

SCLH Beginning Guitar

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The Basics, Part 1 (an 8 week course)

GOALS

- Learn the notes of the C scale in open position
- Learn to read those notes in Standard Notation
- Learn basic music timing
 - whole, half, and quarter notes
 - Learn to use & play with a metronome
- Learn the chords: C, F, G7, G, D7, E7
- Learn to strum the chords & play notes in a group setting
- Begin to learn how to play along with an (arbitrary) recorded song

WEEKLY CLASS TIME ALLOCATION

- Odd Weeks:
 - 45 min: Music Theory
 - 45 min: Chord/Arpeggio & Note Instruction
- Even Weeks:
 - 60 min: Review previous week's:
 - New skills, homework & "lead sheet development"
 - 30 min: Group Jam Session

"Homework" is provided with each class session

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WEEK 1 (String #1, “C” Chord)

- Some Basics
 - Terminology
 - Chord & Arpeggio Definitions
 - Names of the Open Strings in Standard Tuning
 - Symbols, Notes, Rests
- Music Theory:
 - Notes/Names on String 1
 - whole, half, and quarter notes
- New Chord: Open C
- Basic Strum #1: Down-Up
- Homework
 - Get to know your instrument
 - Books that can be useful in this course
 - String 1 study!
 - Open C chord strum practice

Basic Major Scale Terminology

Musical Alphabet:

A B C D E F G (7 letters)

Key of “C”

C D E F G A B (scale tones)
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 (scale degree)

C Dm Em F G Am B° (chord name)

I ii iii IV V vi vii° (chord #)

Note:

Upper Case Roman Numerals → major chords

Lower Case Roman Numerals → minor or dim chords

Chords & Arpeggios

CHORD

Definition: a chord is a combination of 2 or more (usually at least 3) different notes played at the same time (plucked or strummed).

A chord has a name built on its starting or “root” note, and a “quality” that describes a category of sound type.

Name: “C” chord: root is the note C. Additional notes are E and G

- Any note in the musical alphabet can be the name/root of a chord

Quality: 5 types

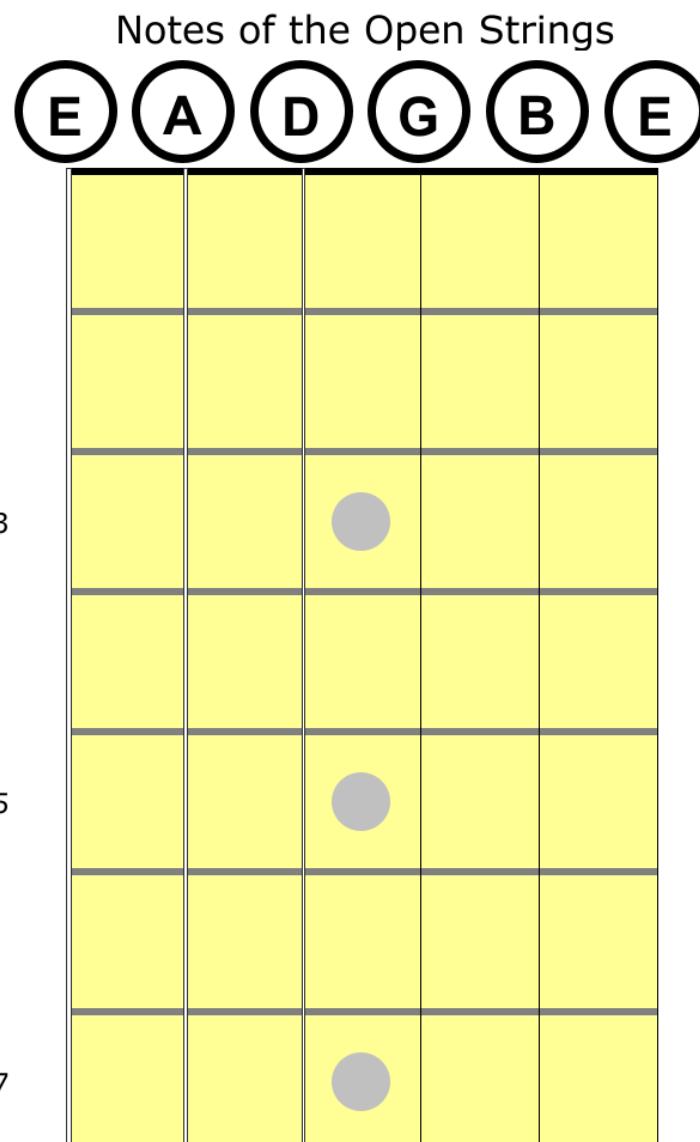
- Major: “C”
- Minor: “Cm”
- Dominant: “C7”
- Diminished: “C dim” or “C°”
- Augmented: “C aug” or “C +”

ARPEGGIO

Definition: a chord that is played one note at a time, usually from low to high or vice-versa, but can be played in any order.

Remembering The Open String Notes:

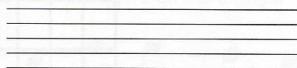
- Every Amateur Does Get Better Eventually.
- Eddie Ate Dynamite Good Bye Eddie.



MUSICAL SYMBOLS

Music is written in **notes** on a **staff**. The staff has five lines and four spaces between the lines. Where a note is written on the staff determines its **pitch** (highness or lowness). At the beginning of the staff is a **clef sign**. Guitar music is written in the treble clef.

STAFF

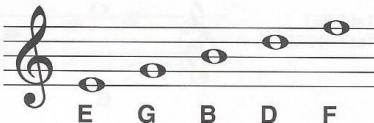


TREBLE CLEF

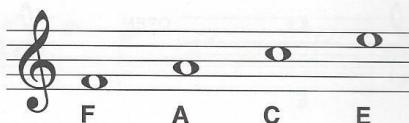


Each line and space of the staff has a letter name. The **lines** are, (from bottom to top) E - G - B - D - F, which you can remember as Every Guitarist Begins Doing Fine. The **spaces** are, (from bottom to top) F - A - C - E, which spells "Face."

LINES

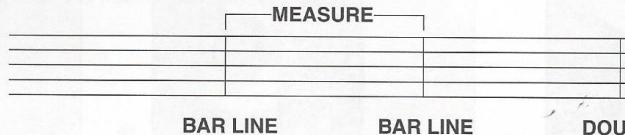


SPACES



The staff is divided into several parts by bar lines. The space between two bar lines is called a **measure** (also known as a "bar"). To end a piece of music a double bar is placed on the staff.

BAR LINES



BAR LINE

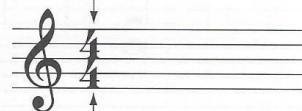
BAR LINE

DOUBLE BAR

Each measure contains a group of **beats**. Beats are the steady pulse of music. You respond to the pulse or beat when you tap your foot.

The two numbers placed next to the clef sign are the time signature.
The top number tells you how many beats are in one measure.

TIME SIGNATURE



FOUR BEATS PER MEASURE
QUARTER NOTE (♩) GETS ONE BEAT

The bottom number of the time signature tells you what kind of note will receive one beat.

Notes indicate the length (number of counts) of musical sound.

NOTES

WHOLE NOTE = 4 beats



HALF NOTE = 2 beats



QUARTER NOTE = 1 beat

When different kinds of notes are placed on different lines or spaces, you will know the pitch of the note and how long to play the sound.

REST

A REST is a sign used to designate a period of silence. This period of silence will be of the same duration of time as the note to which it corresponds.



This is an eighth rest.



This is a quarter rest.



Half rest

Half rests lie on the line.



Whole rest

Whole rests hang down from the line.

Notes

Whole 4 Counts	Half 2 Counts	Quarter 1 Count	Eighth 2 for 1 Count

Rests

--	--	--	--

THE TIME SIGNATURE



The above examples are the common types of time signatures to be used in this book.

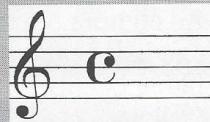
The number of beats per measure.



Beats per measure

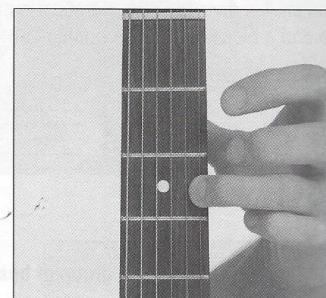
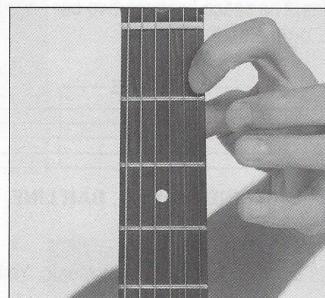
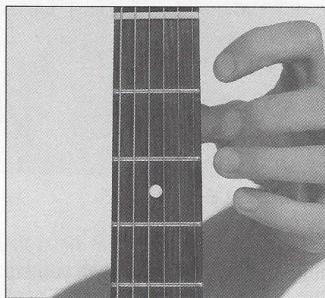
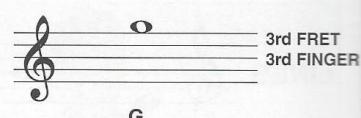
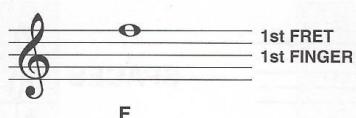
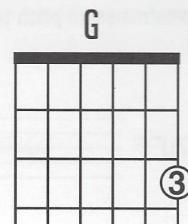
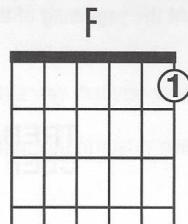
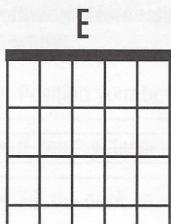
The type of note receiving one beat.

A quarter note receives one beat.



Signifies so-called "common time" and is simply another way of designating 4/4 time.

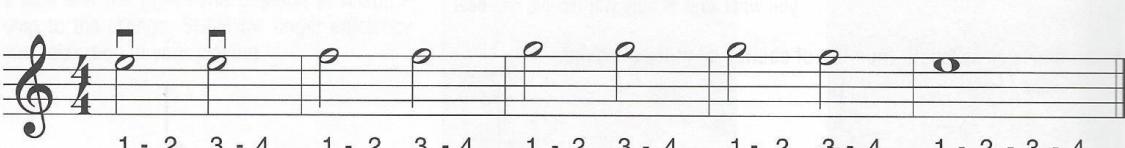
NOTES ON THE FIRST STRING



This sign (■) tells you to strike the string with a downward motion of the pick.

1 

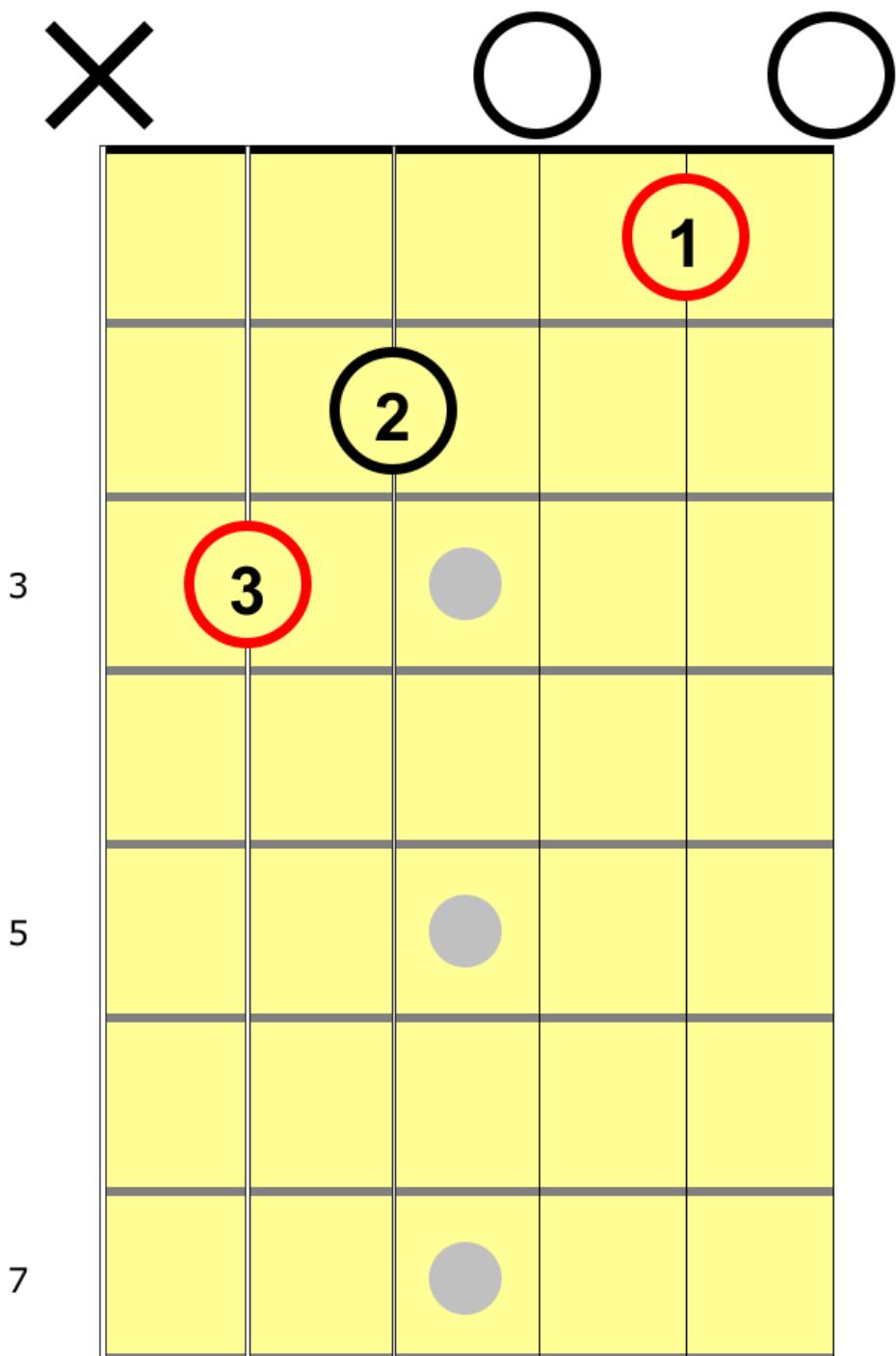
COUNT: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4

2 

3 

6

"C" Chord - Open Position



ver 1b, June 4, 2023

Basic Strum #1: Down-Up

$\text{J} = 70$

4/4

6

Basic Strum #1: Down-Up - version 1b, 6/4/23

HOMEWORK – WEEK 1

- Reference Books

- Hal Leonard Guitar Method Book 1
- Mel Bay's Modern Guitar Method Grade 1
- Frederick Noad: Solo Guitar Playing Book 1
- William Leavitt: A Modern Method For Guitar:
Volume 1
- (And many, many more...)

- Reading For Next Week

- Class Intro & Roadmap
- Guitar Essentials
- Re-Read Pages 4-8!

Homework: Strumming an open “C” chord

- Work on getting each note to be clear
 - Strike each string slowly: clear tones!
 - Use a metronome! (start @ 50 or 60 bpm)

R Mohme

ver 1b, June 4, 2023

Basic Strum #1: Down-Up

$\text{J} = 70$

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Basic Strum #1: Down-Up - version 1b, 6/4/23

Homework: Learning 1st String Notes

- Remember to count as well strike the correct note
 - Use a metronome! (start @ 50 or 60 bpm)

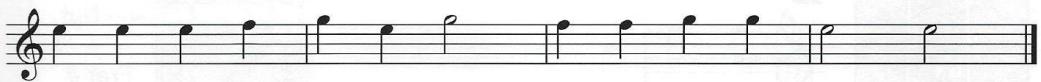
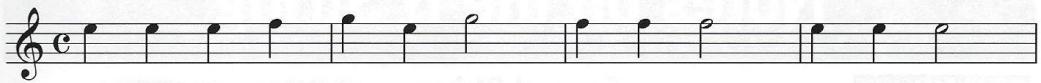
Playing the Notes



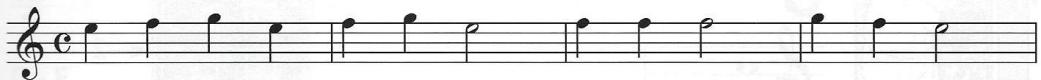
Working the Fingers



1st-String Etude



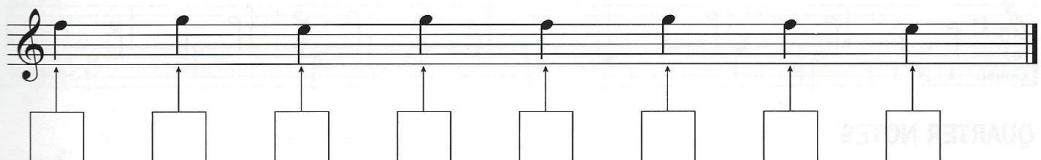
Etude No. 2



The Mixmaster



Notes on the First String (Fill in the blocks)



(Complete)

WEEK 2 (Practice)

- Review Week 1 Homework
- Music Theory: Sharps & Flats & Accidentals
- Group Session: Group Jam #1
- Homework
 - Open “C” Chord Practice
 - String 1 study!

Week 1 Review

Basic Notes in a major scale: A – B – C – D – E – F – G

Open notes on the guitar (standard tuning): E – A – D – G – B – E

“Position” is the fret that your index finger is on

- One finger per fret

Notes on the 1st string (open position) are:

- E – open string
- F – 1st fret
- G – 3rd fret

A Chord is 2 or more notes played together (strummed or plucked)

- You learned open position C

An Arpeggio is a chord played one note at a time

There are five chords “qualities”

- Major, Minor, Dominant, Diminished, Augmented

A whole note gets 4 beats, half-note 2 beats, quarter-note 1 beat

Respective “rests” get the same number of beats with NO sound

- Deaden any notes still ringing for the duration of the rest

You learned the “basic” up-down strum

Basic Major Scale Terminology

Musical Alphabet:

A B C D E F G (7 letters)

Key of “C”

C D E F G A B (scale tones)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 (scale degree)

C Dm Em F G Am B° (chord name)

I ii iii IV V vi vii° (chord #)

Note:

Upper Case Roman Numerals → major chords

Lower Case Roman Numerals → minor or dim chords

Sharps, Flats, and Accidentals

In Week 1 we learned the 3 notes (in the key of “C”) in Open Position on String 1:

- “E” – open
- “F” – 1st fret
- “G” – 3rd fret

So what about the 2nd fret??

- F Sharp (F#) or G Flat (Gb)
 - A “sharp”note is a half-step higher in tone
 - A “flat”note is a half-step lower in tone
- “Natural” notes are neither sharp nor flat
 - Notes E, F, and G are like piano white keys
- “Accidental” notes are either sharp or flat
 - F#/Gb is like a piano black key

M1

ver 1f (July 2, 2023)

Group Jam (#1)

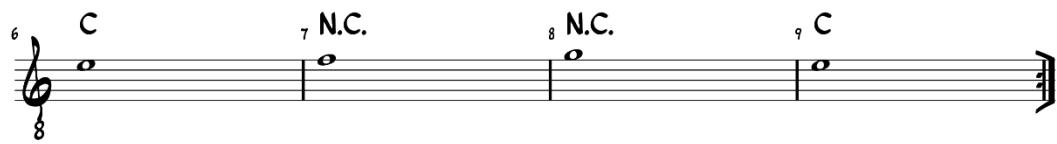
A



1 $\text{J} = 80$ - 2 C 3 N.C. 4 C 5 C

8

This staff shows a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one sharp. The first measure is a rest. The second measure starts with a C note. The third measure starts with an N.C. (No Change) note. The fourth measure starts with a C note. The fifth measure starts with a C note. The eighth note is labeled '8' below the staff.



6 C 7 N.C. 8 N.C. 9 C

8

This staff continues the sequence from staff A. It starts with a C note, followed by an N.C. note, then another N.C. note, and finally a C note. The eighth note is labeled '8' below the staff.

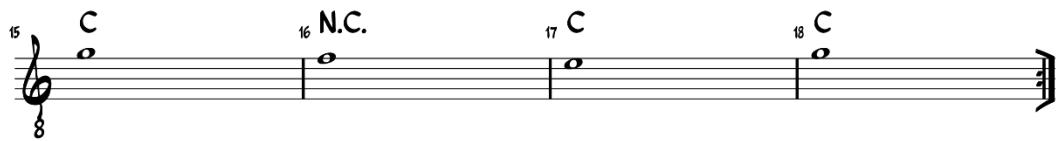
B



10 - 11 C 12 N.C. 13 C 14 C

8

This staff shows a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one sharp. The first measure is a rest. The second measure starts with a C note. The third measure starts with an N.C. note. The fourth measure starts with a C note. The fifth measure starts with a C note. The eighth note is labeled '8' below the staff.



15 C 16 N.C. 17 C 18 C

8

This staff continues the sequence from staff B. It starts with a C note, followed by an N.C. note, then another C note, and finally a C note. The eighth note is labeled '8' below the staff.

HOMEWORK – WEEK 2

R Mohme

ver 1b, June 4, 2023

Basic Strum #1: Down-Up

Sheet music for guitar, 4/4 time, key of C, tempo 70. The music consists of two staves. The top staff starts with a C chord (x, o, o) and a V chord (V, V, V). The bottom staff starts with a V chord (V, V, V). Both staves feature a repeating pattern of eighth-note chords and sixteenth-note patterns. The top staff has a 2, 3, 4, 5 in the V section, and the bottom staff has a 6, 7, 8, 9 in the V section.

Basic Strum #1: Down-Up - version 1b, 6/4/23

Homework Week 2

$\text{♩} = 60$ tempo = 100bpm

Study #1

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

Study #2

9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16

Study #3

17 18 19 20

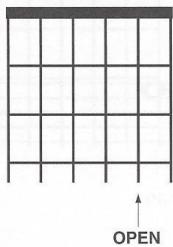
21 22 23 24

WEEK 3 (String #2, “G7” Chord)

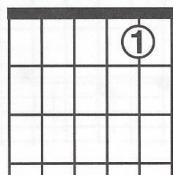
- Review Week 2 Homework
- Music Theory: Notes/Names on String 2
- New Chord: Open G7
- Homework
 - C – G7 Practice
 - String 2 study!

NOTES ON THE SECOND STRING

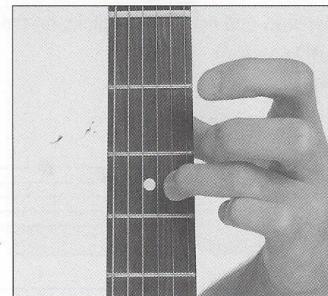
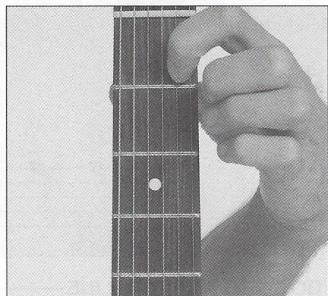
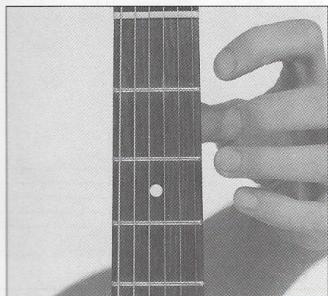
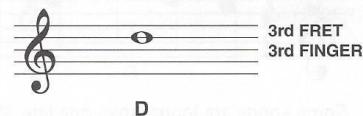
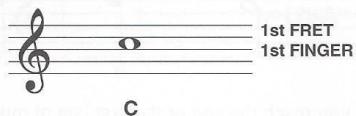
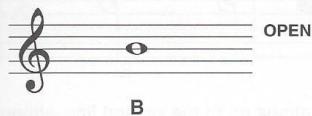
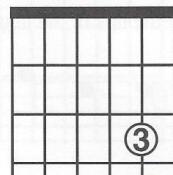
B



C



D



9

COUNT: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4

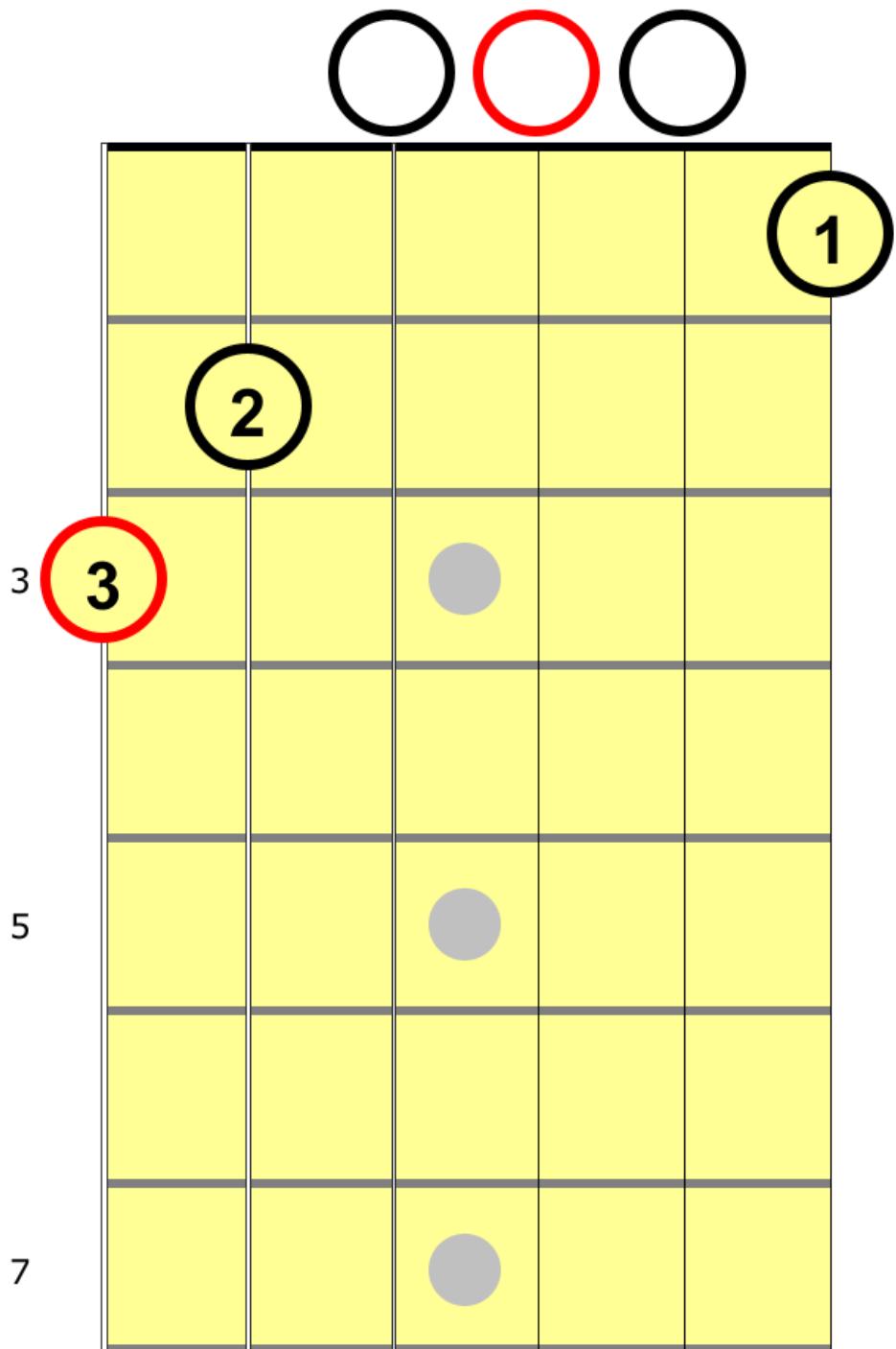
10

COUNT: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4

11

COUNT: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4

"G7" Chord - Open Position

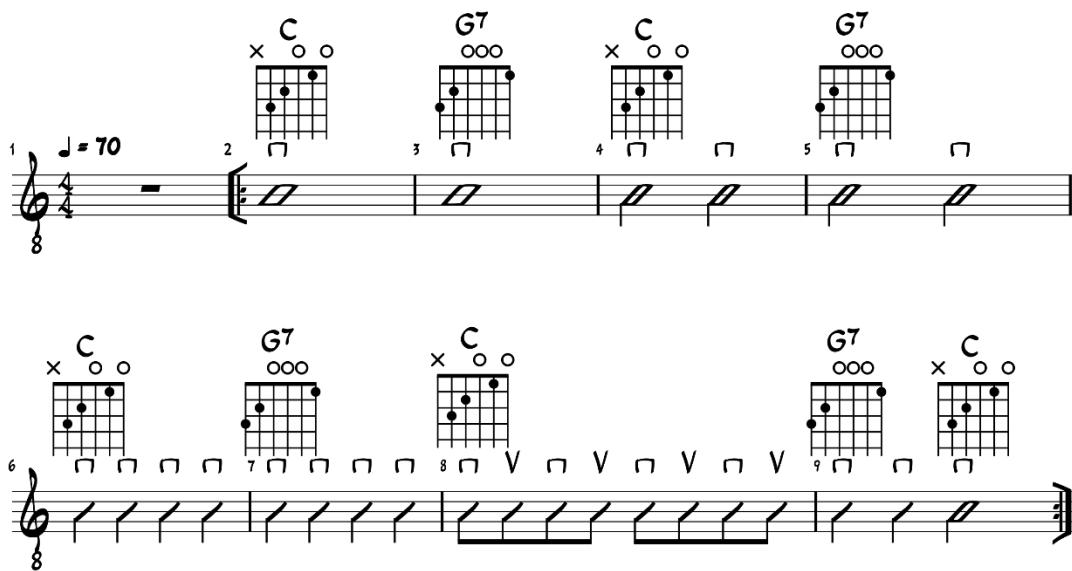


HOMEWORK – WEEK 3

Practice C & G7 (clear tones, go back & forth)

ver 1b (July 17, 2023)

C - G7 Practice



Inch Worm



Frolic



E - B



Indian Drum



WEEK 4 (Practice)

- Review Week 3 Homework
- Practice C – G7 chord transitions
- Group Session: Group Jam #2
- Homework
 - C – G7 Practice
 - String 2 study!

M1,3

ver 1g (July 22, 2023)

Group Jam #2

6 G7 7 C 8 C 9 N.C. 10 C

15 N.C. G7 16 C N.C. 17 G7 18 N.C. C

HOMEWORK – WEEK 4

Practice C & G7 (clear tones, go back & forth)

ver 1a (June 4, 2023)

C - G7 Practice

Homework Week 4

 $\downarrow = 60$ tempo = 100bpm**Study #1**

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

Study #2

9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16

Study #3

17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24

WEEK 5 (Strings #3 & #4, “G” Chord)

- Review Week 4 Homework
- Music Theory:
 - Notes/Names on String 3 & 4
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ Time
 - dotted notes, pickup notes, ties
- New Chord: Open G
- Basic Strum #2: Down-Down-Up
- Homework
 - C – G7 – G Practice
 - Strings 3 & 4 study!

Three-Four Time

This sign  indicates **three-four time**.

3 – beats per measure.

4 – type of note receiving one beat (quarter note).

In three-four time, we will have three beats per measure.

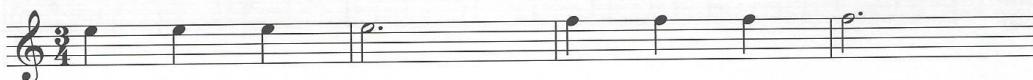
Dotted Half Notes

A dot (•) placed behind a note increases its value by one-half.

A dotted half note () will receive three beats.

Examples:  = 2 counts  = 3 counts

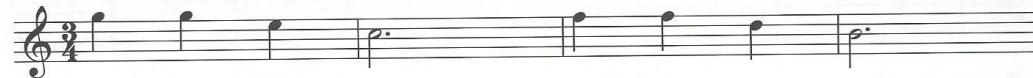
3/4 Song



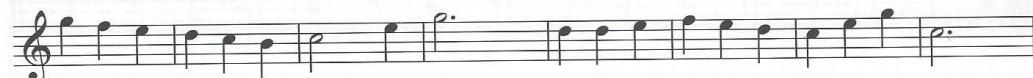
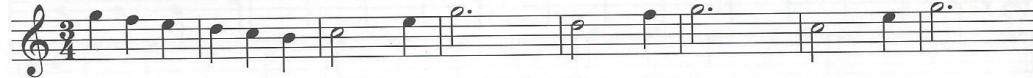
3/4 Study



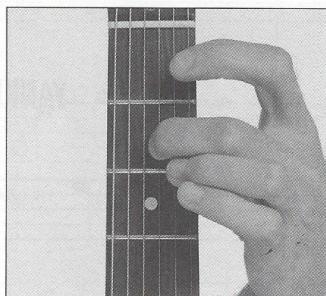
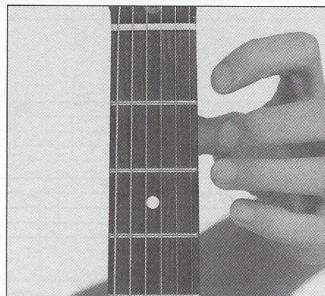
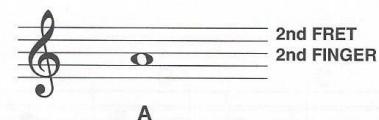
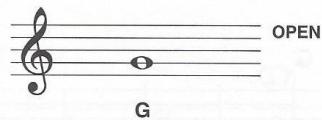
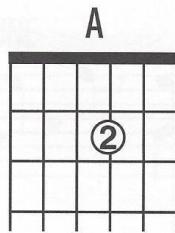
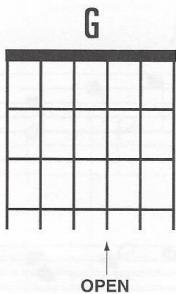
Waltz



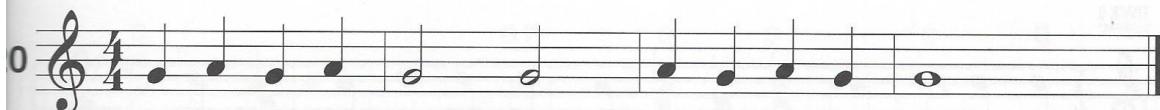
The Merry Men



NOTES ON THE THIRD STRING

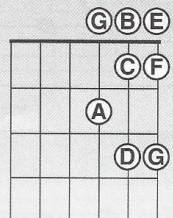
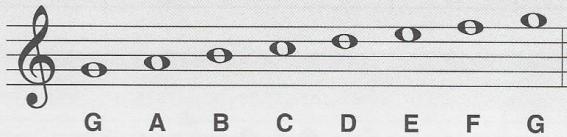


Keep the fingers arched over the strings at all times so they will be in position to finger the next note.



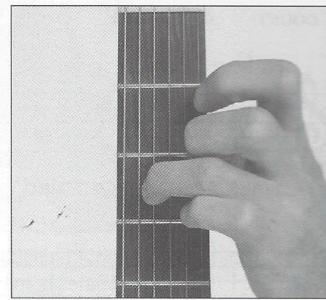
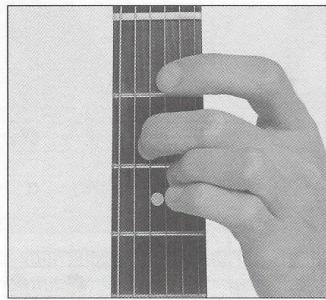
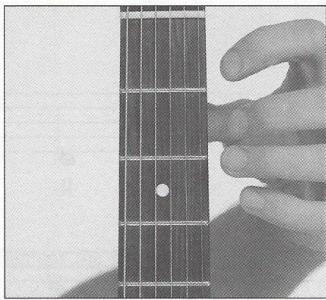
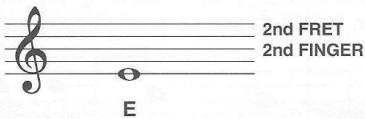
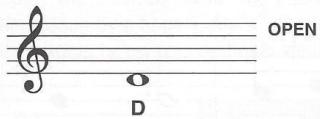
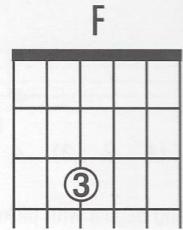
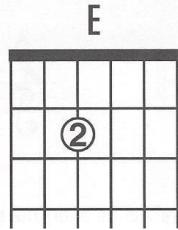
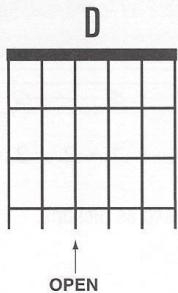
THREE-STRING REVIEW

Here are all the notes we've learned so far.



Play through these notes up and down. Then play just the low G and the high G, and notice how similar they sound. The distance between two different notes with the same letter name is called an **octave**.

NOTES ON THE FOURTH STRING



Practice each exercise carefully. Remember to keep your fingers arched over the strings.

28

29

Basic Strum #2: Down-Down-Up

A

$\text{♩} = 80$

6

B

10

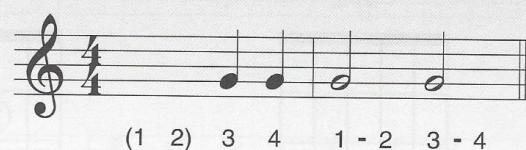
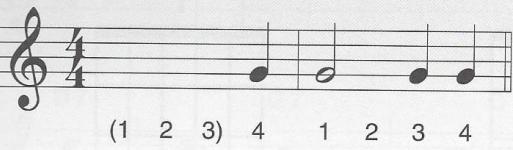
15

Basic Strum #2: Up-Down - version 1b, 6/10/23

PICKUP NOTES

Music doesn't always begin on beat one. When you begin after beat one, the notes before the first full measure are called **pickup notes**. Following are two examples of pickup notes. Count the missing beats out loud before you begin playing.

30



When a song begins with pickup notes, the last measure will be short the exact number of beats used as pickups.



TRACK 13
SLOW/FAST

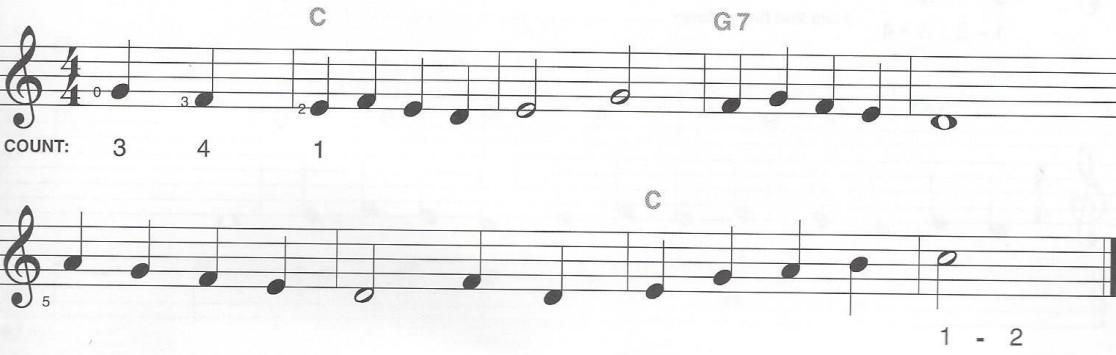
WORRIED MAN BLUES

Traditional

31



32



TIES

A curved line which connects two notes of the same pitch is called a **tie**. The first note is struck and held for the value of both notes. The second note should not be played again. Look at the following example of tied notes.

42

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 1 2 3 - 4 - 1 - 2 3 4 - 1 2 - 3 - 4

5 BEATS 4 BEATS 2 BEATS

Practice trading off on melody and chords in these pieces.

TRACK 17

43

AMAZING GRACE

Traditional

A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound that

5 D7 G

1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 2

saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but

C G D7 G

11 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 2

now am found; was blind, but now I see.



TRACK 18

SLOW/FAST

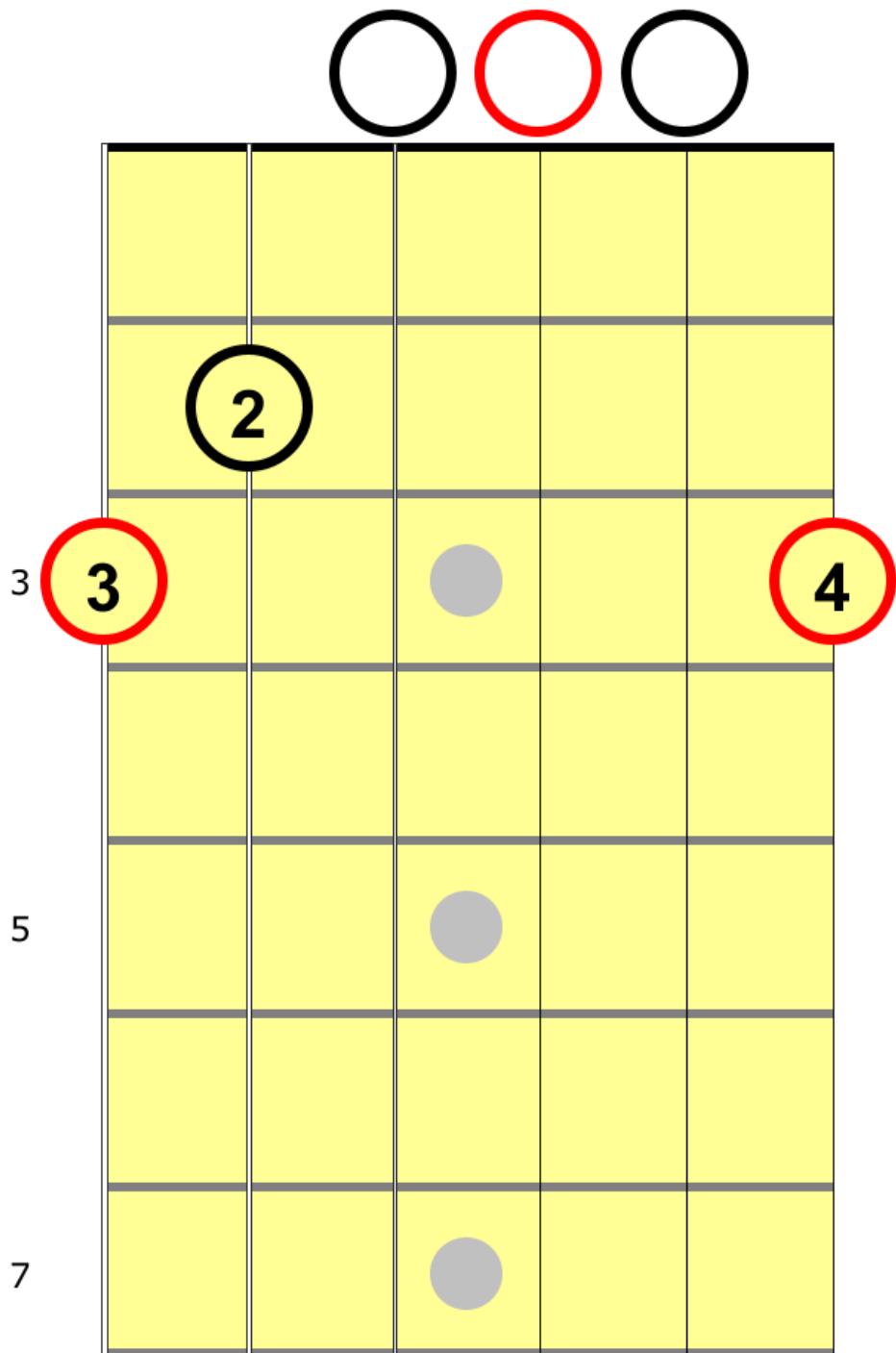
RIFFIN'

44

G7 D7

A7 G7 D7

"G" Chord - Open Position



HOMEWORK – WEEK 5

- Worried Man Blues
- Amazing Grace

ver 1a (Apr 1, 2023)

C-G-G7 Chord Strum

A

$\text{J} = 80$

1 C 2 G 3 G7 4 C 5 G 6 G7 7 G 8 G7 9 G 10 G7 11 C 12 G 13 G7 14 C 15 G 16 C 17 G7 18 C

WEEK 6 (Practice)

- Review Week 5 Homework
- Group Session: Freight Train
- Homework
 - Continue To Practice:
 - C – G7 – G Practice
 - Strings 3 & 4 study!
 - Amazing Grace
 - Worried Man Blues

Freight Train

ver 1e, Feb 21, 2020

Elizabeth Cotton (1893-1987) arr. by Rodger Mohme

$\text{♩} = 160$

melody C G G7

8 Freight train freight train run so fast

harmony

bass

5 G C

8 Freight train freight train run so fast

9 E7 F

8 Please don't tell what train I'm on So they

13 C G C C

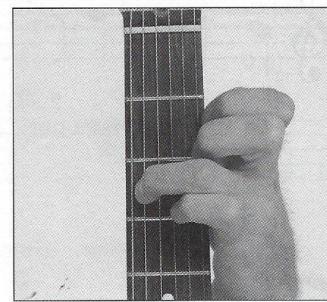
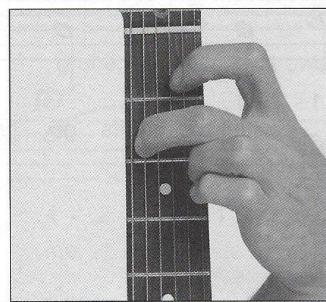
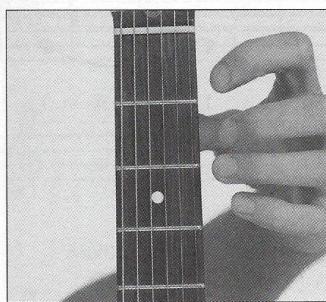
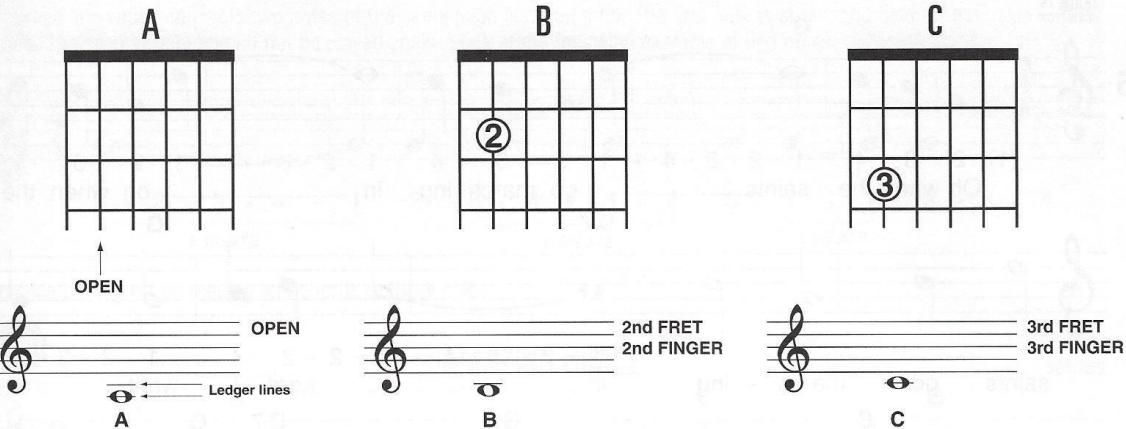
8 won't know where I've gone



WEEK 7 (Strings #5 & #6, “D7”, “E7”, “F” Chords)

- Music Theory:
 - Notes/Names on String 5 & 6
- New Chords: Open D7, E7, F
- Homework:
 - “Amazing Grace” (notes & chords)
 - Blues Bass (notes)
 - “Freight Train” (Bass Line Notes & Chords)

NOTES ON THE FIFTH STRING



Hold 2nd finger down - - - - -



TRACK 21
SLOW/FAST

BLUES BASS

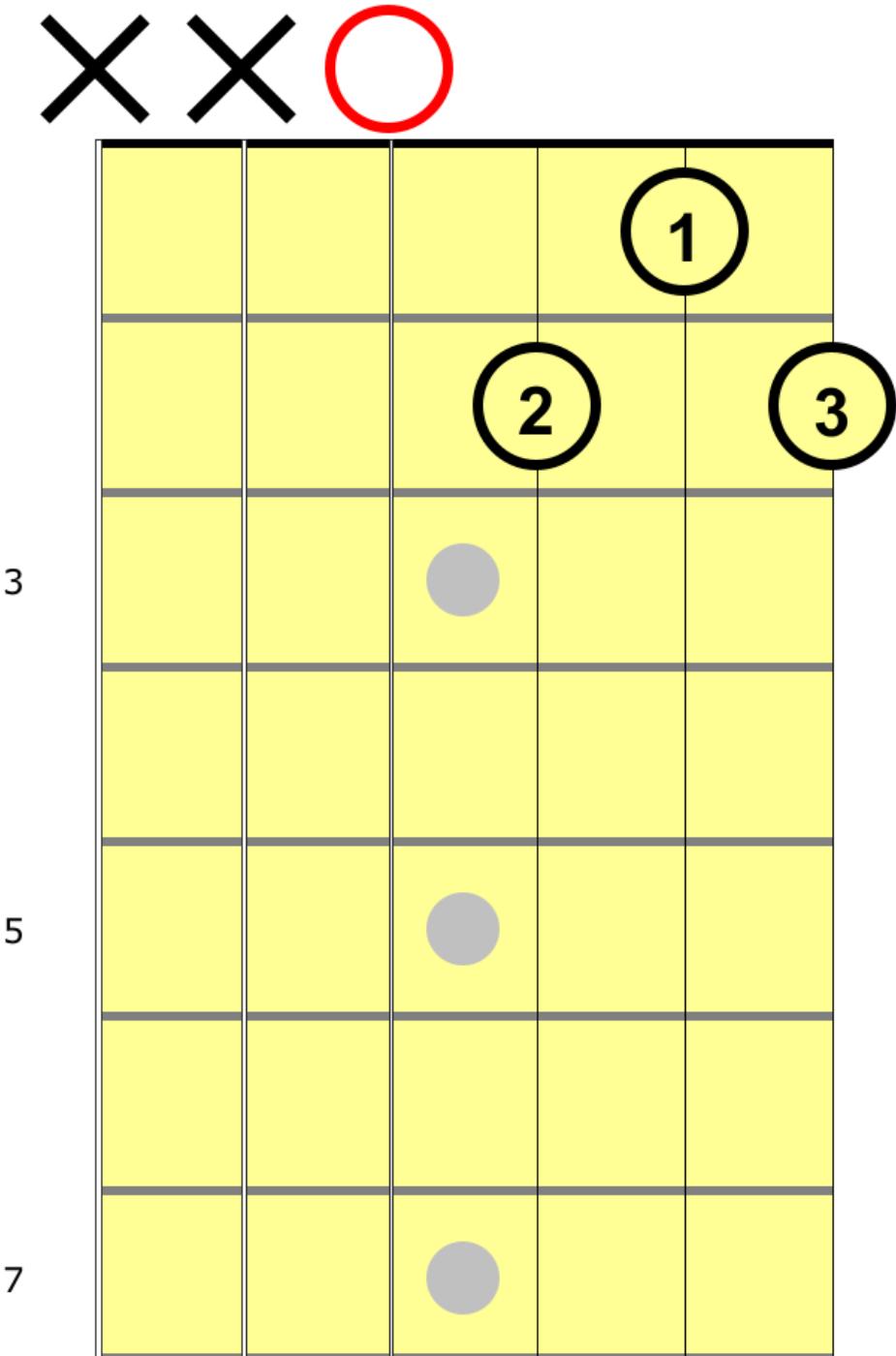
NOTES ON THE SIXTH STRING

The diagram illustrates the notes E, F, and G on the 6th string of a guitar. Each note is shown on a staff with its corresponding letter name below it. Above the staff, the note name is written in a circle, indicating the fret to be played. Below the staff, the letter name is written again, followed by the word 'OPEN' if the string is to be played open. The fretboard diagrams show the 6th string with its 6th, 5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st frets marked. The first fret is labeled '1st FRET' and '1st FINGER', the third fret is labeled '3rd FRET' and '3rd FINGER'. The photographs show a hand playing the 6th string at the 0th, 1st, and 3rd frets.

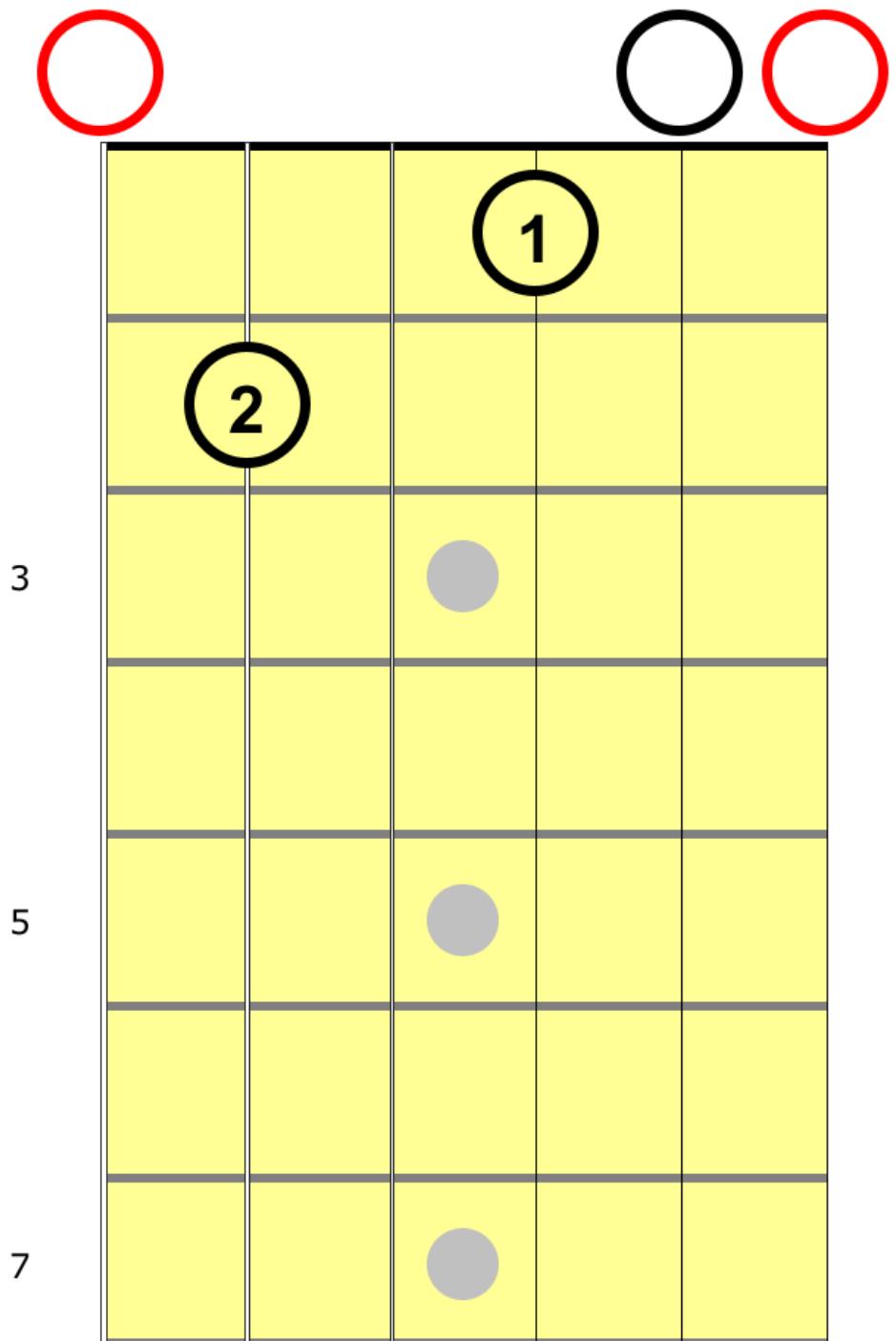
After you play these exercises, write the letter names below each note.

Three musical exercises for the 6th string of a guitar, numbered 51, 52, and 53. Each exercise consists of a staff with a treble clef and a '4' time signature. Exercise 51 starts with an open 6th string followed by a series of notes at the 0th, 1st, and 3rd frets. A instruction 'Hold 1st finger down' is shown with a dashed line. Exercise 52 starts with a note at the 1st fret followed by a series of notes at the 0th, 1st, and 3rd frets. Exercise 53 starts with a note at the 3rd fret followed by a series of notes at the 0th, 1st, and 3rd frets.

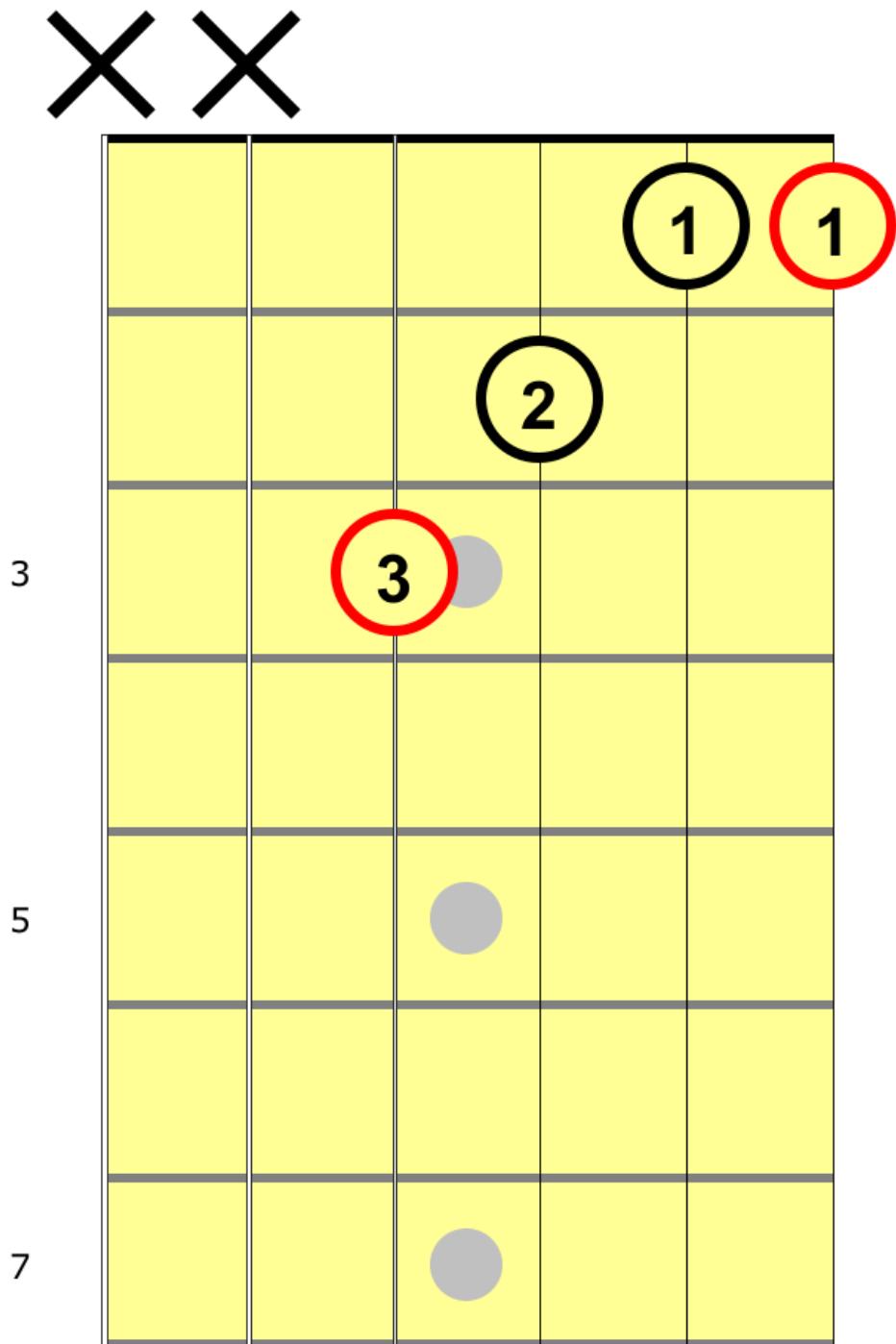
"D7" Chord - Open Position



"E7" Chord - Open Position



"F" Chord - Open Position



Freight Train

Elizabeth Cotton (1893-1987)
arr. by Rodger Mohme

$\text{♩} = 160$

melody harmony bass

8 C G G7

Freight train freight train run so fast

5 G C

8 Freight train freight train run so fast

9 E7 F

8 Please don't tell what train I'm on So they

13 C G C C

8 won't know where I've gone

WEEK 8 (Practice)

- Review Week 7 Homework
- Group Session: Freight Train
- Homework
 - Continue to review Week 7 exercises & homework!

Group Jam (#4)

ver 1e, Feb 21, 2020

Freight Train

Elizabeth Cotton (1893-1987)
arr. by Rodger Mohme

$\text{♩} = 160$

melody

harmony

bass

5

9

13

Freight train freight train run so fast

Please don't tell what train I'm on So they

won't know where I've gone

G C G7

E7 F

C G C C