

Learning to Play Guitar: Chords, Scales, and Solos

The guitar is the perfect first instrument to not only learn how to play, but to learn how to read, understand, and enjoy music. And, whether you've had a few years of lessons, taught yourself, or never picked a guitar up, this course is the perfect way to start.

Module 1

Guitar Basics: Play a Song in 60 Seconds



Discover how you can play a simple song on the guitar in just one minute. Then study the parts of the guitar, and how to hold the instrument. Play G and C major chords, and review the classic bass line from the song you learned. Finally, practice your song, combining your bass line with a four-note melody.

Tuning Up, Reading Music, and Dexterity

Consider important principles of musical learning, the essence of practice, and the importance of performance. Investigate how to tune your guitar, and learn a useful warmup. Observe how pitch and rhythm are notated (written), practice E and A minor chords, and work with a musical number using the chords you've learned so far.

Module 2

Classical Guitar Position and Posture



Explore body posture with the instrument; then, practice your warmup using alternating fingers. Grasp how written music is divided into “measures” and “beats”. Learn fuller versions of G and C major chords, see how they are written in the tablature form of notation, and add a melody to the song from the last lesson.

Learning How to Practice the Guitar

Look deeper into how to practice and master each element in the learning process. Explore “shifting”—moving the left hand position in guitar playing.

Playing Fingerstyle Guitar

Learn about three legends of “fingerstyle” guitar—the technique of playing with the right-hand thumb and fingers. Practice the basics of right-hand fingerstyle technique, with alternating fingers.