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MUSIC NOTATION REVIEW



If you see something you don't understand in an example in this book, check the following two pages.

TABLATURE (TAB)

TAB (short for *tablature*) is the easiest way to read guitar music, though it leaves out some information about rhythm and expression. Here's what you might see on some TAB.

The numbers tell you which fret to play on which string.

The horizontal lines are the strings. The top line is the 1st string (high E). The bottom is the 6th string (low E).

Quarter-step bend. $\frac{1}{4}$

Slide. SL

Hammer-on. Pull-off. H P

Parentheses remind you that a note is being held from a previous instance (see ties, page 7).

The numbers underneath the TAB indicate which finger plays the note. For example, the index finger is 1, and the ring finger is 3.

STANDARD MUSIC NOTATION

Standard music notation uses a staff of five horizontal lines to indicate *pitch* (the highness or lowness of a tone). Lower lines represent lower pitches. Notes are shown by oval *noteheads* placed on lines, or in spaces between lines. Below are the basic notes on the staff. Notes are named "A" through "G."

The G clef, or treble clef, indicates that the second line from the bottom is the note G. It does this by encircling that line, crossing it four times.

Notes can be on lines or spaces.

E F G A B C D E F

In this book, standard music notation is directly above the TAB staff.

These are picking symbols:
 ▣ is a downstroke
 ▽ is an upstroke.

The different note shapes indicate how long the notes last (see page 7).

Ledger lines let you see notes that are higher or lower than the staff.

Standard music notation and TAB work well when paired together, giving a complete picture of the music.

Barlines show the music in groups of beats to make the rhythm easier to read. Each section is called a measure, or bar (see page 7).

ACCIDENTALS

Accidentals are symbols used to change the pitch of a note.

is a *sharp*. It raises a note one *half step* (one fret).

b is a *flat*. It lowers a note one half step.

A sharp or flat will last for the rest of the measure, unless a *natural* ♮ is used to return the note to its original pitch.