

# ACE GUITAR



# LESSONS



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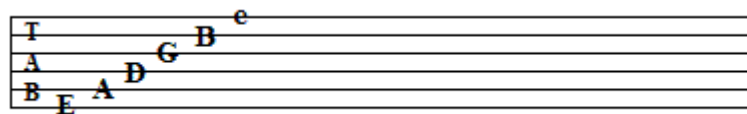
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## How To Read Guitar TAB:

Every Ace Guitar Lesson comes with guitar TABs to help you learn as fast as possible. TAB is very easy to read and you will learn more about it as you go through the lessons in this chapter. So before you start the video, let's find out how TAB works:

### WHAT IS TAB?

To easily read and write music, guitar players use a number system known as tablature (TAB for short). Guitar TAB is made up of six horizontal lines each representing a guitar string. The thinnest string (high e) is the top line, and the thickest string (low E) is the bottom line, and the notes run in the order E A D G B e like so:



When you view a guitar fretboard head on the strings are arranged like this:



So as you can see, the low E string is on the top and the high e string is on the bottom, which seems backwards from the TAB. However, the way TAB is arranged makes sense when viewed from the guitarists' perspective...

When you hold a guitar and view the strings, you will find that the low E string is closest to your face, and the high e string is furthest away, which is how the TAB is printed, with the low E on the bottom line, and high e string at the top. Now let's get watching the video lessons for chapter I, and all of this stuff will make a lot of sense very soon...

## Lesson 1: Picking & String Names

### [Play Lesson 1 Video](#)

As previously mentioned there are 6 guitar strings that run low to high:

**E** (6th string, thickest string)  
**A** (5th string)  
**D** (4th string)  
**G** (3rd string)  
**B** (2nd string)  
**e** (1st string, thinnest string)

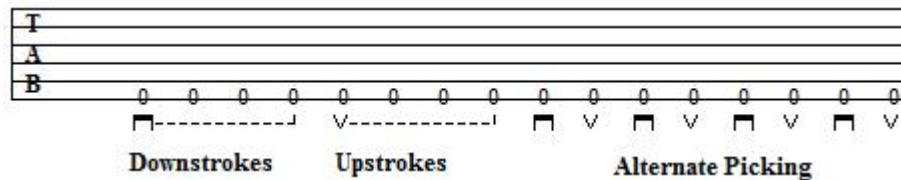
Once you can hold your pick comfortably, let's begin picking the strings with downstrokes, upstrokes and alternate picking (down-up strokes):

### FIGURE 1:

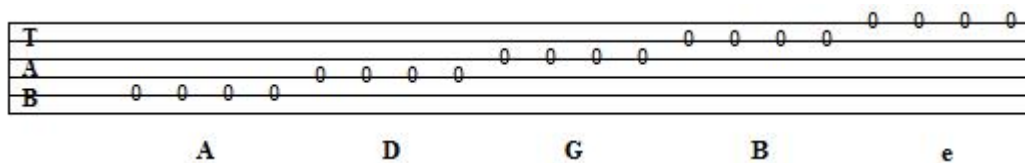
Start with all down-strokes, then all up-strokes, and finally with alternate picking (down-up strokes) for each string as demonstrated in the video.

**TAB Note:** when a string is picked open (not fretted) it appears as a 0 in TAB.

#### E string:



#### TAB for A String, D String, G String, B String, e String:



Pick these as shown in the video, just like the E string example, with down picking, up picking and alternate picking (down-up strokes).

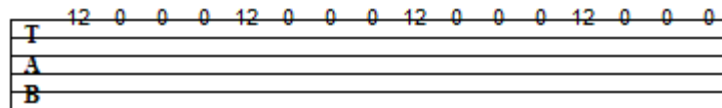
Alternate picking is the most important style of picking as it will eventually allow you to play fast guitar riffs, as you'll see from the next amazing lesson!

## Lesson 2: 12-0-0-0

### Play Lesson 2 Video

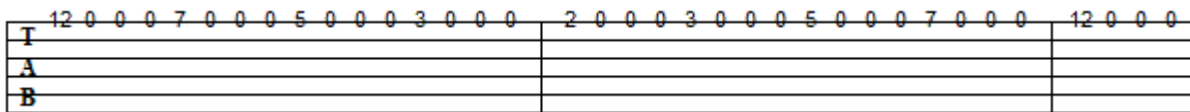
This amazing lesson sounds very impressive and will get your fretting and alternate picking skills sharp and accurate. The first examples start with notes in groups of four.

FIGURE 2:



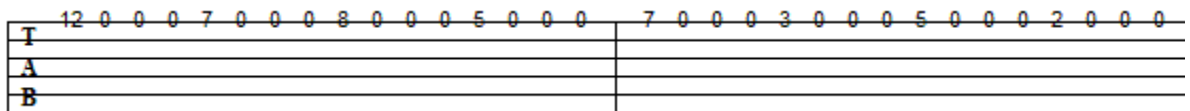
Use alternate (down-up) picking throughout!

FIGURE 3:



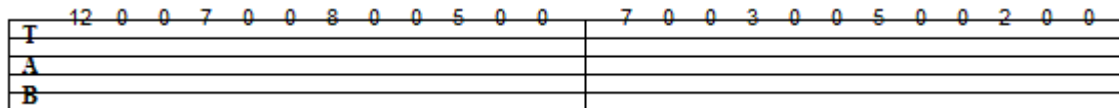
Count: 1 2 3 4 (Notes are played in groups of 4 and fretted notes are on the 1)

FIGURE 4: [\(Play Video ii\)](#)



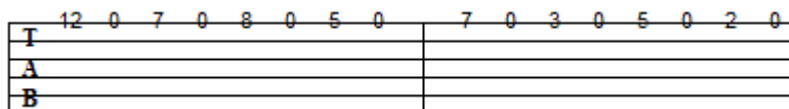
This example adds some extra notes for more fret hand movement

FIGURE 5:



This example plays the same notes in groups of 3

FIGURE 6: [\(Play Video iii\)](#)



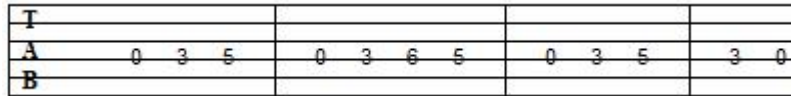
This example plays the same notes in groups of 2

## Lesson 3: Smokey Water

### Play Lesson 3 Video

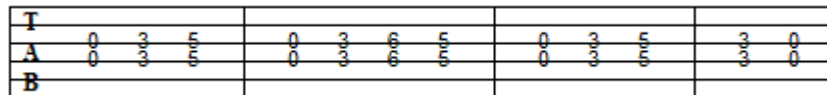
This famous sounding guitar riff is my version of "Smoke on the Water", by Deep Purple. It can be played on one string, or on several strings, as shown in the video. Have fun!

FIGURE 7:

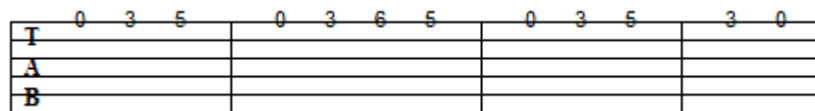


First, lets learn this on the D string

Now, lets add the G string to this, using your index finger only **or** your index and middle fingers to fret the strings at the same time. My preference is index finger only:



You should also practice this riff on each string to hear how they all sound. In the video I demonstrate on the e string:



I recommend playing this riff using all down-strokes when you pick, especially when you are playing the D and G strings together.

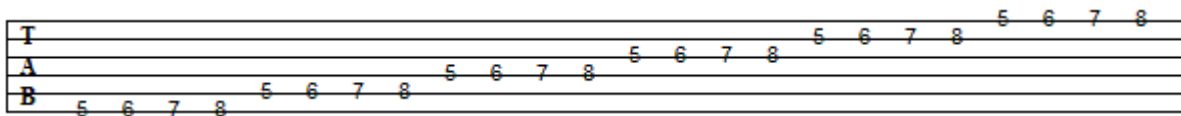


## Lesson 4: Chromatic Warm-up

### [Play Lesson 4 Video](#)

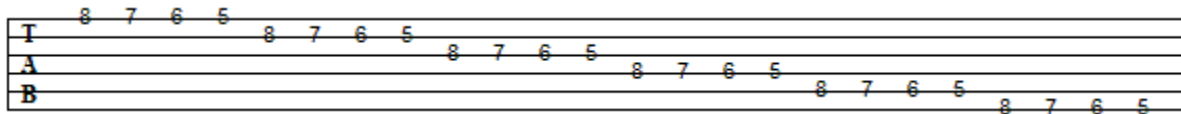
The chromatic scale finger warm-up is a great way to coordinate your picking and fretting hands. A chromatic scale involves all twelve notes picked in consecutive order. We will learn about the twelve notes in the next lesson.

**FIGURE 8:**



Ascending Chromatic Scale

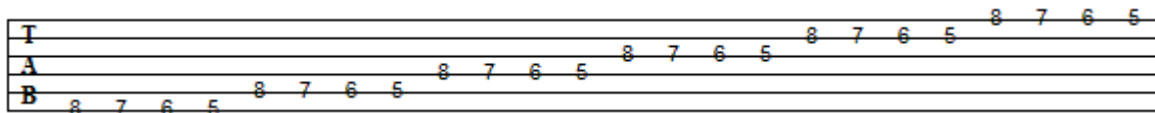
**Followed By:**



Descending Chromatic Scale

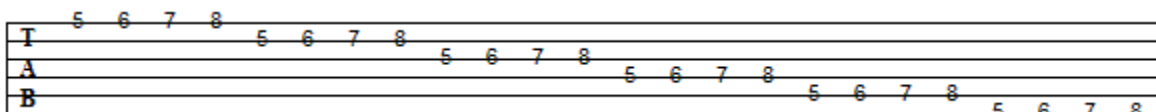
Variations of this warm-up should also be played, such as fretting backwards while ascending the scale, and fretting forwards while descending the scale.

**FIGURE 9:**



Ascending + Backwards

**Followed By:**



Descending + Forwards



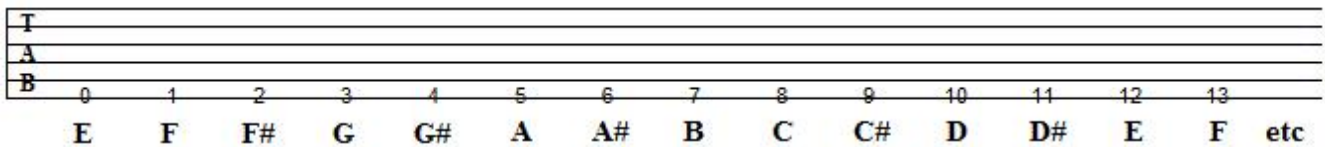
## Lesson 5: Notes On The E & A Strings

### [Play Lesson 5 Video](#)

In Western music there are 12 notes in total. Your guitar contains only 12 different notes over a range of octaves. An octave is simply the same note, but at a higher or lower pitch. You will learn more about octaves soon, but first lets learn the notes as they run across the E and A strings.

### FIGURE 10:

Notes On The E String:



Notes On The A String:



Don't get worried about memorizing everything at first! If you are having troubles just try to remember that on the E string, the 3rd fret is G, 5th fret is A, 7th fret is B.

Similarly, remember that on the A string the 3rd fret is C, 5th fret is D, 7th fret is E.

### A Quick Note About Notes:

In Western music theory there are 7 natural notes: A B C D E F G, plus 5 notes that lie in between, also known as the sharps or flats: A#, C#, D#, F#, G# (# is pronounced sharp). The flats are: Bb, Db, Eb, Gb, Ab (b is pronounced flat).

A sharp occurs when we move up a note, and a flat occurs when we move back a note. Since **A#=Bb**, **C#=Db**, **D#=Eb**, **F#=Gb**, **G#=Ab**, we only need to talk in terms of one or the other, but not both at the same time. Ace guitar lessons refers to these notes as sharps, for more information, check out the Fretboard Mastery chapter.

## Lesson 6: Minor Pentatonic & Blues Scales

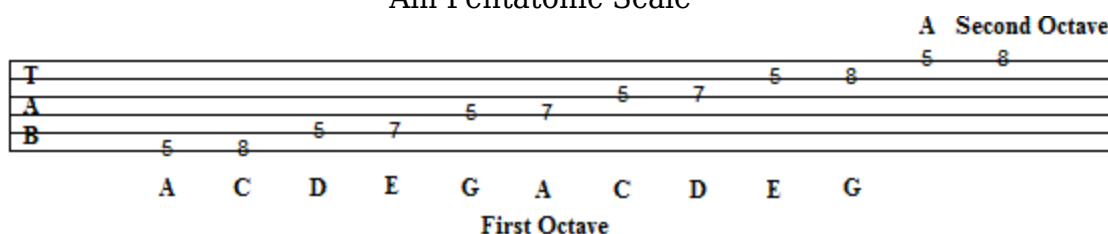
### [Play Lesson 6 Video](#)

A pentatonic scale is a 5 note scale. The minor pentatonic scale is probably the most widely used scale by guitarists, as it fits well into blues, country, rock, and metal playing.

You will learn this scale first in the key of A, which gives us the A minor Pentatonic Scale.

### FIGURE 11:

Am Pentatonic Scale

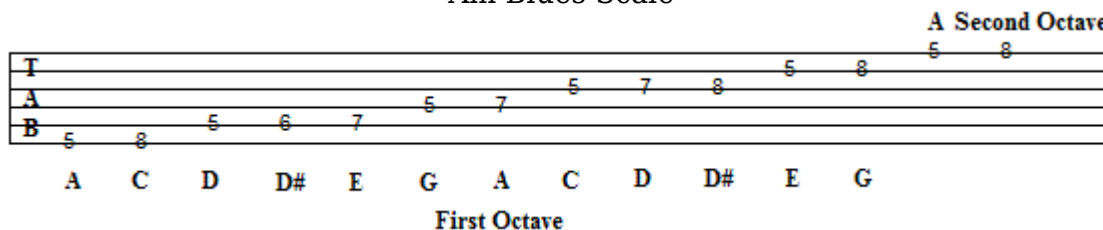


Here we play the scale through 2 octaves, but there are only 5 different notes: ACDEG.

Next, you will learn the blues scale, which is essentially a pentatonic scale with one added note: the **blue** note. In the Am Blues Scale, the blue note is D#.

### FIGURE 12: [\(Play Blues Video\)](#)

Am Blues Scale

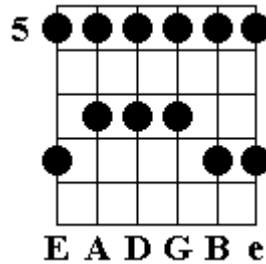


The blue note is also commonly called the flat 5th or diminished 5th.

### Scale Diagrams

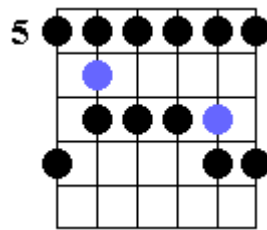
Scales and chords are also represented by "box diagrams" in addition to TAB. A box diagram shows the shape that scales and chords make on a guitar fretboard....

A box diagram represents the fretboard as if it's being viewed vertically. Here is the scale box diagram for the Am Pentatonic Scale:



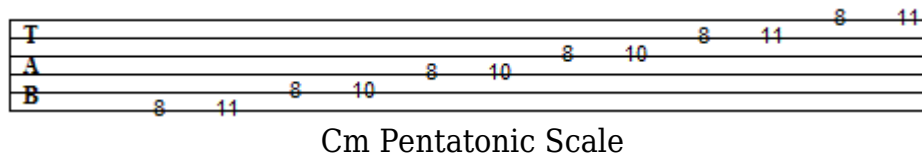
Notice how the 5 shows that this scale shape starts on the 5th fret of the E string (an A note). Normally, the string names are not shown like they are in this example.

Here's the scale diagram for the Am Blues Scale:



When compared to the pentatonic scale we can see the only difference are the D# blue notes. If you know your notes across the E string, then you know this scale in all twelve keys, simply by starting at whatever root note you want, as shown below!

**FIGURE 13:** [\(Play Key Change Video\)](#)



+

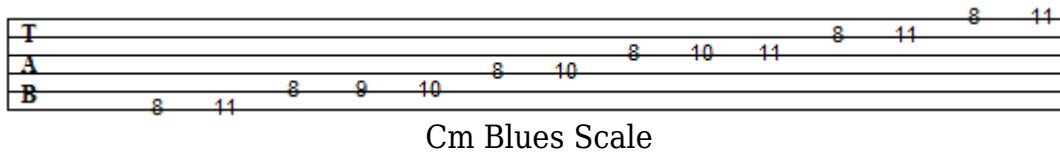
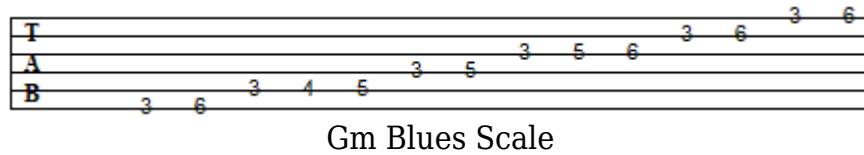
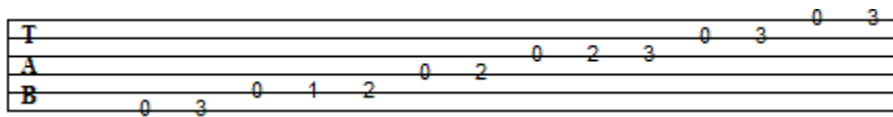


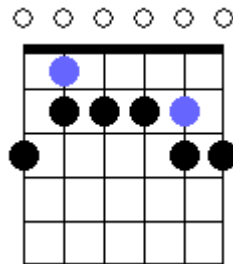
FIGURE 14:



Here's the Em Blues scale played at the open position:



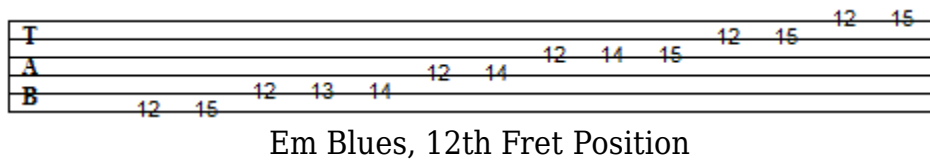
This is what the fret-box diagram looks like for the above Em Blues Scale:



The thick black line at the top represents the nut (0th fret) and the open circles represent the open string notes that are a part of this scale.



Here's the exact same Em Blues scale played at the 12th fret position on the guitar, all notes are exactly the same as above, but up one octave:

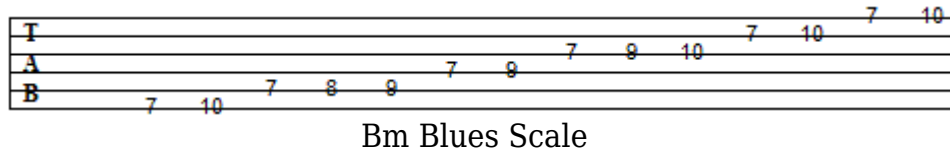


## Lesson 7: Three Simple Scale Riffs

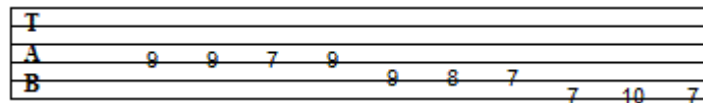
### [Play Lesson 7 Video](#)

Our first scale riff is my version of a classic Clapton style riff we'll call "Sunshine." It uses the notes of the Bm Blues Scale:

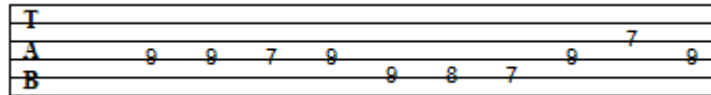
**FIGURE 15:**



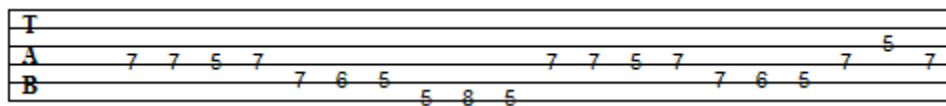
Here is the first part of the riff:



Here is the second part of the riff:

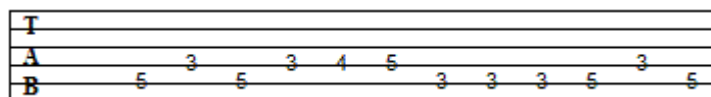


Here's the same tune again, but now in the key of Am:



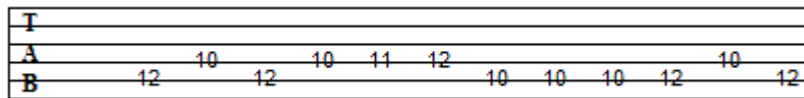
**Now we're on to a Led Zeppelin style pentatonic riff...**

**FIGURE 16:** [\(Play Zep Video\)](#)

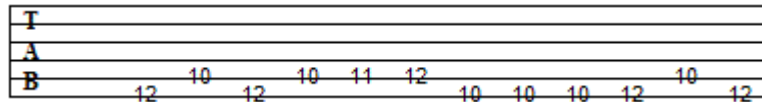


Now let's take that riff shape and play it somewhere else on the guitar...

Here it is starting at the 12th fret of the A string:



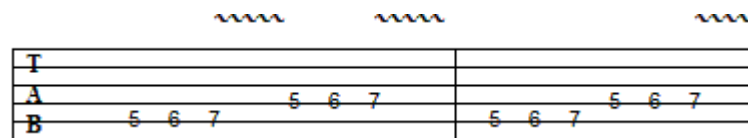
Here it is starting at the 12th fret of the E string:



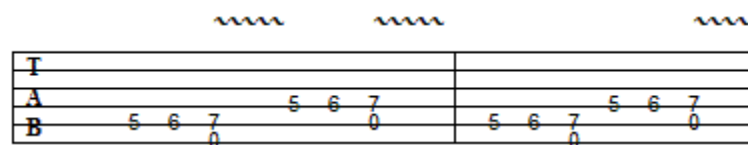
Hopefully you can see from these examples that you can move shapes around on the guitar to get the same riffs in different keys. When you do this, you can find a key you like the sound of most!

### FIGURE 17: [\(Play Riff 3 Video\)](#)

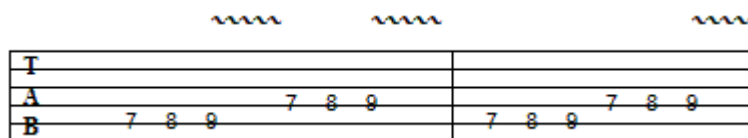
Here is our third scale riff, the squiggly lines represent vibrato, which means you shake the note a little bit to give it a singing quality. Vibrato is covered more in the next lesson.



After you get used to playing this, try adding in open E and A strings, like so:



Adding the low E and A strings like this gives an extra heaviness to the sound. Ofcourse, just like the other examples, this shape can be moved around to other frets, like so:



But you can't add the open E and A strings here, it won't sound right!

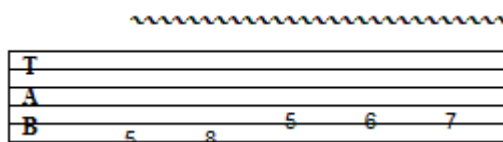
## Lesson 8: Vibrato

### [Play Lesson 8 Video](#)

You may have noticed that in many videos it looks like I'm shaking or bending certain notes. The technique I'm applying here is called *vibrato*, and it gives notes a singing quality, like a voice.

Developing vibrato will give you your own unique sound or voice on a guitar. Vibrato looks like an easy technique, but you will find it takes time to master. Vibrato can range from subtle to wild: slow vibration and small movement to large vibration and wide movement.

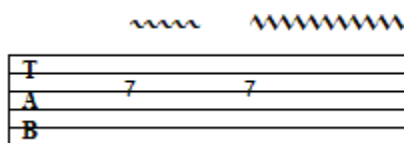
FIGURE 18:



Vibrato is represented with a squiggly line. In this example we are applying vibrato to notes of the Am Blues Scale.

You will get the best sounding vibrato with your first three fingers: index, middle and ring. Your pinky should be able to perform vibrato, but it will usually sound weaker than your other fingers.

FIGURE 19:



There are 3 main ways to play vibrato:

- 1) very slight and subtle
- 2) medium speed and width
- 3) wide and quickly

In TAB, light and medium vibrato is expressed with the first line, and heavy and fast vibrato is represented with the second, more intense line.

Practice vibrato with all your fingers, and find places where you can add it in everything you learn and play. However, don't get too carried away and use it all the time - it sounds best when you use it to emphasize only certain notes.

## Lesson 9: Open Strings + Sliding Notes

### [Play Lesson 9 Video](#)

This is an impressive acoustic country sounding riff, played at a relaxing pace using open B and e strings with fretted notes on the G string. All of the notes in this riff are from the E major scale (E, F#, G#, A, B C# D#), giving a happy, or positive quality to the riff. You will learn more about major scales soon...

### Lesson 9 TAB:

The tablature consists of two systems. The first system shows fretted notes on the G string (1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9) with slides to the next fret, and open strings on the B and e strings. The second system shows slides on the G string from fret 9 to 11, 11 to 13, 13 to 14, 14 to 13, 13 to 11, and 11 to 9, with open strings on the B and e strings.

The notes played on the G string are written out for you, they're from the E Major Scale.

Notice that the slides are played quickly in the video & notes are played in groups of four.

## Lesson 10: Hammer-Ons & Pull-Offs

### [Play Lesson 10 Video](#)

Hammer-ons and Pull-offs are a part of legato (smooth) style playing. The smooth sound comes from picking once, and making the notes sound with your fingers only. First, we'll do hammer-ons in the open position Em pentatonic scale:

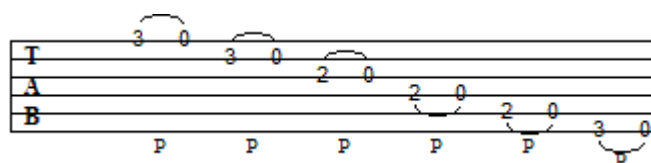
### HAMMER-ONS TAB:

The tablature shows a sequence of notes on the G string: 0, 2, 3, 2, 3, 0. Hammer-ons are indicated by 'H' below the notes 2, 3, 2, 3, and 0.



Pull-offs are achieved by giving the string a slight pull down as you are releasing it. If you just let go of a string (with no pull), you will not hear a very loud sound. Here we do some pull-offs coming back up the Em pentatonic scale.

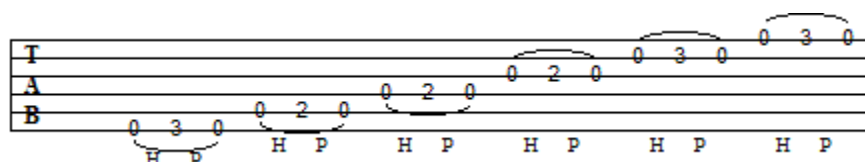
### PULL-OFFS TAB:



Notice that Hammer-ons are represented with an H in TAB, and Pull-offs with a P.

Now lets **combine hammer-ons and pull-offs** to get an even smoother sound:

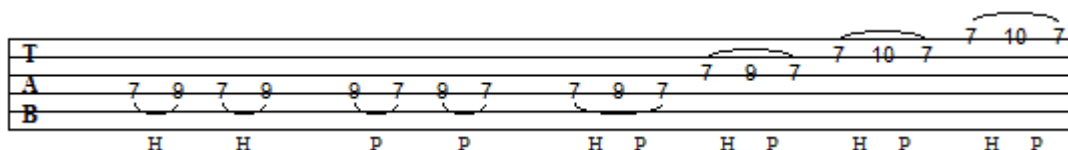
### HAMMER PULL COMBO TAB: [\(Play Video\)](#)



First pick the open string, next do a hammer-on with your index, middle or ring fingers, and then pull-off again to an open string.

Now lets try some hammer-ons, pull-offs and combinations in the Bm pentatonic scale.

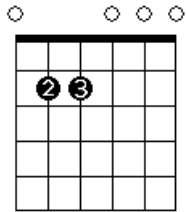
### HAMMER PULL COMBOS IN B MINOR:



When you are performing Hammers and Pulls within a scale like this, you should hold your index finger down the whole time. In this example we first do the hammers, then the pulls, then the hammer-pull combinations.

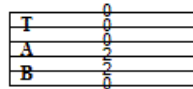
Try doing this in other pentatonic scales across the neck, like Gm pentatonic as shown in the video.

## Lesson 11: Six Guitar Chords



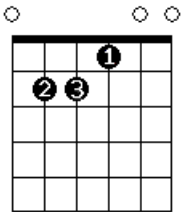
E Minor (Em)

Em TAB:



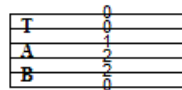
The **E minor** chord is made up of the notes E (root), B (perfect 5<sup>th</sup>), and G (minor 3<sup>rd</sup>).

[Play Em Video Lesson](#)



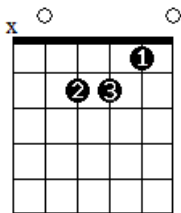
E Major (E)

E TAB:



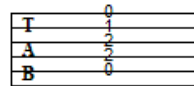
The **E major** chord is made up of the notes E (root), B (perfect 5<sup>th</sup>), and G# (major 3<sup>rd</sup>).

[Play E Video Lesson](#)



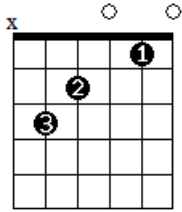
A Minor (Am)

Am TAB:



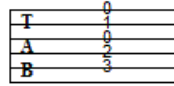
The **A minor** chord is made up of the notes A (root), E (perfect 5<sup>th</sup>), and C (minor 3<sup>rd</sup>).

[Play Am Video Lesson](#)



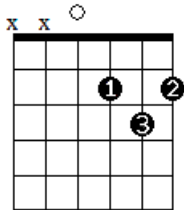
C Major (C)

C TAB:



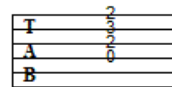
The **C major** chord is made up of the notes C (root), G (perfect 5<sup>th</sup>), and E (major 3<sup>rd</sup>).

[Play C Video Lesson](#)



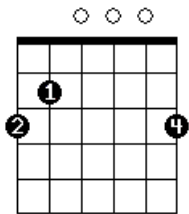
D Major (D)

D TAB:

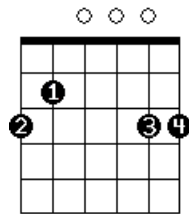


The **D major** chord is made up of the notes D (root), A (perfect 5<sup>th</sup>), and F# (major 3<sup>rd</sup>).

[Play D Video Lesson](#)

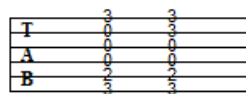


G Major (G)



G Version 2

G TAB:



The **G major** chord is made up of the notes G (root), D (perfect 5<sup>th</sup>), and B (major 3<sup>rd</sup>).

[Play G Video Lesson](#)

## Bonus Guitar Lessons

### House of the Rising Sun

**House of the Rising Sun** is a famous traditional tune that sounds great on acoustic guitar. In this guitar lesson we take a look at the first 8 chords of rising sun and how to pick them as arpeggios to give a brilliant chiming sound, which is especially noticeable on a 12-string guitar.

Am                      C                      D                      F

Am                      E                      Am                      E

## Moonlight Sonata

Moonlight Sonata is one of Beethoven's greatest compositions. The dark melodies add a heavy vibe to this classical piece arranged for acoustic finger-style guitar in this lesson. This lesson might not be easy for beginners but keep trying, it's worth it!

### Video 2:

### Video 3:

## Canon in D Chords

**Canon in D Major** by Johann Pachelbel was written over 300 years ago and has become very popular in modern times. Canon in D major is Pachelbels most well known piece and has become famous on guitar with **Canon Rock**.

	D	A	Bm	F#m
T	3 2	2 2	4 4 3	
A	0 2	0 2 2 2		2 4 4 2
B		0	2	2

	G	D	G	A
T	0 0 0	2 3 2	0 0 0	2 2 2
A	0 0 0	0 2	0 0 0	0 2 2 2
B	3	0	3	0

## Canon Solo Part I

This **Canon rock solo guitar lesson** covers the first half of the melody, which is an exact transcription of what Pachelbel wrote for violin. The canon rock version is sometimes played a lot faster but this sounds good played slow also!

	D	A	Bm	F#m
T	17 14 15 17 14 15	17 14 15 17 14 15	14 15 14	15 14 15
A		14 16	16 17	14 16 14 17 14
B				

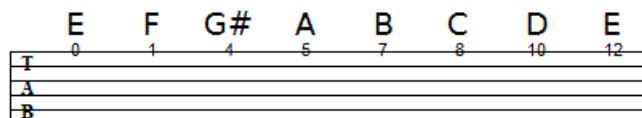
  

	G	D	G	A
T	16 14	14 16 17 14 16	14 15	14 15 17 14 15 17
A	17 17 16 14	16 14 17	17 16 14 16	14 16
B		17		

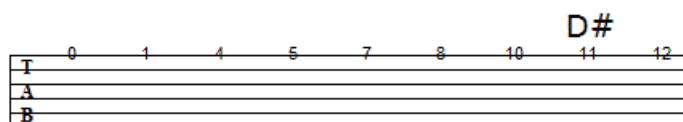
## Exotic Scales

The exotic guitar scales in this video will give you a great Spanish or Egyptian sound as you'll hear in this acoustic guitar lesson. We're playing the **Phrygian Dominant** scale in the key of E, with an added note (D#) borrowed from the E Harmonic Minor scale.

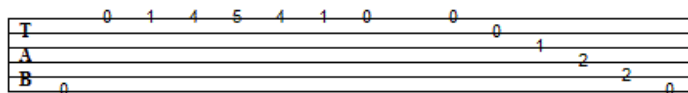
E Phrygian Dominant Scale TAB:



E Phrygian Dominant Scale Plus Hybrid Note:



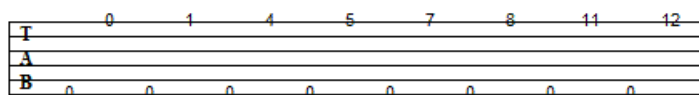
Egyptian Sounding Example TAB:



Egyptian Melody TAB:



Alternating E String TAB:



Hammer-Ons & Pull-Offs TAB:

