

Introduction to Guitar Handout:
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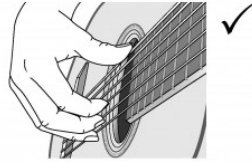
The guitar is a popular instrument that originated from many different cultures and it blends itself with a variety of styles. Each different genre that includes the guitar, requires a certain level of technique foundation. At this moment we are learning a language, that will allow us to transport the musical ideas of our souls into the instrument. This introduction will touch base on the following skills:

- 1- Right-hand Position.
- 2- Left-hand Position.
- 3- Relaxation.
- 4- Hand digits.
- 5- How to read tablature.
- 6- The first and second strings of the guitar.
- 7- How to use *i* and *m* in the right-hand.
- 8- Ode to Joy theme by Beethoven, using the E and B strings.
- 9- The C major chord in first position.
- 10-The G major chord in second position.

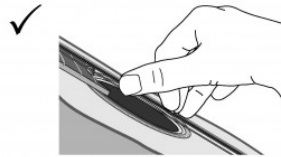
RIGHT-HAND POSITION

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Right-hand position



Keep your wrist arched slightly away from the guitar.



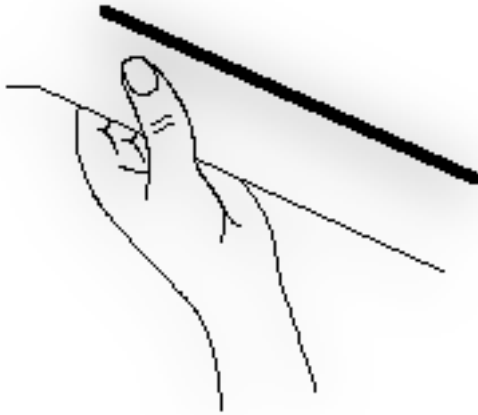
Your thumb crosses in front of the fingers.



Don't have a lazy wrist.

Remember that being RELAXED when playing the guitar will allow you to better express your musical ideas. In addition, it will eliminate future problems as you advance in your guitar studies. Follow the natural movements of the body in order to execute strumming, fingerpicking and constructing the chords. This will create strong foundations on every aspect of your playing. Keep in mind that “perfect practice, makes it perfect.” Proper body position will preserve the musician from developing injuries. You do not want to end your musical studies because you poorly executed the principal movements. Lastly, do not judge a great guitarist based on how loud or fast they can play. A great musician learns to connect their body with the instrument and through that understanding is able to CONTROL their actions.

LEFT-HAND POSITION



The idea of relaxation also applies to the left-hand. The thumb rests behind the fretboard of the instrument. In classical guitars, the thumb should remain parallel to finger 2. The proper position of the thumb will support the chords that fingers 1, 2, 3 and 4 are producing.



In this picture it shows how the hand holds the fretboard of the instrument. It is the same as if you were grabbing a tennis ball or even a phone. It is the natural movement of the body. If the fretboard it was out of the picture, the hand would be making the movement of a fist, which is the exact motion that right-hand uses to strum and fingerpicks.

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2



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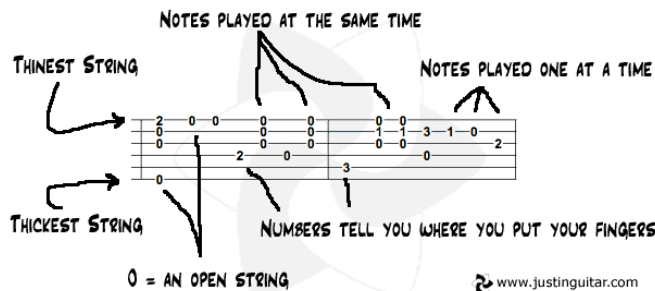
RIGHT-HAND- Look back at the hand digits picture and notice that the right-hand is labeled with letters. The guitar is a quintessential part of Spanish and Latin culture. Many guitar luthiers (guitar makers), performers, educators and composers came from the Latin tradition. As a result, the letters are correspondent to the name of the fingers in Spanish: *polegar* (p), *indicador* (i), *medio* (m) and *anular* (a).

RIGHT-HAND FINGER ALTERNATION



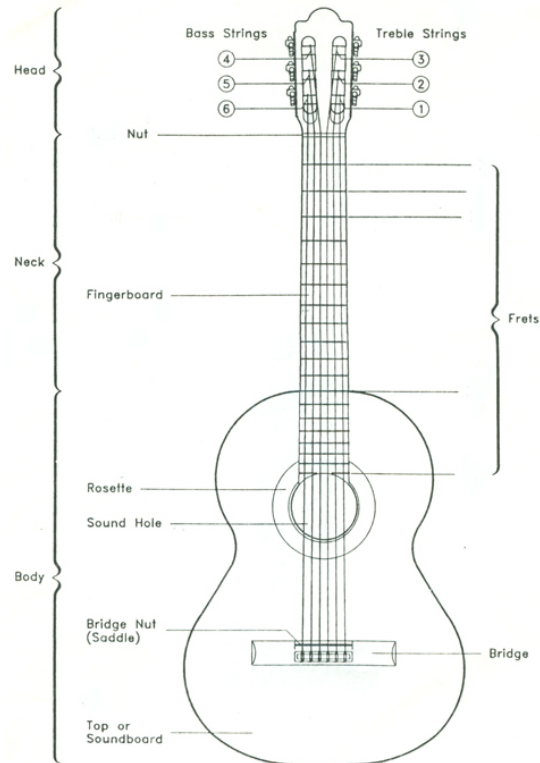
One common mistake that students make at the beginner's level is that they do not alternate their fingers when playing a simple melodic line on the instrument. Regardless what style of music the student decides to pursue, this common rule that comes from classical guitar applies to all other genres. This little exercise above is a representation of the guitar walk. The goal is to learn how to freely walk your fingers across the strings. Finger alternation is important because it is the most efficient way to play the guitar. It develops the skills of preparation and finger independence.

TABLATURE CHART



For the students who are not familiar with staff notation and use tablature, here is a little chart explaining how to read tabs. Tablature has been around as early as some of the ancestors of the guitar such as the lute and the *vihuela*. It is another tool that the beginner guitarists may use to learn how to play the instrument.

PARTS OF THE GUITAR



Here is a small diagram with all the major parts of the guitar. It is essential to quickly get familiar with these names in order to understand how the instrument functions.

STRING OF THE GUITAR



Before you begin playing the guitar, learn the names of each string of the instrument. Be familiar with the “e” and “B” string before starting the Ode to Joy assignment.

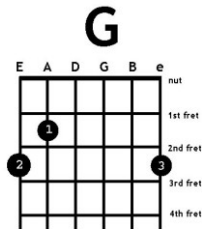
ODE TO JOY THEME BY BEETHOVEN

Ode to Joy Theme

Beethoven
Marcus DeJesus

The image shows a guitar score for the Ode to Joy theme. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written on a single staff. Above the staff are five chords: C, G, C, G, C. Below the staff are two lines of guitar tablature. The first line of tablature contains the notes: 0 0 1 3, 3 1 0 3, 1 1 3 0, 0 3 3, 0 0 1 3. The second line of tablature is empty. The second system of music also has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. It starts with a 6th fret marker. Above the staff are four chords: G, C, G, C. Below the staff are two lines of guitar tablature. The first line of tablature contains the notes: 3 1 0 3, 1 1 3 0, 3 1 1. The second line of tablature is empty.

The goal of this assignment is to apply everything that has been discussed thus far in the handout. At first you will be reviewing the string names, hand digits, how to position your hands around the instrument and so on. Remember the rules of alternating your fingers in the right-hand and to maintain a RELAXED posture. If you carefully studied and took notice on the details regarding on how to practice, this should be a rewarding experience!



Once you are comfortable with the Ode to Joy theme. Work on the G chord in second position and review the C chord on the first position. Do not forget how you should be practicing these chords. Remember that "Perfect Practice, Makes it Perfect." Use these chords to accompany your classmates on the Ode to Joy theme.