

GUITAR QUEST

STAGE



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STAGE 2

STAGE 3

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STAGE 5

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STAGE 6

STAGE 10

EN

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LEVEL 1

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9

- The Electric Guitar and Its Components
- Posture
- Right-Handed or Left-Handed
- The Names of the Strings



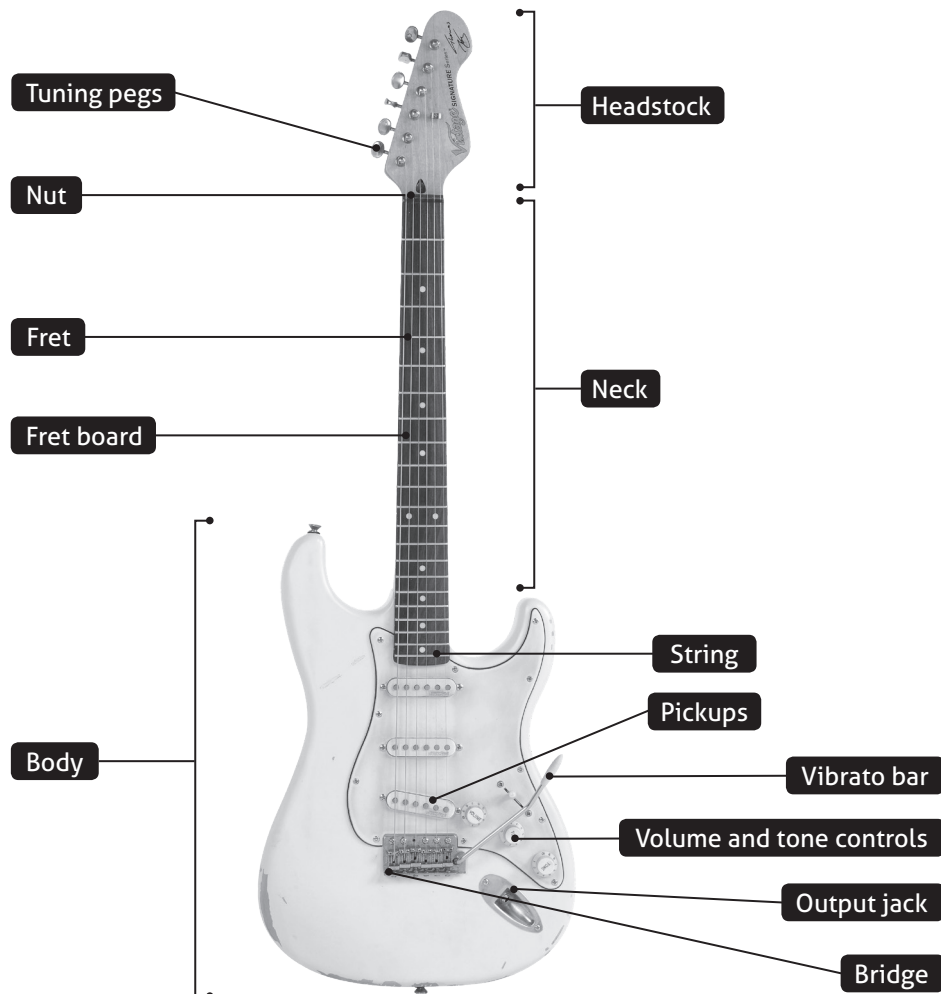
OBJECTIVES FOR LEVEL I

At the end of Level 1, you will ...

- know how to set up guitar and amp.
- be able to maintain a healthy and strong posture.
- have learned to use a pick.
- remember all the string names.

THE ELECTRIC GUITAR AND ITS COMPONENTS**MISSION I.I.I****MEMORIZE ALL PARTS OF THE GUITAR**

Let's get started right away by getting to know your instrument! There are many different ways to build an electric guitar. This image shows one of the most popular and varied ones, the "stratocaster" or "strat" model. Have a look and try to memorize as many parts as you can!

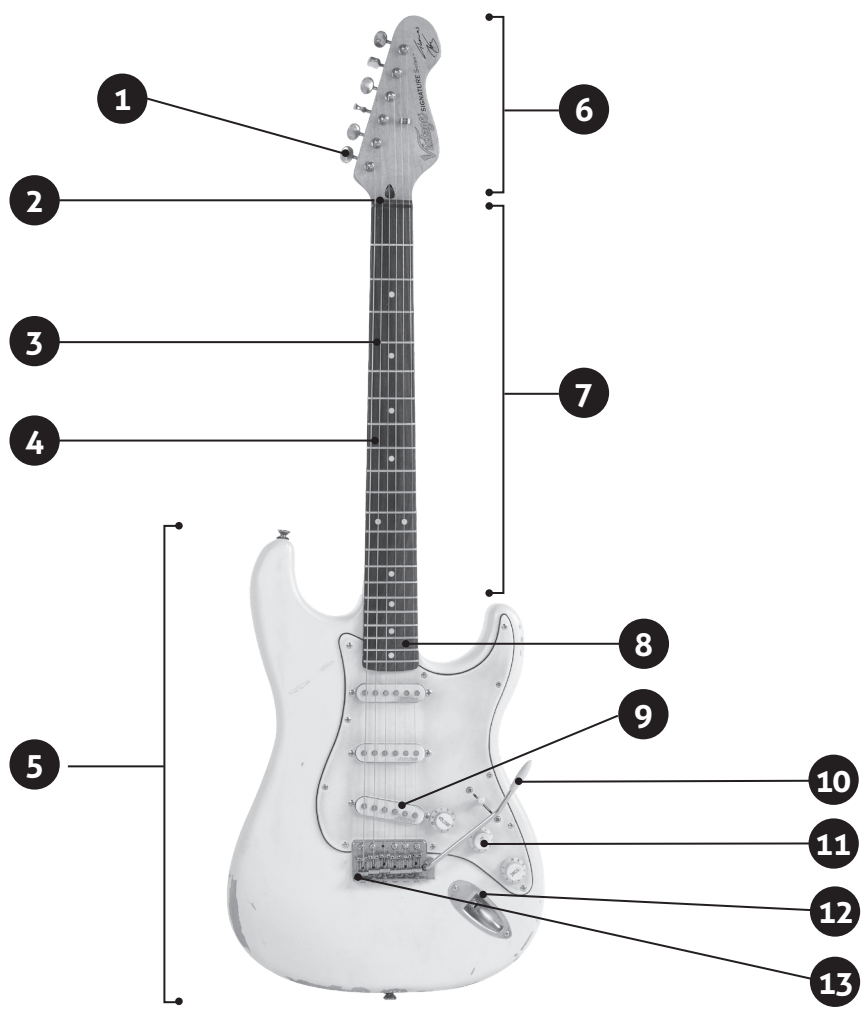


MISSION 1.1.2

REMEMBER ALL PARTS OF THE GUITAR



Are you ready for your first test? Fold back or cover the previous page and name the individual parts yourself. Once you've finished, check your work. Good job!



- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____

- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 _____
- 11 _____
- 12 _____
- 13 _____

**MISSION 1.1.3****CONNECT GUITAR AND AMPLIFIER**

You could play your electric guitar without an amplifier, but it will sound a lot better with an amp! An amplifier (or "amp") actually amplifies the electrical signal of your guitar, so it can be heard through the speaker.

Connect the **output** jack of your guitar to the **input** jack of your amp with a ¼ inch instrument cable.



1.1 Guitar amplifier



1.2 Instrument cable

Before powering up the amp, I recommend to turn all knobs to a zero position. Attention! Sometimes zero is in the middle and sometimes to the far left.



1.3 All settings at zero

**MISSION 1.1.4****SOUND CHECK**

Now turn on your amplifier and check the sound. Hit the strings of your guitar and play carefully with the knobs of your amp AND guitar. If your amp has various channels, also try out the push buttons for channel selection. If there is no sound at all, check all volume, master and gain knobs. One of them is probably at zero.

Just play around for a while. If you find a sound that you really like, try to memorize the settings. If possible, ask a friend, teacher or fellow student for their opinion.



I tried it out.



I found one sound that I like.



I found various nice sounds!

POSTURE

HOW TO HOLD YOUR GUITAR

Think about it. You will probably spend hundreds or even thousands of hours playing your guitar! One of the best things you can do right from the start is to make sure to have a good basic stance from the very beginning. The main characteristics of a good stance are:

- doesn't cause fatigue, cramping, and strain
- ability to move your hands as needed with ease and precision, and
- ability to firmly holding the guitar in position while being able to move, especially while standing

The guitar can be played standing or sitting.

WHILE STANDING



1.4 Standing posture

- 1 The guitar's body should be hanging roughly in front of your waist.
- 2 The body may be tilted slightly back towards the hip.
- 3 The guitar's neck should point slightly upwards.
- 4 Your legs should be spread a bit, your knees slightly bent and your weight equally distributed between your feet.
- 5 Your left arm should be behind the strap, your right arm in front of it.
- 6 Your shoulders should hang down, loose and relaxed.
- 7 The left elbow hangs loosely and relaxed.
- 8 Your right lower arm should lie loosely along the edge of your guitar's body.

WHILE SITTING



1.5 sitting posture

During practice and band rehearsals, you will probably play while sitting down quite a bit. There's some advice for you on this, too. Ideally, your guitar is **always in the same position relative to your upper body** – regardless of whether you are playing while standing up or sitting down.

- 1 You should sit upright, but without becoming rigid.
- 2 The lower side of your guitar's body should rest on your right thigh.
- 3 The guitar's body should be close enough to your own upper body and should be upright.
- 4 If needed, you can turn the body back towards your right hip.
- 5 The advice regarding the angle of your guitar's neck, the arms and the hands applies to playing while sitting down, too.

USING A FOOTSTOOL

A footstool is usually used when playing classical guitar. Nevertheless, it may be a major help for beginners playing electric guitar as well. Try it out! With a footstool you have the guitar positioned between your legs. The left leg is raised with the footstool. This position works well for people with longer arms. The relations between your arms and the guitar are more like when you are standing.



1.6 using a footstool

HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR FAVORITE POSTURE?



I have tried out different postures.



I have found one posture that works for me.



I have a comfortable posture standing up and sitting down.

RIGHT-HANDED OR LEFT-HANDED

If you are right-handed, your right hand will most likely be your picking hand, meaning that this is the hand with which you shape your rhythm. That makes your left hand the fretting hand, the hand that manages the fret board. The neck of the guitar will be to your left side.

If you are left-handed, you might prefer picking with your left and fretting notes with your right. If you do prefer to pick with your left and fret with your right hand, you will need a left-handed guitar. In this case the neck of the guitar will be to your right side.

HOW TO FIND YOUR PREFERRED POSITION

Try the following: Say a normal sentence out loud (e.g., »My name is [name], and I am learning to play the guitar!«). For every syllable that you speak, clap a hand on your thigh. Whichever hand feels more comfortable doing this should be your picking hand.

MISSION 1.1.5

USE A PICK



Holding your pick is a very individual thing (and, as a result, your picking style in general). For precisely this reason, you will notice very different styles among even professional electric guitar players. Nevertheless, there has been a kind of **standard way** of holding your pick for a while now. It has been spreading due to the fact that it works rather well, so this is a good place for you to start, too.

1



Hold your picking hand in front of your body as displayed. There should be room for a tennis ball in it. The back of your hand should be facing away from you.

2



Place the pick on the side of your index finger's first segment. The pick's tip should reach about 1 centimeter beyond your finger, pointing towards yourself.

3



Now, place your thumb flat on the pick. All you should be able to see now is the tip. Your grip should not be too tight, though: There should be a little bit of room for the pick to move, both, up and down.

MISSION 1.1.6**PLAY THE STRINGS WITH THE PICK**

Have you found a good grip for your pick? If so, check this box and move on to the next section!

Using this grip, run the pick across the strings of your instrument a couple of times to get used to the feeling. The pick's tip should always point straight at the strings. Try picking individual strings, too. If your pick moves, adjust it.

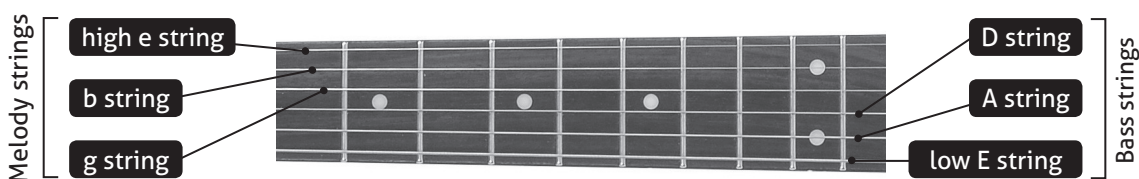
THE NAMES OF THE STRINGS

The strings on your electric guitar are its actual **tone generators**. By stroking them with the pick, you set them into a **vibrating motion**. These vibrations are then received by the pickups and forwarded through the cable into the amplifier, which, in turn, makes them sound.

An electric guitar has six strings – each has a **certain pitch**. One big difference is that the lowest sounding string is located highest on the guitar, while the highest sounding string is located lowest on the guitar.

This means that the tonal and spatial orders are reversed.

The six strings are named after the notes they produce when picked »clean« (meaning: without using your fretting hand). When picking a string like this, we speak of **empty** or **open strings**:



As you can see, there are two strings that use the note e – a high one, and a low one. In this case, high and low refer to pitch.

PRACTICE ADVICE: THE NAMES OF OPEN STRINGS

In order to easily and quickly memorize the names of the open strings, you can create a memorable phrase where the first letter of each word stands for each of the guitar string names – starting low and ending high:

ELEPHANTS AND DONKEYS GROW BIG EARS

Obviously, any other sentence with the same initial letters will do. If you like, think of your own phrase and memorize it. You can start by counting off the strings while using your memorable phrase. After a while, you will easily know the names of all your strings.

MISSION 1.1.7**REMEMBER THE NAMES OF THE STRINGS**

Pick the strings in any order while saying their names out loudly. Your teacher or another student may help you count your strikes.

I HAVE PICKED AND NAMED STRINGS CORRECTLY...



5 TIMES



10 TIMES



25 TIMES

MISSION 1.1.8

PLAY DEDICATED SEQUENCES

Pick the strings in the order in which they are written from left to right:

(E) (A) (D) (e) (b) (g) ★

(E) (D) (b) (A) (g) (e) ★ ★

(A) (g) (E) (A) (b) (g) (e) (D) (g) (A) ★ ★ ★

MISSION 1.1.9

REMEMBER AND LISTEN

The name of the rock ballad is: Nothing Else Matters (Metallica)

When you play the following sequence continuously and smoothly, you can hear the beginning of a very famous rock ballad. Can you remember its name? **I HAVE...**

(E) (g) (b) (e) (b) (g) (E) (g) (b) (e) (b) (g)

Played the sequence **by memory**. ★

Played the sequence **3 times** in a row correctly. ★ ★

Played it **by memory** and **found out the name of the rock ballad**. ★ ★ ★

Congratulations! You have now successfully completed Level 1 of Stage 1! By now you know all the parts of your guitar and how to get a good sound through your amp. You already have good posture and you know how to pick all the strings. You are ready for Level 2!

MISSION REVIEW

- MISSION 1.1.1: MEMORIZE ALL PARTS OF THE GUITAR**
- MISSION 1.1.2: REMEMBER ALL PARTS OF THE GUITAR**
- MISSION 1.1.3: CONNECT GUITAR AND AMPLIFIER**
- MISSION 1.1.4: SOUND CHECK!**
- MISSION 1.1.5: USE THE PICK**
- MISSION 1.1.6: PLAY THE STRINGS WITH THE PICK**
- MISSION 1.1.7: REMEMBER THE NAMES OF THE STRINGS**
- MISSION 1.1.8: PLAY DEDICATED SEQUENCES**
- MISSION 1.1.9: REMEMBER AND LISTEN**

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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GUITAR QUEST

ARE YOU READY FOR STAGE I?

Be a hero and discover the universe of music!
Join us on a journey that will change your life as a
player and turn you into a real master of the guitar.

You will learn to play the songs that you love and
develop your own sound and style.



**JÖRG
JUNGBLUTH**

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