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MUSIC NOTATION

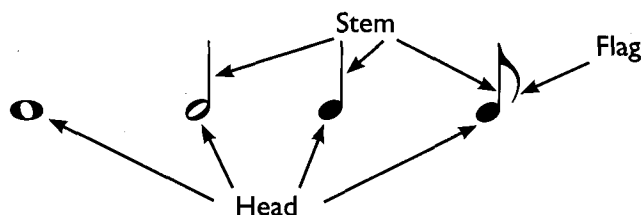
Learning to read music on guitar is easy if you apply yourself and have some patience. You may not be able to rip through the Bach lute suites right away, but you'll get the basics covered quickly and, if you stick with it, you'll eventually be reading through more difficult pieces.

PITCH

Pitch is the aspect of standard music notation that indicates the degree of highness or lowness of a musical tone.

Notes

Music is written by placing *notes* on a *staff*. Notes appear in various ways.

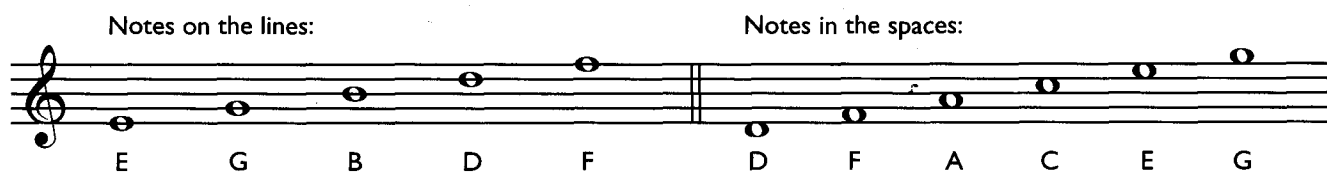


The Staff and Clef

The staff has five lines and four spaces which are read from left to right. At the beginning of the staff is a *clef*. The clef dictates what notes correspond to a particular line or space on the staff. Guitar music is written in *treble clef* which is sometimes called the *G clef*. The ending curl of the clef circles the G line on the staff.

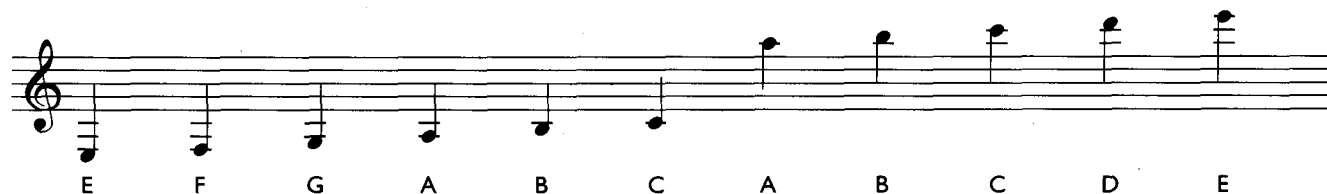


Here are the notes on the staff using the G clef.



Ledger Lines

The higher a note appears on the staff, the higher it sounds. When a note is too high or too low to be written on the staff, *ledger lines* are used.



Guitar music is traditionally written one octave higher than it actually sounds. This allows us to write and read music on one clef, instead of using two clefs as with keyboard instruments.