

Easy Guitar Songs Student Book

by Denise Gagné and Tim O'Brien

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Themes & Variations

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Introduction to Easy Guitar

This course was written to teach students in Gr. 4-8 classroom music how to play chords to accompany singing. Younger students in private lessons will also be successful with this program. Older students will progress very quickly. To get you started playing as quickly as possible, the first fifteen songs use only one chord. This lets you play complete songs while developing good chord formation without having to change chords. By the end of the fifteenth song you will have mastered forming Em, D, A, C, G and E. The switching of chords is often when the first real frustration of guitar players is experienced. The first chord change is D to A which is relatively easy. If you need to stop to switch at first that's OK - with practice, the switching will become easier and easier.



All the songs are included on your CD. Play along with the recording! If you would rather practice using a computer than with a book and CD, we have included a PowerPoint of all the songs. The audio is linked in the PowerPoint.

In addition to the PowerPoints of the songs we're including links to many YouTube videos of easy pop songs that you can play as soon as you know the E and A chords. If you do a YouTube search for "Easy Guitar Chords and Lyrics" you'll find many more easy songs that you can play along with!

History of the Guitar

Musical instruments similar to the modern guitar have been played throughout history and by many different cultures and countries. Instruments like the guitar were played 3,000 years ago. The English word *guitar* comes from the Spanish word *guitarra*. It was likely based on the Latin word *cithara* and the ancient Persian word *tar*, which meant string. The oldest surviving guitar-like instrument originated in Ancient Egypt. It can still be seen in Cairo, Egypt, at the Archaeological Museum.



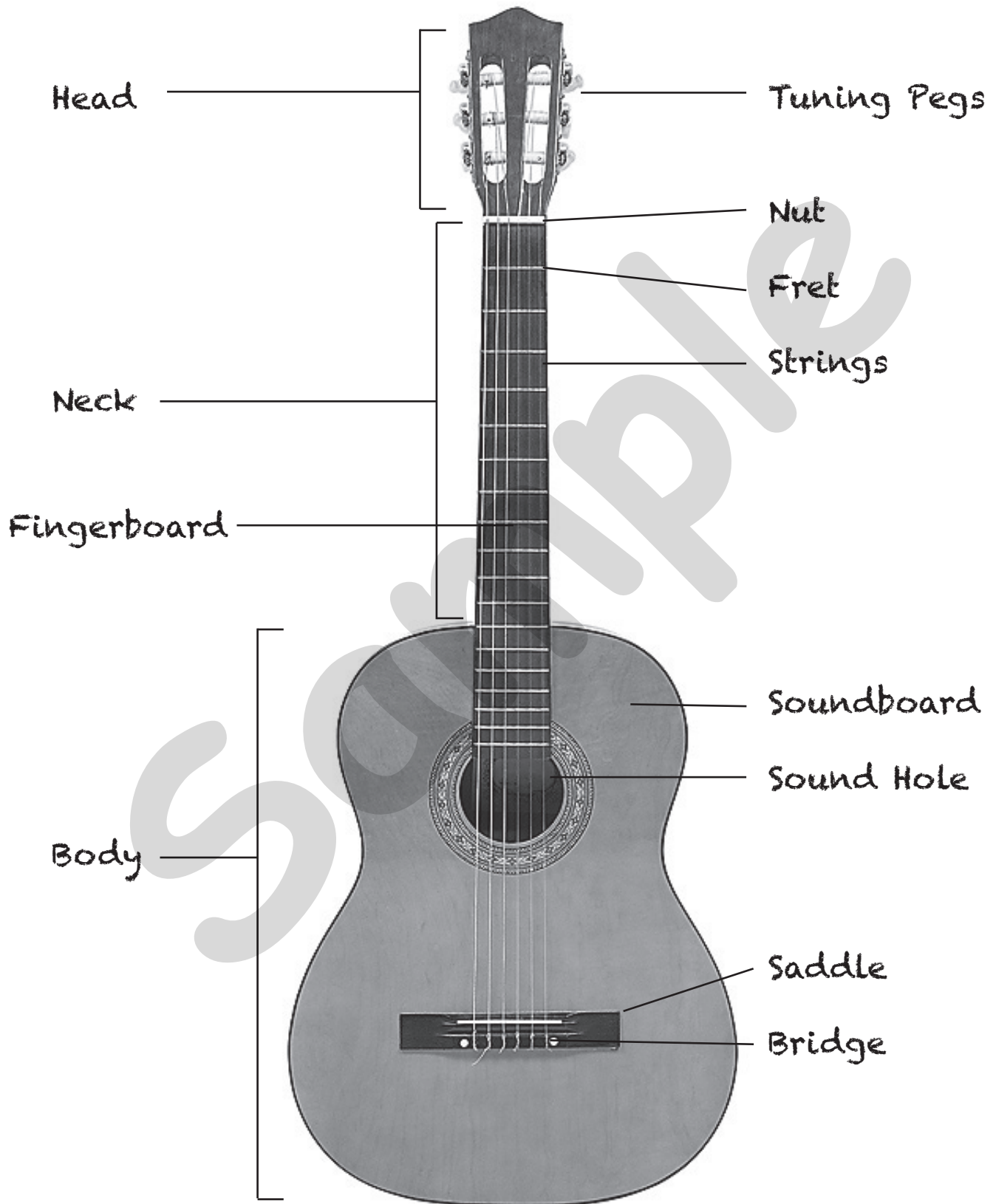
Lute

The lute was found in Europe between the 6th and the 9th centuries in several different styles and forms. It was a popular instrument in the European Middle Ages.

One of the predecessors to the modern day classical guitar was the Baroque guitar. It was played during the European Renaissance in the 1600s. The Baroque guitar had 9 or 10 strings with two strings generally tuned to the same note. A lower E string was added later. In the 1800s Antonio Torres Jurado started building guitars that looked much like our modern classical and acoustic guitars.

The electric guitar was invented in the United States in the 1930s. A lot of inventors and guitar makers were working on electric guitars at the same time. Famous electric guitar makers included Les Paul who pioneered the solid body guitar made by Gibson Guitars.

Parts of a Guitar



How to Read a Chord Chart



How the Strings are Numbered:

The 6th string is the thickest string on the guitar. It's another E note, so we call it the "low E string."

The 5th string is A.

The 4th string is D.

The 3rd string is G.

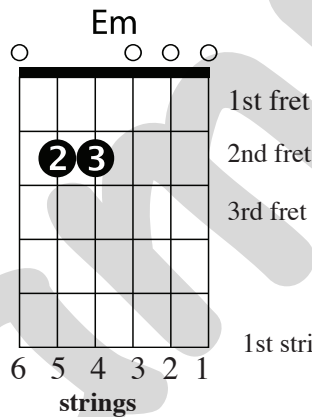
The 2nd string is B.

The 1st string is the highest string on the guitar. It's the thinnest string and is the one closest to the floor. It's an E note and we call it the "high E string."

This is a chord chart. Think of it as a diagram of your guitar sitting in front of you.

The white circles mean it's an open string.

Black dots on the diagram tell you what fret and string to place your fingers on. Numbers inside the dots tell you which finger to use.



6th string - Low E is the line on the far left.

1st string - High E is the line on the far right.

The 6 vertical lines represent the 6 strings on a guitar.

If you see an "X" on a chord diagram it means that you do not strum that string. Otherwise all strings are played.



This is how your fingers are numbered.



When fingers 2 and 3 are placed on strings 4 and 5 in the 2nd fret it makes the chord Em.

How to Tune the Guitar

One of the very first things you should learn is how to tune the guitar. An out of tune guitar is frustrating to play and you shouldn't have to take it to someone else to tune it every time it goes out of tune.

An excellent online tuner is available at <http://www.proguitartuner.com>. There are also many excellent guitar tuning apps available for both iTunes and Google devices. "GuitarTuna" is very easy to use.

When guitars (or ukeleles) are new, they go out of tune very quickly. Once the guitar has been in use for a while, they stay in tune better.



Remember how the strings are numbered:

The 6th string is the thickest string on the guitar. It's another E note, so we call it the "low E string."

The 5th string is A.

The 4th string is D.

The 3rd string is G.

The 2nd string is B.

The 1st string is the highest string on the guitar. It's the thinnest string and is the one closest to the floor. It's an E note and we call it the high E string.

To tune your guitar using standard tuning by ear do the following:

1. Tune the 6th string E, as accurately as you can. If you have a keyboard, play the note on the keyboard.



2. Place the first finger of your left hand just behind the fifth fret on the bottom E string. That's an A note. Keep your finger on that fret. Now pick the fifth and six strings in turn, gently adjusting the fifth string tuning peg until the two notes are the same.

3. Place the first finger of your left hand just behind the fifth fret on the A string. That's a D note. Tune the 4th string (the D note) to that.

4. Place the first finger of your left hand just behind the fifth fret on the D string. That's a G note. Tune your G string to that note.

5. Place the first finger of your left hand just behind the fourth fret (note the B string is the only one that comes from a different position the fourth fret, the rest are from the 5th fret).

6. Place the first finger of your left hand just behind the fifth fret on the B string. That's an E note.

1. Ghost of Tom

Emin



Have you seen the ghost of Tom? Long white bones with the flesh all gone.



Oo. _____ Would-n't it be chill - y with no skin on?

2. Skin and Bones

Emin



There was an old wom - an all skin and bones, Oo. _____ She



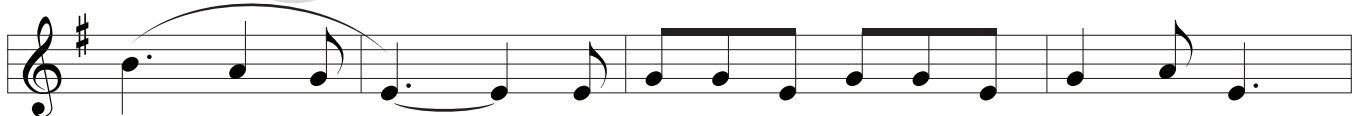
lived down by the old grave - yard, Oo. _____ One night she thought she'd



take a walk, Oo. _____ She walked down by the old grave - yard,



Oo. _____ She saw the bones a lay - in' a - round,



Oo. _____ She went to the clos - et to get a broom,



Oo. _____ She o - pened the door and BOO!

3. In the Land of Oz

Emin



In the land of Oz where the la - dies smoke ci - gars, eve - ry
puff they take is e - nough to kill a snake. When the snakes are dead they put
ro - ses on their heads. When the ro - ses die they put dia - monds on their eyes. When the
dia - monds break, it is nine - teen sev - en - ty eight!

4. Land of the Silver Birch

Emin



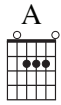
Land of the sil - ver birch, home of the bea - ver, Where still the might - y moose
High on a rock - y ledge I'll build my wig - wam, Close by the wa - ter's edge,
wan - ders at will. Blue lake and rock - y shore, I will re - turn once more.
si - lent and still.
Boom di di boom boom, boom di di boom boom, boom di di boom boom boom.

11. This Old Hammer



This old ham - mer _____ shines like a sil - ver, _____ shines like a
 gold boys, _____ yes, shines like a gold. _____ 'Ain't no ham - mer _____
 _____ in this old moun - tain, _____ Shines like a mine boys, _____
 _____ yes, shines like a mine. _____

12. Cotton Eye Joe



Where did you come from, where did you go?
 Where did you come from, Cot - ton Eye _____ Joe?
 Come for to see you, Come for to sing,
 Come for to show you, my _____ dia - mond ring.

22. Clementine

G

In a cav - ern, in a can - yon ex - ca -
 Light she was and like a fair - y and her
 Drove she duck - lings to the wa - ter eve - ry
 How I missed her, how I missed her, how I

D

va - ting for a mine, lived a min - er for - ty -
 shoes were num - ber nine, Her - ring box - es with - out
 morn - ing just at nine, Hit her foot a - gainst a
 missed my Clem - en - tine, Till I kissed her lit - tle

G D G

ni - ner and his daugh - ter Clem - en - tine. Oh my
 tops - es san - dals were for Clem - en - tine.
 splin - ter, fell in - to the foam - ing brine.
 sis - ter and for - got my Clem - en - tine.

D

dar - lin', Oh my dar - lin', Oh my dar - lin' Clem - en - tine. You are

G D G

lost and gone for - ev - er, dread - ful sor - ry Clem - en - tine.

23. Lukey's Boat

G

Oh Lu - key's boat is paint - ed green, Ah ha, me
 Oh Lu - key's sail - in' down the shore,
 Oh Lu - key's boat has cot - ton sails,
 Oh Lu - key's roll - in' out his grub,

boys. Oh Lu - key's boat is paint - ed green, the
 Oh Lu - key's sail - in' down the shore, to
 Oh Lu - key's boat has cot - ton sails, and
 Oh Lu - key's roll - in' out his grub, a

D G D G

fin - est boat you've ev - er seen, Ah ha, me rid - dle - i - day!
 catch some fish from La - bra - dor,
 planks put down with gal - va - nized nails,
 barrel a bag a ten - pound tub,



24. Down in the Valley

G D7



Down in the val - ley, the val - ley so low, _____

G



Hang your head o - ver, hear the wind blow. _____

D7



Hear the wind blow, dear, hear the wind blow, _____

G



Down in the val - ley, hear the wind blow. _____



25. Alouette

G D7 G D7 G

A - lou-et - te, gen-tille a-lou-et - te, A - lou-et - te, je te plu-me-rai.

D7 G D7 G

A - lou-et - te, gen-tille a-lou-et - te, A - lou-et - te, je te plu-me-rai. *Fine*

D7 G

- | | | | | | |
|-------|------------------------|----------|----|------------------------|----------|
| 1. Je | te plu - me - rai | la tête, | Je | te plu - me - rai | la tête. |
| 2. Je | te plu - me - rai - le | bec, | Je | te plu - me - rai - le | bec. |
| 3. Je | te plu - me - rai le | nez, | Je | te plu - me - rai le | nez. |
| 4. Je | te plu - me - rai les | yeux, | Je | te plu - me - rai les | yeux. |
| 5. Je | te plu - me - rai le | cou, | Je | te plu - me - rai le | cou. |
| 6. Je | te plu - me - rai le | dos, | Je | te plu - me - rai le | dos. |

D7

Et la tête, Et le bec, Et le nez, Et les yeux, Et le cou, Et le dos, Et la tête, Et le bec, Et le nez, Et les yeux, Et le cou, Et le dos,

A - lou - ette, a - lou - ette Oh