

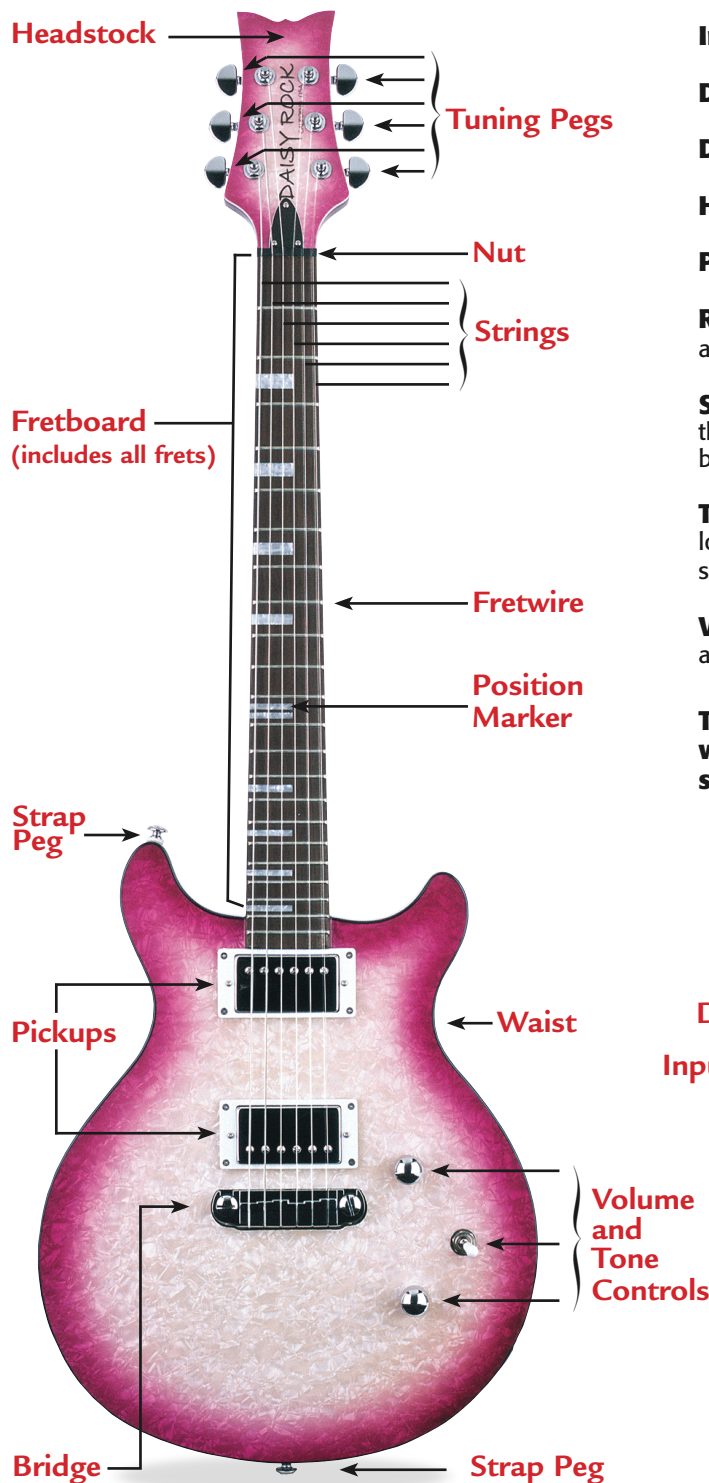
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Electric Guitars and Amps

Caring for Your Guitar

Get to know your guitar and treat it like a friend. When you carry it, think of it as part of your body so you don't accidentally bump it against walls or furniture, and be especially sure not to drop it! Every time you're done playing, carefully dust off your guitar with a soft cloth, and put it away in its case.



The Amplifier

The amplifier (or amp) makes the sound of a guitar louder and lets you add effects to your sound like distortion. All amps are different, but here are a few features you will find on virtually every amp.



Input Jack: This is where you plug in your guitar.

Drive Select: Activates the Drive channel.

Drive Volume: Controls the loudness of the Drive channel.

Headphone Jack: Plug in your mono or stereo headphones.

Power Switch: This switch turns the amp ON and OFF.

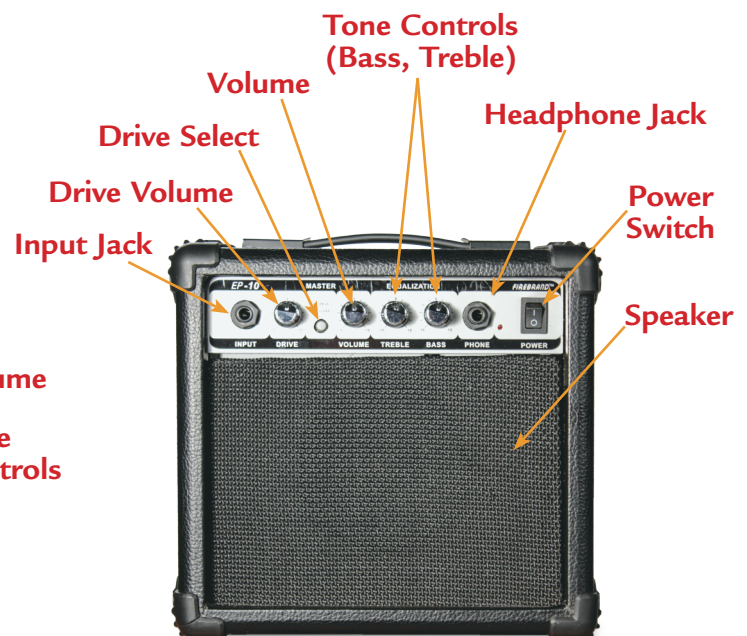
Reverb: Reverb adds an echo sound to your playing. Not all amps have this feature.

Speaker: The sound comes directly out of the amp through the speaker. Be careful not to touch the speaker because it can be easily damaged.

Tone Controls: You can adjust the high (treble), middle, and low (bass) sounds of your guitar. Use these controls to find a sound you like.

Volume: The higher the number, the louder the sound. Be aware of who is around you before turning up the volume.

To start out, set your amp to a comfortable volume with the drive off and the tone set to the middle settings (not high or low).



How to Hold Your Guitar

Hold your guitar in the position that is most comfortable for you.

Some positions are shown below.

Sitting with guitar on left leg



Sitting with guitar on right leg



Standing with strap



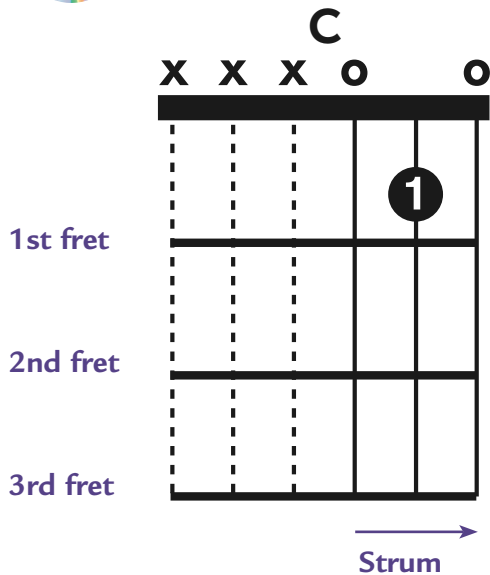
The Three-String C Chord

Hear this chord!



Track 5

Use finger 1 to press the 2nd string at the 1st fret.
Strum strings 3-2-1.



Track 6

Strumming

Strum the three-string C chord on each quarter-note slash \downarrow .
Make sure your strums are even.
Count aloud as you play:

1-2-3-4 | 1-2-3-4

Listen to the song to hear how it should sound!



My First Chord

Remember: This means there are four beats in each measure.

This double bar line tells us the music is finished.

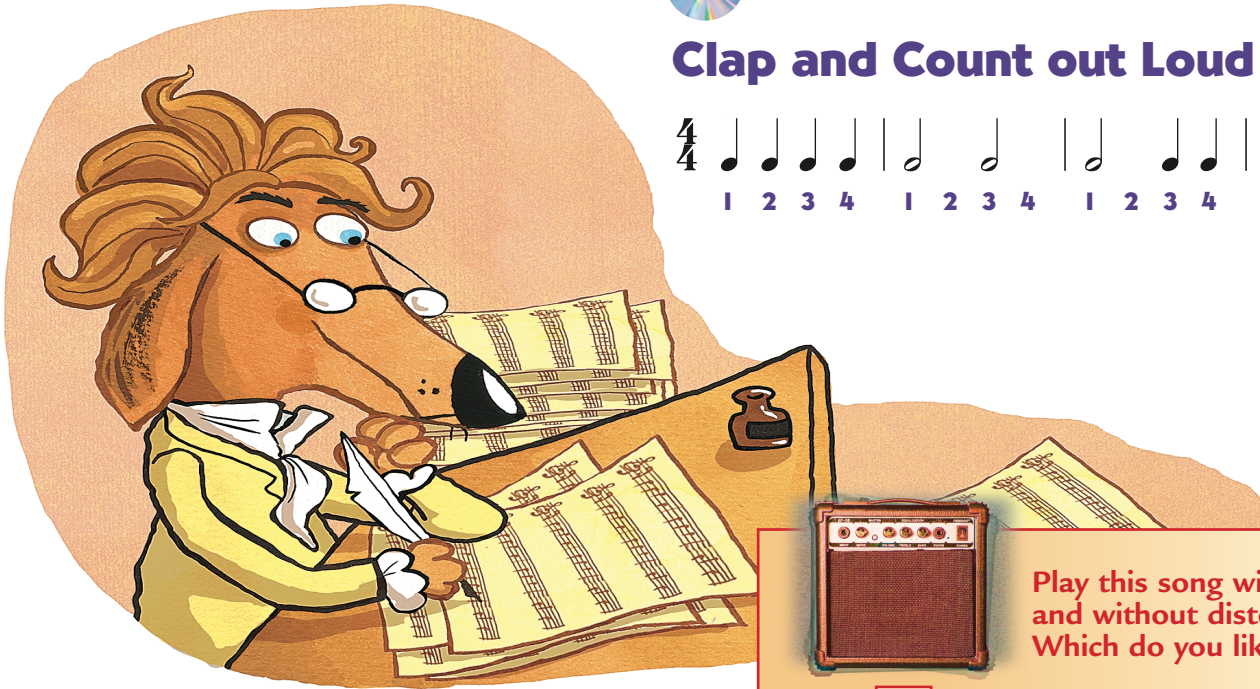
The Half Note

Introducing the Half Note

This note lasts two beats.
It is twice as long as a quarter note.



Clap and Count out Loud



Play this song with
and without distortion.
Which do you like better?

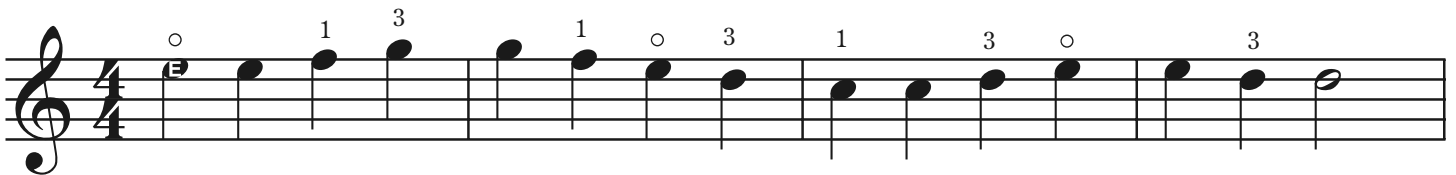
- Clean Sound (drive off)
- Distorted Sound (drive on)

Ode to Joy

from Beethoven's 9th Symphony



Ludwig van Beethoven

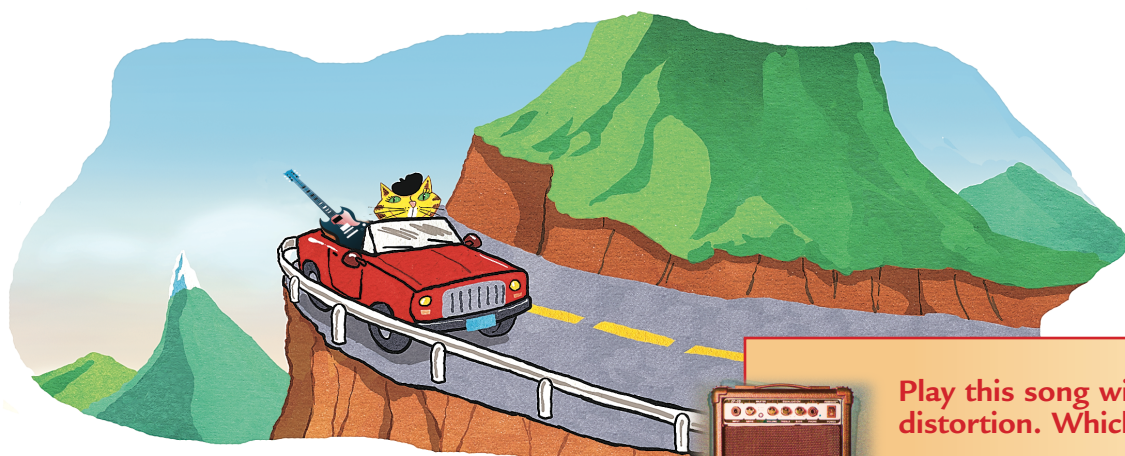


Count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4
When Bee - tho - ven wrote this tune he could not hear a sin - gle note.



Keep counting!
But his mus - ic is so awe - some peo - ple still love things he wrote.

She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain



Play this song with and without distortion. Which do you like better?

- Clean Sound (drive off)
- Distorted Sound (drive on)



Hold down 1st finger

She'll be com - in' 'round the moun - tain when she comes. She'll be

com - in' 'round the moun - tain when she comes. She'll be

com - in' 'round the moun - tain, she'll be com - in' 'round the moun - tain, she'll be

com - in' 'round the moun - tain when she comes!