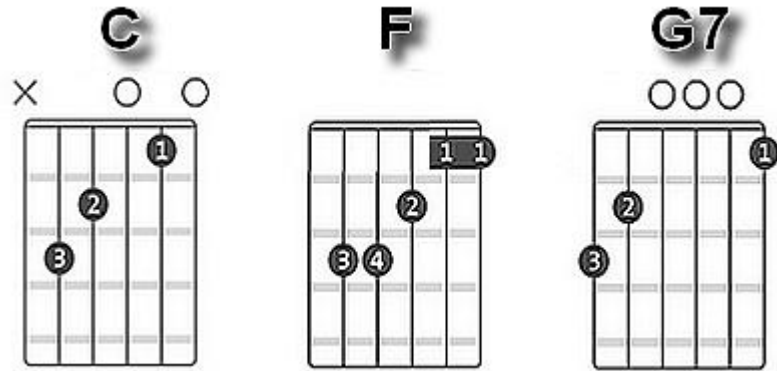
Came a-prancing and a-dancing my noble Stewball

Summary



The Bamba

(Ritchie Valens)



C F G
 Para bailar la Bamba
 C F G C F G
 Para bailar la Bamba se necesita, una poca de gracia
 C F G C F G
 Una poca de gracia pa mi pa ti y, arriba arriba
 C F G C F G
 Ay arriba y arriba, por ti seré, por ti seré, por ti seré

NC C F G C F G C F G
 Yo no soy marinero, yo no soy marinero soy capitán, soy capitán, soy capitán
 C F G C F G C F G C F G
 Bamba-bamba, bamba-bamba, bamba-bamba, bam...

NC C F G
 Para bailar la Bamba
 C F G C F G
 Para bailar la Bamba se necesita, una poca de gracia
 C F G C F G
 Una poca de gracia pa mi pa ti y, arriba arriba

Solo: C F G





The crossed-out technique

The barre chords technique



- ❑ This technique consists of pressing the six strings of the guitar with the index finger of the left hand and placing the other fingers to form a chord.
- ❑ The index finger (finger I) is placed across the six strings and the thumb rests firmly behind the neck. At the beginning, you can use your right hand to come and position your fingers with your left hand. You will find that these chords with a strikethrough of are not easy to play, but with a little regular practice you will succeed. These chords are very fascinating, because by moving the position of the left hand one square at a time you can get up to 12 chords with the same position.

❑ IMPORTANT

- ❖ If you want to progress on the guitar, you will have TO LEARN ALL THE OTHER CHORDS. You can easily find them on the web by simply searching: guitar chords.
- ✓ You will understand that I did not insert them in this method in order not to weigh it down, but earlier the simplify to encourage the beginner to learn his **THREE BASIC CHORDS & PLAY GUITAR.**

[Summary](#)



A few tips for beginners

Here are a few seemingly mundane tips that can still be of great benefit to you when learning your instrument.



☐ FLEXIBILITY EXERCISES FOR THE LEFT HAND:

- Take two golf balls in your hand and rotate them clockwise by reversing the movement from time to time.
- With your left hand alone, practice tilting a pencil between each of your fingers.
- These two little exercises will help you develop the synchronicity and digital skills that guitarists need.

• PLAY WITH OTHER MUSICIANS

- It is important to play with other musicians in order to exchange musical techniques. For example, one learns to follow the rhythm of accompaniment or solo playing of others and to evaluate one's personal progress.

• Go and see many guitarists play

- ...because whatever style of music they make, each of them surely has something new to teach you. It's hard to reach high heights in music by locking yourself in a room alone with a pile of methods. Get out!

• Go see what's being done elsewhere

- *Because, let's face it, the guitar was invented a long time ago by other great technicians and virtuosos before you.*

[Summary](#)



Additional TIPS

Personally, when I first started out, I used to roam the clubs and go from one venue to another to watch the special techniques of each guitarist. These were often ways to strike or stretch their strings, to perform an accompaniment, or to study their personal style (feeling or sentiment).

At each show, I would immediately go home and try to reproduce on my guitar the sounds and magical harmonies heard. I lived through intense moments in those days and I owe a lot to these guitarists who were, without their knowledge, wonderful teachers.

Listen to records and watch videos on YouTube

Listening to music is very good for the beginner guitarist. He can try to reproduce the musical pieces he has heard and thus develop his ear (middle term). You can also watch guitarist videos tapes on YouTube where you will find their moderns techniques.

Record your musical sessions and then correct your own mistakes. This can also give you a brief overview of your future public performances.

Practice and find your personal style...



[Summary](#)



YES...Practice... ...and find your personal style.

- At first I thought of placing links in the pages of the method?

But after thinking about it, it wasn't a good idea; because by watching these videos you would have quickly forgotten the essential, which is: **TO LEARN THE 3 BASIC CHORDS ...to keep the ENTHUSIASTIC and to be able to progress quickly.**

I wish you MUCH of fun in MUSIC

Johnny Boudreault



[Summary](#)





How to Play the Guitar within 5 hours



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