

# complete 

## WITH

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A totally new and unique concept in

## GUITAR TUITION

enabling the complete beginner to participate in SIX professionally-prepared fingerstyle guitar lessons

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this book is to provide the absolute beginner with a basic knowledge of the theory of music and guitar tablature and to give instruction in basic fingerstyle techniques in various guitar styles. It is to be used as a complementary guide to 'The Complete Fingerstyle Guitarist Series 1' video series and DVD series.

This book and video / DVD series is very much a self-tutor and you could learn to play the acoustic guitar without any other help. However it cannot be
stressed enough that even a few lessons from a good teacher will be of inestimable value. A book or video / DVD can instruct you but it cannot hear you play, criticise or correct.

If you have any difficulty in obtaining any of these books, videos or DVD's in
'The Complete Fingerstyle Guitarist' series then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Finally, I hope that above all you enjoy learning how to play the guitar with me and exploring the many new and interesting music styles for acoustic guitar.

Wishing you every success

Peter J Finlay

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## PARTS OF THE GUITAR



## TUNING THE GUITAR

It is important that the guitar is in tune with itself, that is that all six strings are correctly pitched in relation to each other. It is advisable to keep the strings at 'concert pitch' and it is necessary to first of all tune the 1st string ( E ) to the E above middle C on the piano, to a set of pitch pipes, to a tuning fork or to an electronic tuner.

The next stage is to tune the other five strings to the 1st string.

- To tune the 2nd string (B)

Press $2 n d$ string, 5 th fret and tune to open 1st string.

- To tune the 3rd string (G)

Press 3rd string, 4th fret and tune to open 2nd string.

- To tune the 4th string (D)

Press 4th string, 5th fret and tune to open 3rd string.

- To tune the 5th string (A)

Press 5th string, 5th fret and tune to open 4th string

- To tune the 6th string (E)

Press 6th string, 5th fret and tune to open 5th string.
Finally, compare the 1st open string and 6th open string. Whilst they are different pitches they should sound similar as they are both E strings.

## HOLDING THE GUITAR

The guitar can be held in any one of several different ways. Which method is used is governed very largely by the occasion and the type of music being played. A singer using the guitar as an accompanying instrument will often find it convenient to stand up whilst performing. A Classical or Flemenco guitarist will almost invariably prefer to be seated. Indeed, much Classical music would be impossible to perform in any other position. The beginner is recommended to use a sitting position whatever type of music he or she may ultimately wish to perform.

## The Classical Position

The waist of the guitar rests on the left thigh. The left foot is placed on a footstool. This has the effect of inclining the left thigh towards the body and enables the guitar to be held down firmly between the leg and the chest. The base of the guitar sound box rests against the inside of the right thigh. The neck of the guitar should be inclined at an angle of about forty-five degrees to the floor. This enables the fingers of the right hand to pluck the strings at the correct angle and gives both hands complete freedom of movement.

## The Casual Position

The left leg is crossed over the right leg. The waist of the guitar rests on the left thigh. The guitar is held to the body by the right upper arm. This is a very natural and convenient position but has the disadvantage of lowering the angle of the guitar neck, which can make it awkward to use the correct right hand plucking position. Despite this drawback this method of holding the guitar is very widely used and is a satisfactory alternative to the Classical position.

Two points of some importance apply both to the Classical and casual position; (a) sit forward on the chair, never lean back; (b) the guitar must not be tilted back to afford a clearer view of the finger board, rather should the head lean forward. The soundboard of the guitar should be at right angles to the floor.

## The Standing Position

The guitar is supported by a strap, which passes around the neck. The right upper arm helps to control the guitar by pressing to the body. The hands are thus left free. For simple accompaniment work this method is ideal. It allows the singer freedom of movement and facilitates breathing. However, it is altogether unsuitable for solo work of any complexity.

## GUITAR FINGERING



Left Hand Fingering


Right Hand Fingering

## Care of Nails

In modern finger style technique the strings are made to sound by a combination of the flesh of the tips of the finger and the nail. The nails of the right hand are therefore of great importance. They should extend about $1 / 16$ " beyond the tip of the finger. This should be gauged by looking at your fingers with the palm of the hand squarely facing you at eye-level. All four fingernails should be the same length. Any irregularity will cause one or more strings to sound differently from the others. The thumbnail should be a little longer than the fingernails. If your nails are too long, file them rather than cut them. After filing the nail should be polished with very fine emery paper to remove the sharp edges, Particularly on the inside edge of the nail which makes contact with the string.

Although the note is mainly made to sound by the nail striking the string it is the flesh of the tip of the finger that makes the first contact and makes a significant contribution to the final sound.

## TIME SIGNATURES AND BARS

The time signature is indicated at the beginning of each piece of music. The top number indicates the number of beats in each bar and the bottom number determines the pace of these beats.


The time signature $4 / 4$ indicates four moderate beats in each bar.
The time signature $3 / 4$ indicates three moderate beats in each bar.
Music is divided into sections called bars and there are the same number of beats in each bar as indicated by the time signature.

## GUITAR LESSON 1

## MAJOR CHORDS

## A Maior



Using the thumb pluck 4/4 finger scratch accompaniment style pick out the 5th string with the thumb (p) and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the back of the nail of the index finger (i).

Similarly, pick out the 6th string with the thumb and strum ( t ) downwards with the back of the nail of the index finger (i).

## Counting 4 Beats

| A Major | Sth $\uparrow \begin{aligned} & \text { Sth } \\ & \text { String }\end{aligned} \uparrow$ | ${ }_{\text {String }} \uparrow \underset{\text { String }}{\text { Sth }} \uparrow$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Beats | 111 | 1111 |

## Counting 3 Beats

A Major

Beats

| Sth | $\uparrow$ | $\uparrow$ | Etri $\uparrow$ <br> String  <br> String  <br> 1 1 1 | 1 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |$|$

## D Maior

D


Similarly, pick out the 4th string with the thumb (p) and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the index finger (i) and then pick out the 5th string with the thumb and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the index finger (i).

Do not play the 6th string in this chord $(X)$.

## Counting 4 Beats



## Counting 3 Beats



## G Maior

## G



Similarly, pick out the 6th string with the thumb (p) and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the index finger (i) and then pick out the 4th string with the thumb and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the index finger (i).

## Counting 4 Beats

| G Major | Sth $\uparrow$ 4th String $\uparrow$ | Sth $\uparrow$ 4th $\uparrow \underset{\text { String }}{ } \uparrow=1$. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Beats | 1111 | 1111 |

## Counting 3 Beats

| G Major | Eth $\uparrow$ $\uparrow$ 4th <br> String <br> String  $\uparrow$  <br> Beats 1 1 1$\|$ | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |$|$

## C Maior

C


Pick out the 5th string with the thumb (p) and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the index finger (i) and then pick out the 6th string with the thumb and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the index finger (i).

## Counting 4 Beats

| C Major | $\underset{\text { String }}{\text { 5th }} \uparrow \underset{\text { String }}{\text { Bth }} \uparrow$ | Sth String Sthing $\uparrow$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Beats | 1 \| 1 | | 111 |

Counting 3 Beats
C Major

Beats




| A |  | D |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 5th String | $\uparrow \underset{\text { String }}{6 t h} \uparrow$ | $\underset{\text { String }}{\text { 4th }} \uparrow \uparrow$ |
|  | 111 | 111 |
| Skip | To My Loul My | Dar-_ling |

"On Top Of Old Smokey"
$\frac{3}{4}$


## GUITAR LESSON 2

E Major


Using the thumb pluck finger scratch accompaniment style pick out the 6th string with the thumb (p) and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the back of the nail of the index finger (i).

Similarly, pick out the 5th string with the thumb and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the back of the nail of the index finger (i).

## Counting 4 Beats



Counting 3 Beats

| E Major | 6th $\uparrow$ $\uparrow$ <br> String   |  | Sth <br> String | $\uparrow$ |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Beats | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |$|$

## A Minor



Similarly, pick out the 5th string with the thumb and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the back of the nail of the index finger (i) and then pick out the 6th string with the thumb ( p ) and strum ( i ) downwards with the index finger ( i ).

## Counting 4 Beats

| A Minor | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Sth } \uparrow \underset{\text { String }}{\text { Sthing }} \uparrow \uparrow \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 5th } \uparrow \underset{\text { String }}{\text { Eth }} \uparrow ~ \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Beats | 1111 | 1111 |

Counting 3 Beats

| A Minor | 5th String | ${ }_{6 t h}^{6 t h} \uparrow$ String |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Beats | 111 | 111 |

## E Minor



Similarly, pick out the 6th string with the thumb and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the back of the nail finger (i) and then pick out the 5th string with the thumb (p) and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the index finger (i).

## Counting 4 Beats

| E Minor | $\underset{\text { String }}{\text { 6th }} \uparrow \underset{\text { String }}{\text { Sth }} \uparrow$ | Sthing $\underset{\text { String }}{\text { Sth }} \uparrow$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Beats | 1 \| | 111 |

Counting 3 Beats


## D Minor

## Dm



Similarly, pick out the 4th string with the thumb (p) and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the back of the nail finger (i) and then pick out the 5th string with the thumb and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the index finger (i).

Do not play the 6th string in this chord $(\mathrm{X})$.

## Counting 4 Beats

| D Minor | ${ }_{\text {String }}^{\text {4th }} \uparrow \underset{\text { String }}{\text { Sth }} \uparrow$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 4th } \end{aligned} \underset{\text { String }}{\text { String }} \uparrow$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Beats | 1 \| 1 | I |

## Counting 3 Beats

D Minor

Beats
$\left|\begin{array}{ccc|ccc}\text { 4th } & \uparrow & \uparrow & \begin{array}{cc}\text { Sth } & \uparrow \\ \text { String }\end{array} & & \uparrow \\ \text { String } & \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1\end{array}\right|$

## TABLATURE



In tablature, the six horizontal lines represent the six strings on the guitar.
The numbers represent the frets.
Thus reading from left to right:

- The first note above is the 1 st string, 1 st fret
- The second note above is the 2nd string, open
- The third note above is the 3rd string, 3rd fret
"Malaguena" (in tablature)
Spanish Traditional Song
E
E
Am
N.C.


Count $1 \& 2 \& 3 \&$

E
E Am
N.C.


## E



* N.C. No Chord


## GUITAR LESSON 3

## F Major

(3 Finger)


## F Major

(4 Finger)


Pick out the 4th string with the thumb (p) and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the index finger (i) and then pick out the 5th string with the thumb and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the index finger (i)

F major (4 finger only).
Do not play strings in the chord marked $(X)$.

## Counting 4 Beats

| F Major | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 4th } \uparrow \underset{\text { String }}{\text { String }} \uparrow \end{aligned}$ | ${ }_{\text {String }} \uparrow \underset{\text { String }}{\text { Sth }} \uparrow$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Beats | 111 | 1111 |

## Counting 3 Beats

F Major

Beats


## ARPEGGIO ACCOMPANIMENT STYLE

This involves holding down a chord and playing the individual notes or strings within the chord, as follows:


Right Hand Fingering


C
E
E
Am
C
D

Em
Em
Em
D
Em


Em G Em G A Em Em

Em
G
D
D
Em


D D Em Em Em Em


## "Morning Has Broken"


C
Em
Am
D
G G

$\theta$
C
F
F
C
Am
D


## C



## GUITAR LESSON 4

## SEVENTH CHORDS



Using the thumb pluck finger scratch accompaniment style pick out the 6th string with the thumb (p) and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the back of the nail of the index finger (i).

Similarly, pick out the 4th string with the thumb and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the back of the nail of the index finger (i).

## Counting 4 Beats



## Counting 3 Beats



## Counting 3 Beats (arpeggio style)




Using the thumb pluck finger scratch accompaniment style pick out the 4th string with the thumb (p) and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the back of the nail of the index finger (i).

Similarly, pick out the 5th string with the thumb and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the back of the nail of the index finger (i).

## Counting 4 Beats



## Counting 3 Beats



## Counting 3 Beats (arpeggio style)




Using the thumb pluck finger scratch accompaniment style pick out the 5 th string with the thumb (p) and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the back of the nail of the index finger (i).

Similarly, pick out the 6th string with the thumb and strum ( $\uparrow$ ) downwards with the back of the nail of the index finger (i).

## Counting 4 Beats



Beats

## Counting 3 Beats

| A7 |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Sth | $\uparrow$ | $\uparrow$ | Eth $\uparrow$ $\uparrow$ <br> String   <br> String   <br> 1 1 1$\left\|\begin{array}{llll} & 1 & 1\end{array}\right\|, ~$ |

## Counting 3 Beats (arpeggio style)



ONE STRUM
i)

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { C } \\
& \frac{\mathbf{4}}{\mathbf{4}} \left\lvert\, \begin{array}{cccc}
\text { 4th } & \uparrow & \begin{array}{l}
\text { 5th } \\
\text { String }
\end{array} & \uparrow \\
\text { String } \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1
\end{array}\right. \\
& \text { G7 }
\end{aligned}
$$

TWO STRUM
ii)

$\frac{4}{4} |$| 5th | $\uparrow \downarrow$ | $\begin{array}{l}\text { Eth } \\ \text { String }\end{array}$ | $\uparrow \downarrow$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | 1 | $\sqcup$ | 1 |

Am
$\begin{array}{llll}\begin{array}{lll}\text { Sth } \\ \text { String }\end{array} & \uparrow \downarrow & \begin{array}{l}\text { 6ith } \\ \text { String }\end{array} & \uparrow \downarrow \\ & & & \\ 1 & \sqcup & 1 & \sqcup\end{array}$
$\left|\begin{array}{llll}\text { F } & & \\ \text { 4th } & \uparrow \downarrow & \begin{array}{l}\text { 5th } \\ \text { String }\end{array} & \uparrow \downarrow \\ \text { String }\end{array}\right|$
G7

ARPEGGIO
iii) C

## Am





$$
\begin{gathered}
\text { "Andantino" } \\
\text { by M. Carcassi } \\
\text { (Classical Style: Grade 1) }
\end{gathered}
$$

## Part 1



Count 1 \& 2 \& 3 \& 4 \&


## GUITAR LESSON 5

"Andantino"<br>by M. Carcassi<br>(Classical Style: Grade 1)

## Part 2



Count 1 \& 2 \& 3 \& 4 \&


## STRUMMING EXERCISES

C


F


G7


Exercise 1 (one-strum)


| G7 | c | F |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6th $\uparrow$ 4th $\uparrow$ | Sth $\uparrow$ 6th $\uparrow$ | 4th $\uparrow$ Sth |
| String String | String String | String String |
| 1 \| 1 | 111 | 1111 |


| C | G7 | C |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 5th String | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 6th } \uparrow \uparrow \\ & \text { String } \end{aligned}$ | 5th $\uparrow$ <br> String |
| 1 | 11 | 1111 |

## Exercise 2 (two-strum)



G7




## Exercise 3 (Bass-Runs)


C
G7
C


## Exercise 4 (Hammering-on)


$\begin{array}{lll}C & \text { G7 } & \text { C }\end{array}$


## Exercise 5 (3 Strum)




G7



End Riff


## "Grandfathers Clock"








C

G7



## GUITAR LESSON 6

Twelve Bar Blues


Twelve Bar Blues (Chord Strum)


| E | $E$ | E6 | E7 | E6 | 6 |  | E | $E$ | E6 | E7 | 7 |  | E6 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| T T | $\uparrow$ |  |  | - | - 1 |  |  |  | - | + | ¢ |  |  |  |
| A |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | - |  |  |  |  |



## C7



Twelve Bar Blues (Bass Strings)
E A

| $\mathbf{4}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathbf{4}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

$E$
E


| A | A |
| :---: | :---: |
| T |  |
| $\begin{array}{lllllllll} \dot{A} & 2 & 2 & 4 & 4 & 2 & 2 & 4 & 4 \\ B & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{llllllll} 5 & 5 & 4 & 4 & 2 & 2 & 4 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$ |


B7 A


## Twelve Bar Blues (Fingerstyle)



B7
A7 A7/6 A7 A7/6


E C7 B7

i)

B7

ii)
B7



Turnaround


## Fills

i)


