

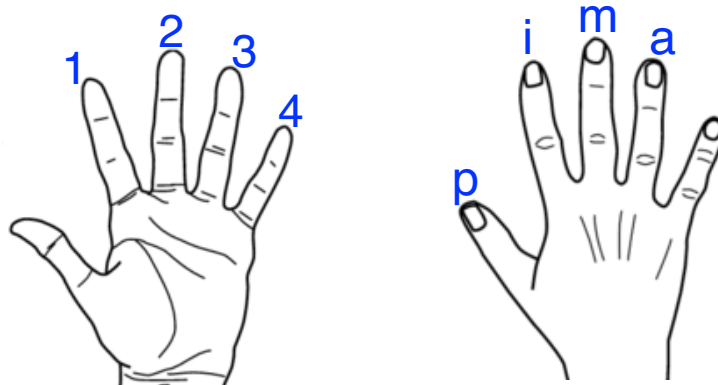
GUITAR BASICS

FOR BEGINNERS

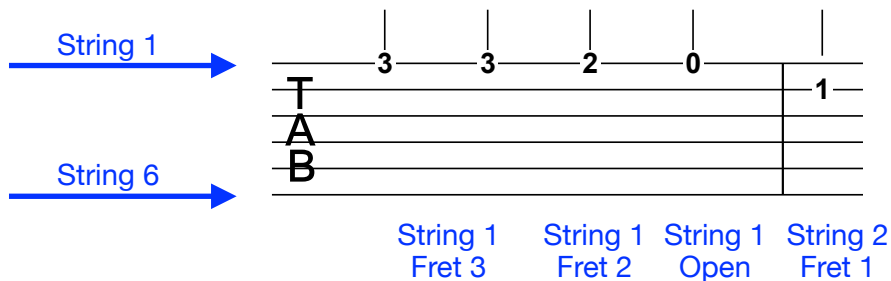
An intro to TAB, melodies, chords, arpeggios, and fingerstyle
by Leah Kruszewski

Here's an overview of everything you need to know to start reading TAB and playing melodies, chords, arpeggios, and a simple fingerstyle piece.

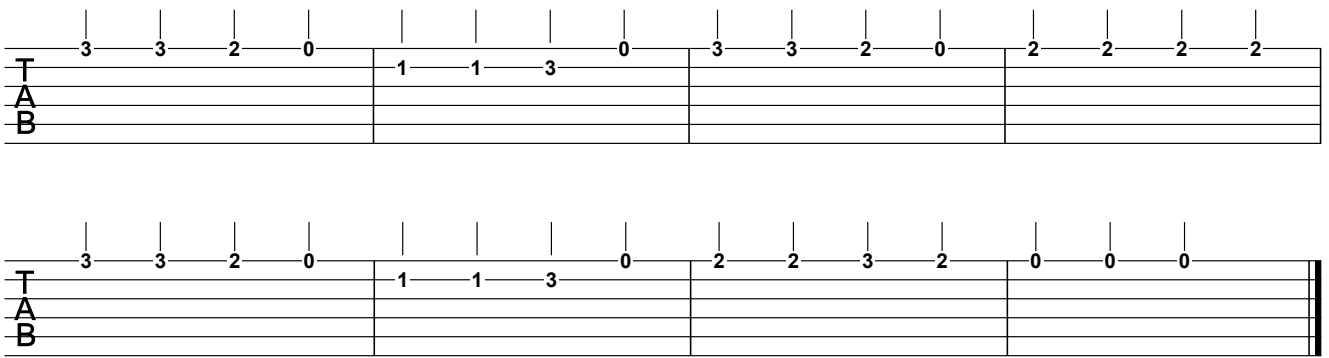
- ◆ We use numbers (1, 2, 3, 4) to refer to the left hand fingers and letters (p, i, m, a) for the right hand fingers:






- ◆ When we read guitar music in TAB, the lines represent the strings. String 6 (the lowest-sounding bass string, on top when you hold the guitar) is the bottom line, and string 1 (the highest-sounding treble) is the top line. The numbers indicate the frets.



- ◆ Try reading the following melody. When playing a melody in first position, your left hand finger number should match the fret number. For the right hand, you may use your thumb or (even better) alternate index and middle fingers.

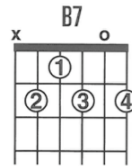


◆ Now play through the following chords. Follow the left hand numbers in blue.




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* FYI: a true B7 chord would include string 4 fret 1, as indicated in this diagram. I've simplified it for this example to make it easier for beginners.



◆ Now make the same left hand chord shapes and use the right hand fingers to play the strings one at a time as indicated. This technique is called an 'arpeggio'. Note that it's not actually necessary to hold down the Em chord with the left hand fingers, as this arpeggio doesn't include strings 5 and 6.

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- ◆ Finally, combine the melody that you played at the beginning with your right hand arpeggios, and you'll have a short fingerstyle guitar solo.

Em Am⁷ B⁷ Em

ami ami ami ami...

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Em Am⁷ B⁷ Em

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