

# HAL LEONARD

## GUITAR METHOD

# LAP STEEL GUITAR

BY JOHNIE HELMS

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# LAP STEEL GUITAR TUNINGS

In this book we will be using four basic lap steel tunings: open G, open D, open A, and open E. These will be introduced as they appear. Some of the many different tunings to choose from are listed here.

Tuning	String 1	String 2	String 3	String 4	String 5	String 6
C6	E	C	A	G	E	C
E major	E	B	G $\sharp$	E	B	E
G major	D	B	G	D	G	D
G6	D	B	G	E	B	G
A major	E	C $\sharp$	A	E	C $\sharp$	A
A6	E	C $\sharp$	A	F $\sharp$	E	C $\sharp$
D major	D	A	F $\sharp$	D	A	D
E7	E	B	G $\sharp$	E	D	B

Many players throughout the years have spent long hours searching for the ultimate tuning. It may be best to narrow the search to a few basic tunings that suit your playing style and situation. For example, the 6th tunings are often preferred for jazz and Western swing styles, while the major and 7th (dominant) tunings work well for blues and rock.

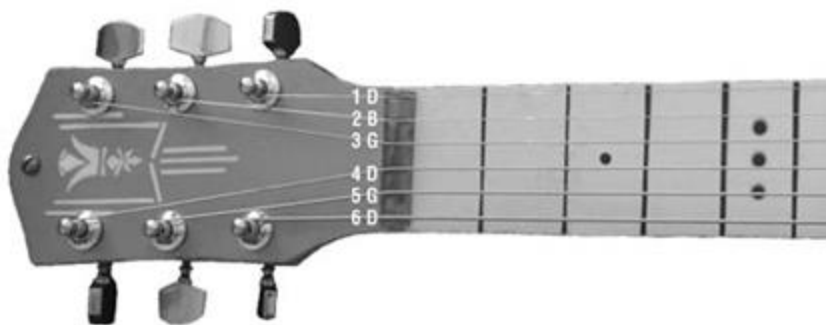
## OPEN G TUNING

Our first exercises and songs will be in **open G tuning** (or **G major tuning**, as listed above). Track 1 plays the notes of the open strings of the guitar in this tuning, starting on the first string and working back to the sixth. You can either use this track to tune your lap steel, or use an electronic tuner.



### OPEN G TUNING

TRACK 1



If you're tuning a string that is **sharp** (too high in pitch), it's best to loosen it until it is lower than the target note, then bring it up to pitch. This stabilizes the string tension and helps the string stay in tune longer.