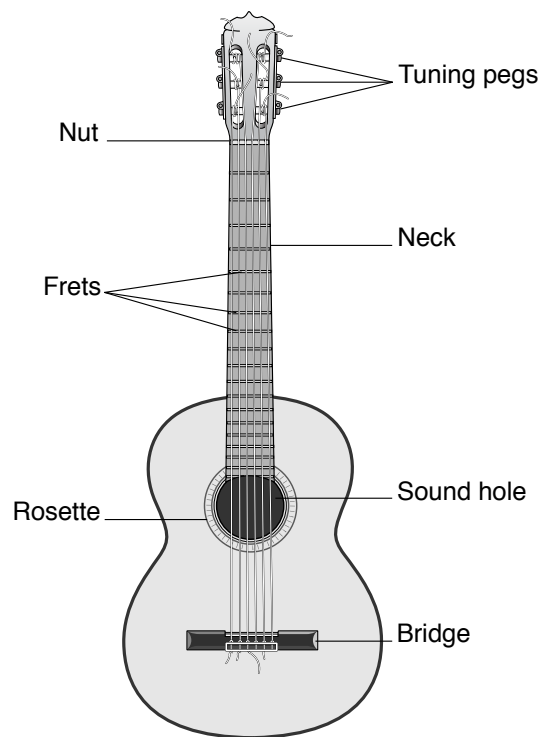


The basics

Parts of the guitar



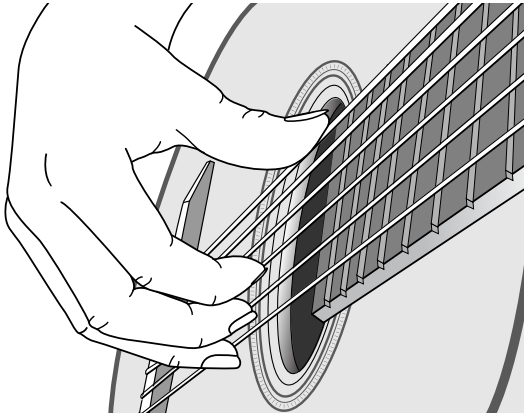
How you play—how you sit and use your hands—is important. A good technique avoids bad habits and ultimately improves your sound. The following illustrations show what, and what not, to aim for.

Sitting position

Always use a footstool (or other support) to raise the guitar to the correct angle.

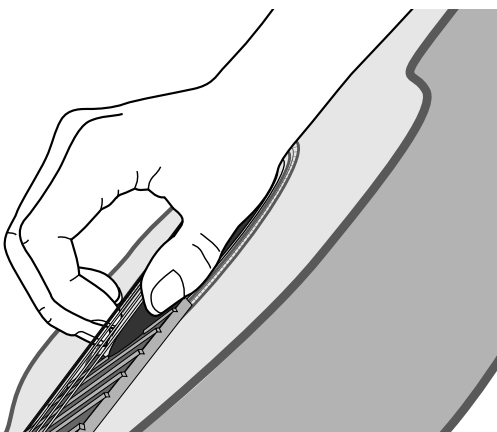
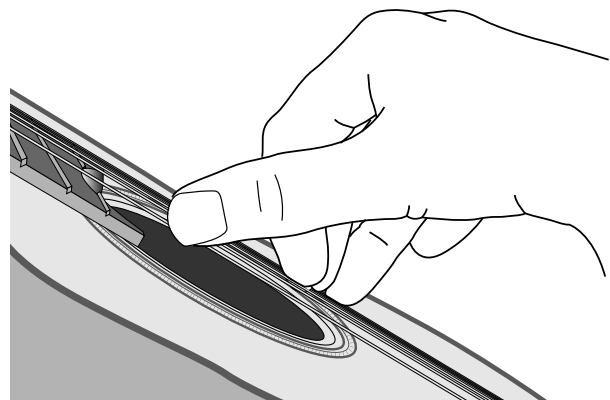


Right-hand position



Keep your wrist arched slightly away from the guitar.

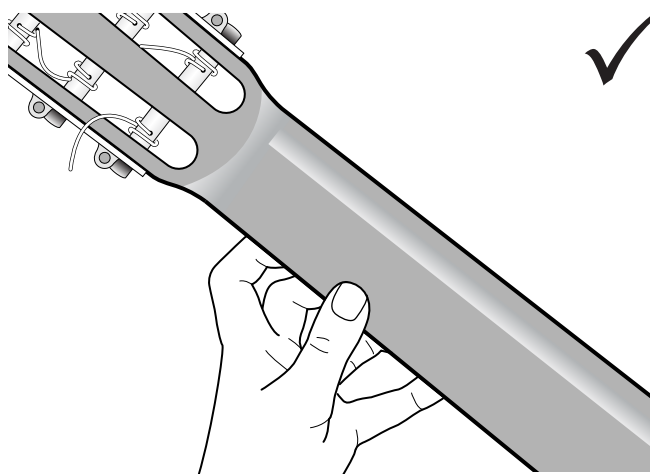
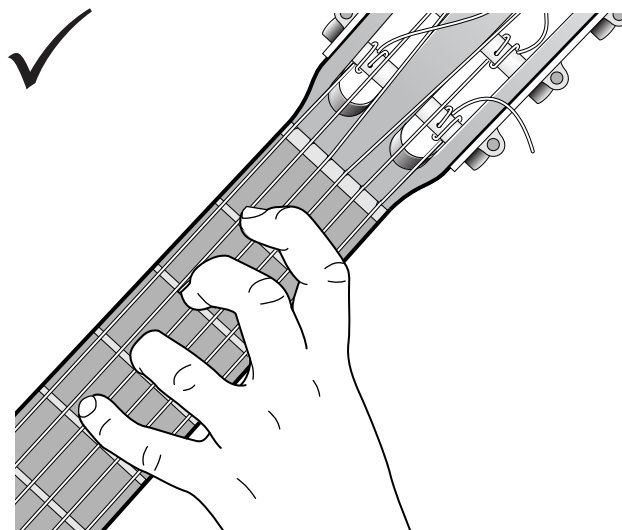
Your thumb crosses in front of the fingers.



Don't have a lazy wrist.

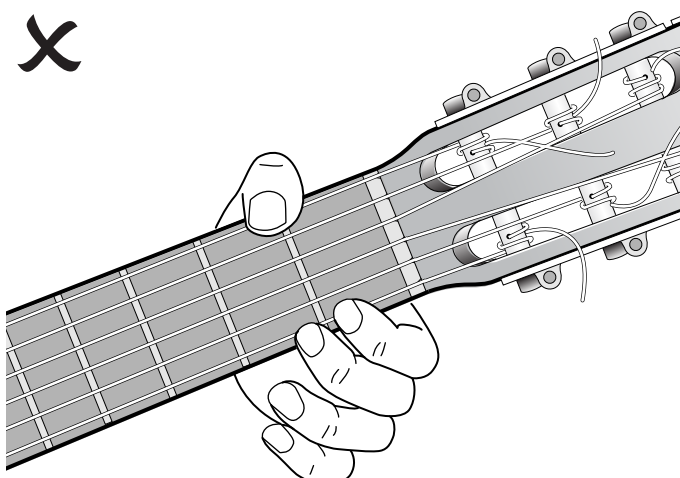
Left-hand position

Keep your knuckles in line with the fretboard, curl up your fingers and play on their tips.

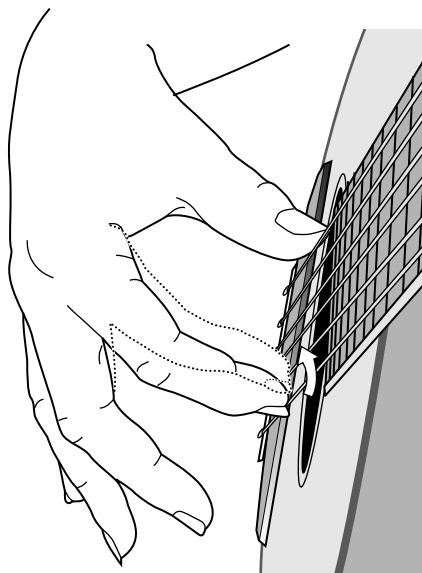


Keep your left-hand thumb well down the back of the neck.

Don't do it like this!



The rest stroke



The finger strikes across the string and comes to rest on the next lowest string. Practise with *i* (index—*indice* in Spanish) and *m* (middle—*medio* in Spanish) fingers alternately on the first string (E), producing a walking action. Resting your thumb on string 6 will help keep your hand steady.

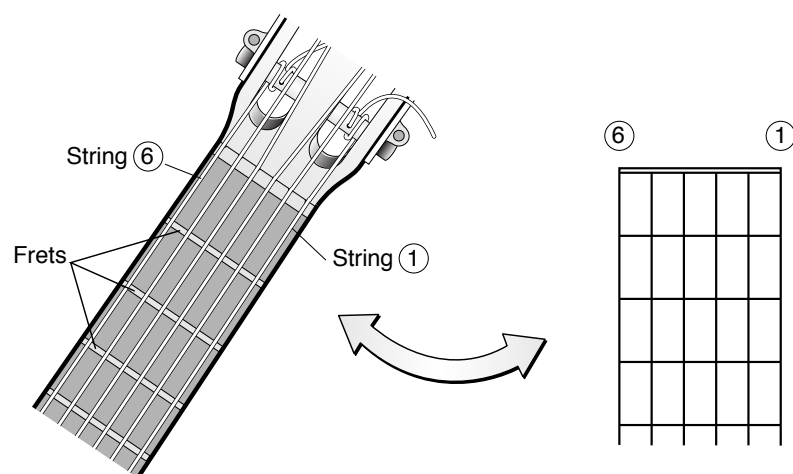
Try copying short rhythmic phrases on E (string 1) played by your teacher. Then try the same on B (string 2).

Now play: EEEE EEEE EE
 BBBB BB

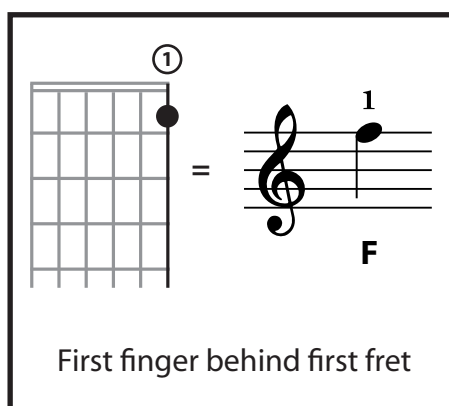
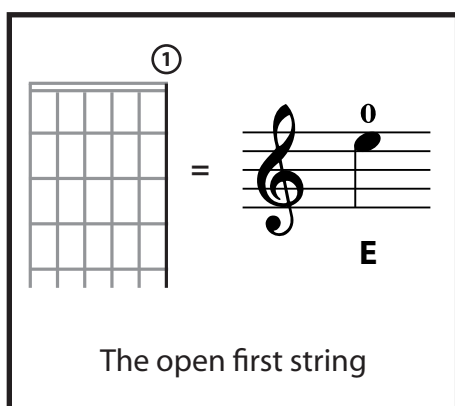
Make up your own short tunes using E and B and ask others to try and copy.

Strings and frets

Strings and frets can be shown in a diagram. The grid below shows the first four frets and the six strings of the guitar:



The first string



Music is written on a **stave** (five lines), and notes E and F occupy the top space or line of this stave. Guitar music always has a **treble clef** (♩) at the start.

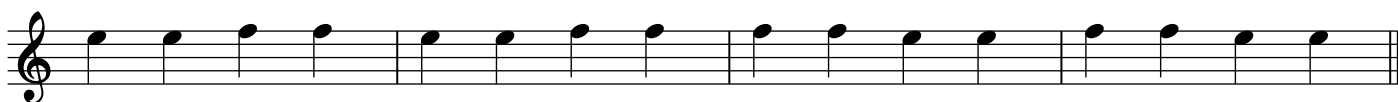
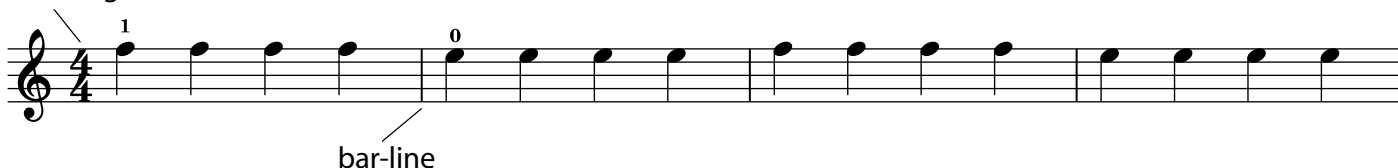
Play the following pattern:



We're now ready to play our first pieces. Note that music is divided into **bars**, their length indicated by a **time signature** at the start of the stave. The top number in the time signature tells you how many beats to count in each bar, and the lower number, the type of beat. In this case, the lower number (4) identifies the beats as **crotchets** (or **quarter-notes**).

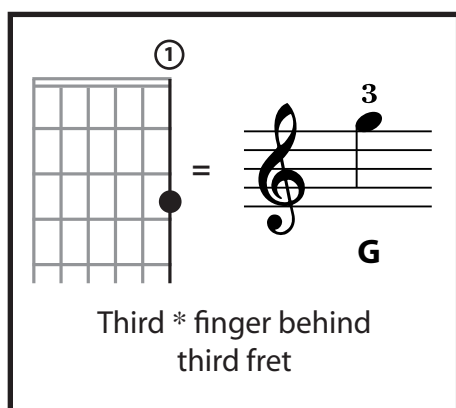
Two-Note Hop

Time signature



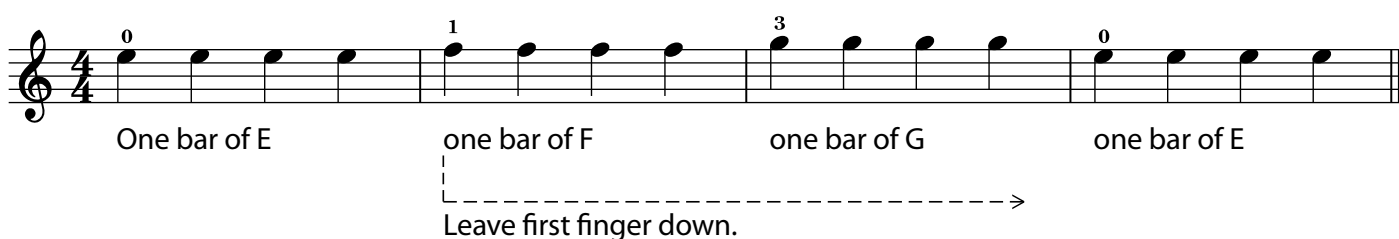
Two-Note Jump





* An alternative fingering is to use fourth finger (little finger) for this G.

We have now learnt three first-string notes: E, F, and G. Play the following, but leave first finger down when playing G in bar 3:



- Your teacher could invent short phrases using E, F, and G for you to copy.
- Now make up phrases for other pupils to copy. Music often uses repeated notes, so try this when improvising (making up) your phrase.

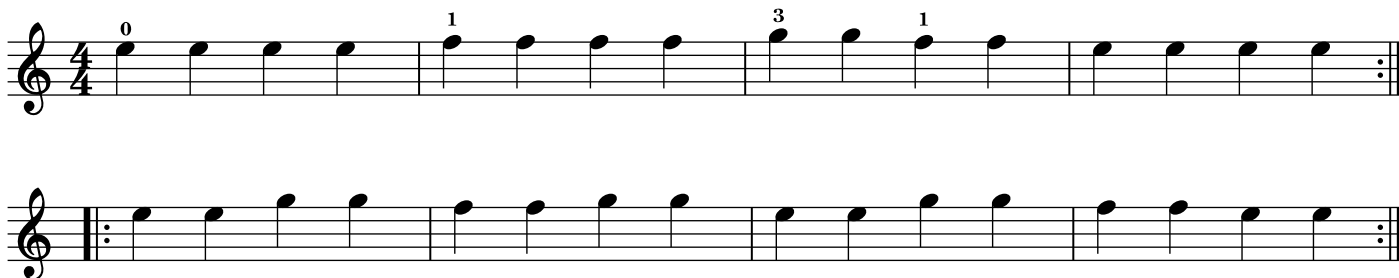
Tunes using E, F, and G

2: demo

March

Accompanied

(2-bar intro)



||: :|| are repeat marks and mean you should play each line twice.

3: demo

A Stroll

Accompanied

(2-bar intro)



4: demo

Jogging



Accompanied

(2-bar intro)



Once learnt, the above three tunes can be played one after the other to form 'A Little Promenade Suite', perhaps as a concert item. The backing track for this suite is track 5, which has a two-bar intro before each tune.

Counting

 = one beat, a **crotchet** (or **quarter-note**)
 = two beats, a **minim** (or **half-note**)

1



2

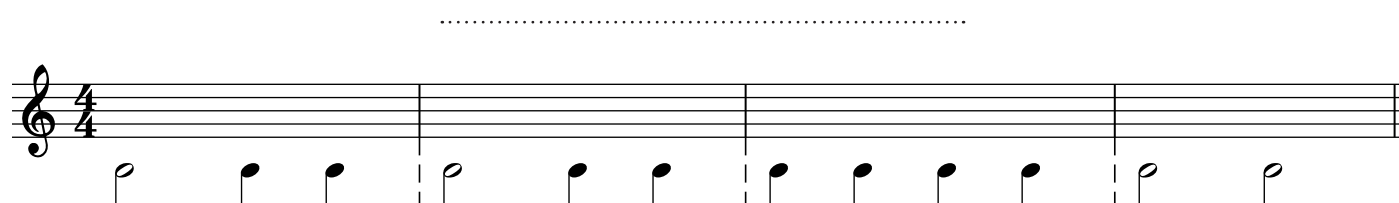


6: demo

Conversation





Write your own tune using the rhythm below. Begin and end on E and give your tune a title.

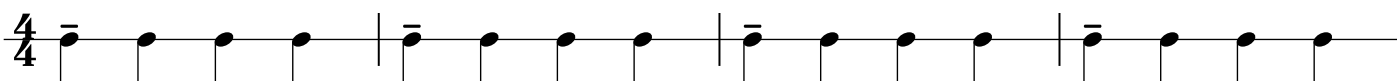


A new time signature

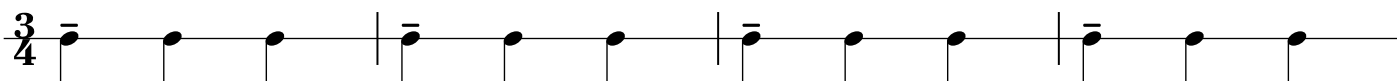
You already know that the top number in a time signature tells you how many beats to count in each bar. Let's turn our attention to 3/4, another time signature using crotchet beats.

	Four crotchet beats to a bar
	Three crotchet beats to a bar

Clap or tap the following rhythm, emphasizing the first beat of each bar:



Now do the same with three beats to a bar:




Try the following exercises:

1



2

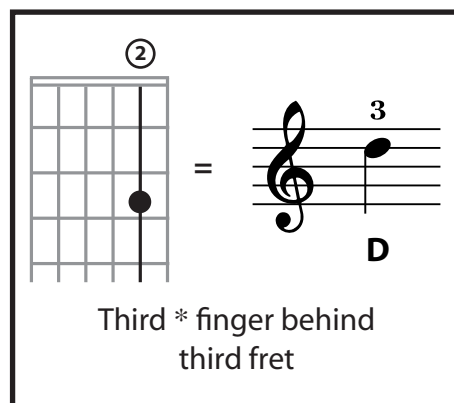
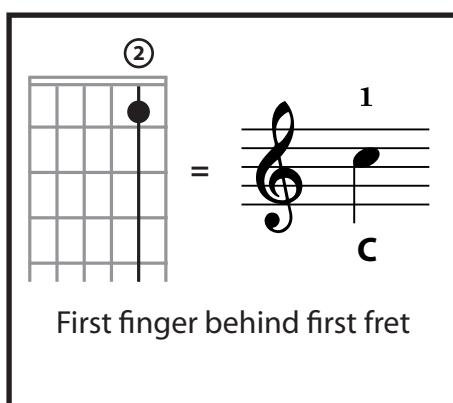
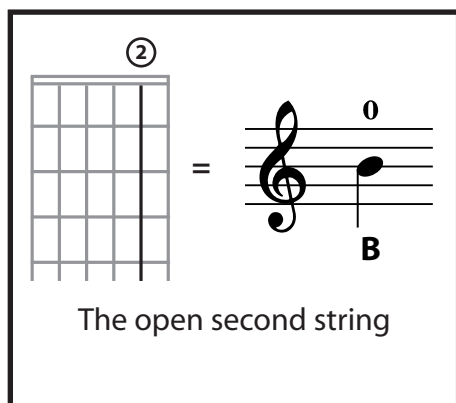


 7: demo

Waltz



The second string



* Some teachers may prefer fourth finger.

Bees and Cees



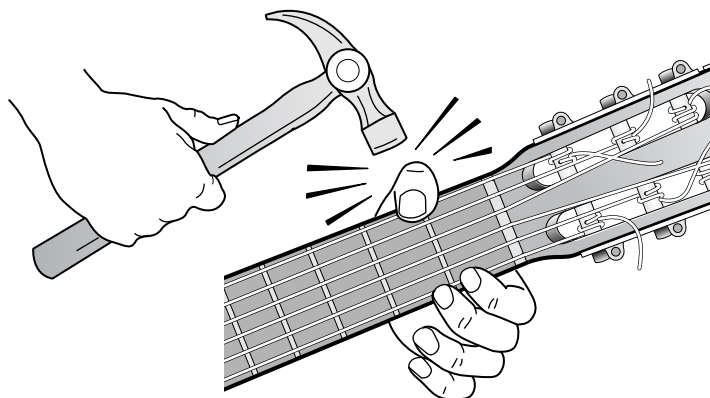
I. C. A. B.



Bees and Dees



Is your thumb well down the back of the neck?!



Tunes using B, C, and D

8: demo

Solo



9: demo

Copycat

Duet

f (forte) = loud

p (piano) = soft

10: demo

Echo



From this point on, the Note Bank will remind us which notes have been learnt and where to find them on the guitar, quickly. It shows the string and fret information for the pieces you have played.

Note Bank

Fret number

0 1 3 0 1 3

String number

② ①