

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

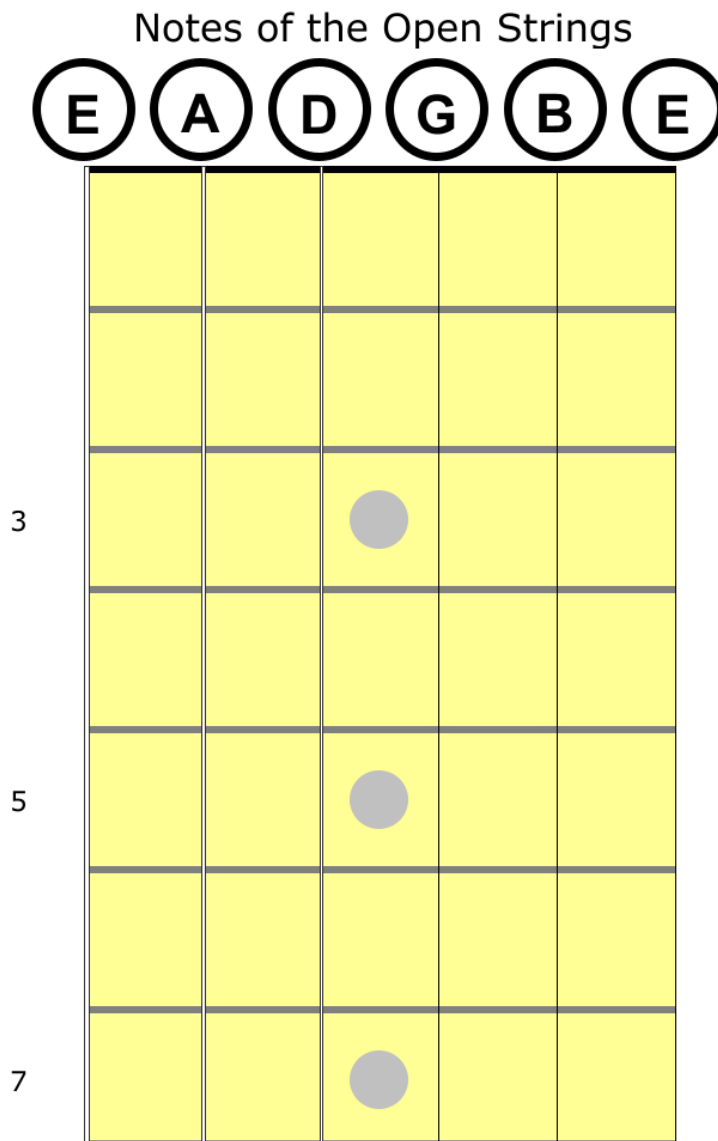
- Major: “C”
- Minor: “Cm”
- Dominant: “C7”
- Diminished: “C dim” or “C°”
- Augmented: “C aug” or “C +”

## 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:

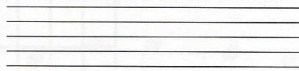
- Every Amateur Does Get Better Eventually.
- Eddie Ate Dynamite Good Bye Eddie.



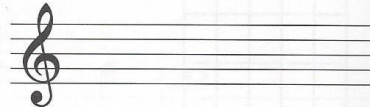
# MUSICAL SYMBOLS

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**

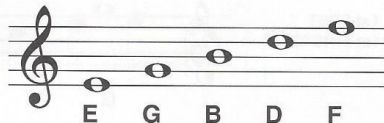


**TREBLE CLEF**

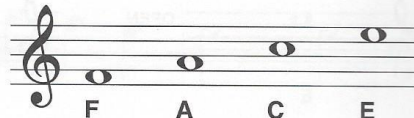


Each line and space of the staff has a letter name. The **lines** are, (from bottom to top) E - G - B - D - F, which you can remember as Every Guitarist Begins Doing Fine. The **spaces** are, (from bottom to top) F - A - C - E, which spells "Face."

**LINES**

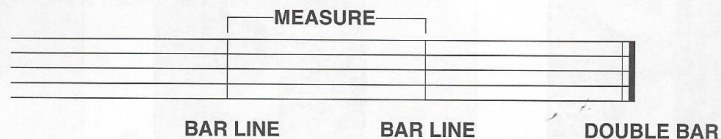


**SPACES**



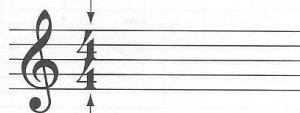
The staff is divided into several parts by bar lines. The space between two bar lines is called a **measure** (also known as a "bar"). To end a piece of music a double bar is placed on the staff.

**BAR LINES**




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.

**TIME SIGNATURE**



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.

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

FOUR BEATS PER MEASURE  
QUARTER NOTE (  ) GETS 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.

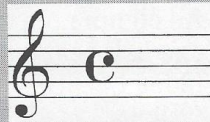
The number of beats per measure.

4  
4

Beats per measure

The type of note receiving one beat.

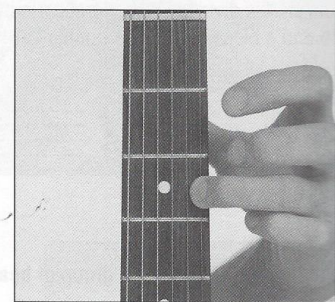
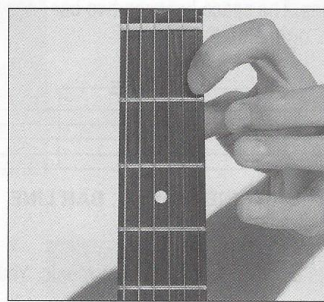
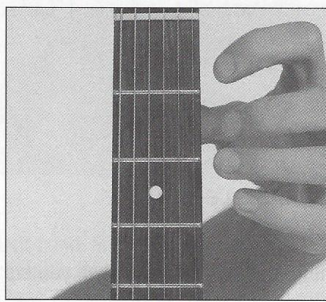
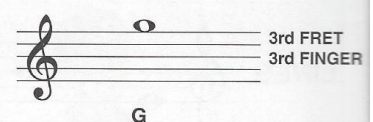
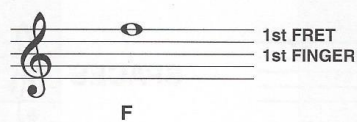
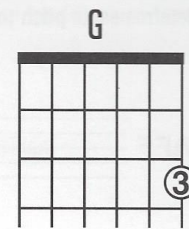
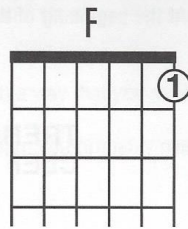
A quarter note receives one beat.



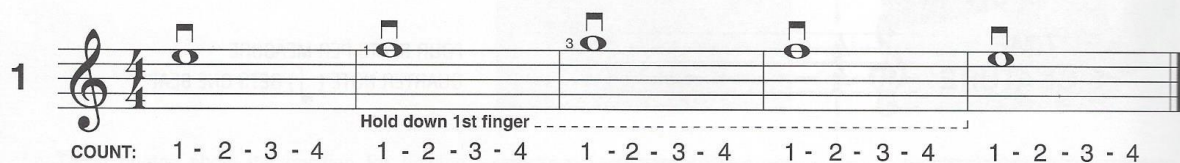
Signifies so-called "common time" and is simply another way of designating 4/4 time.



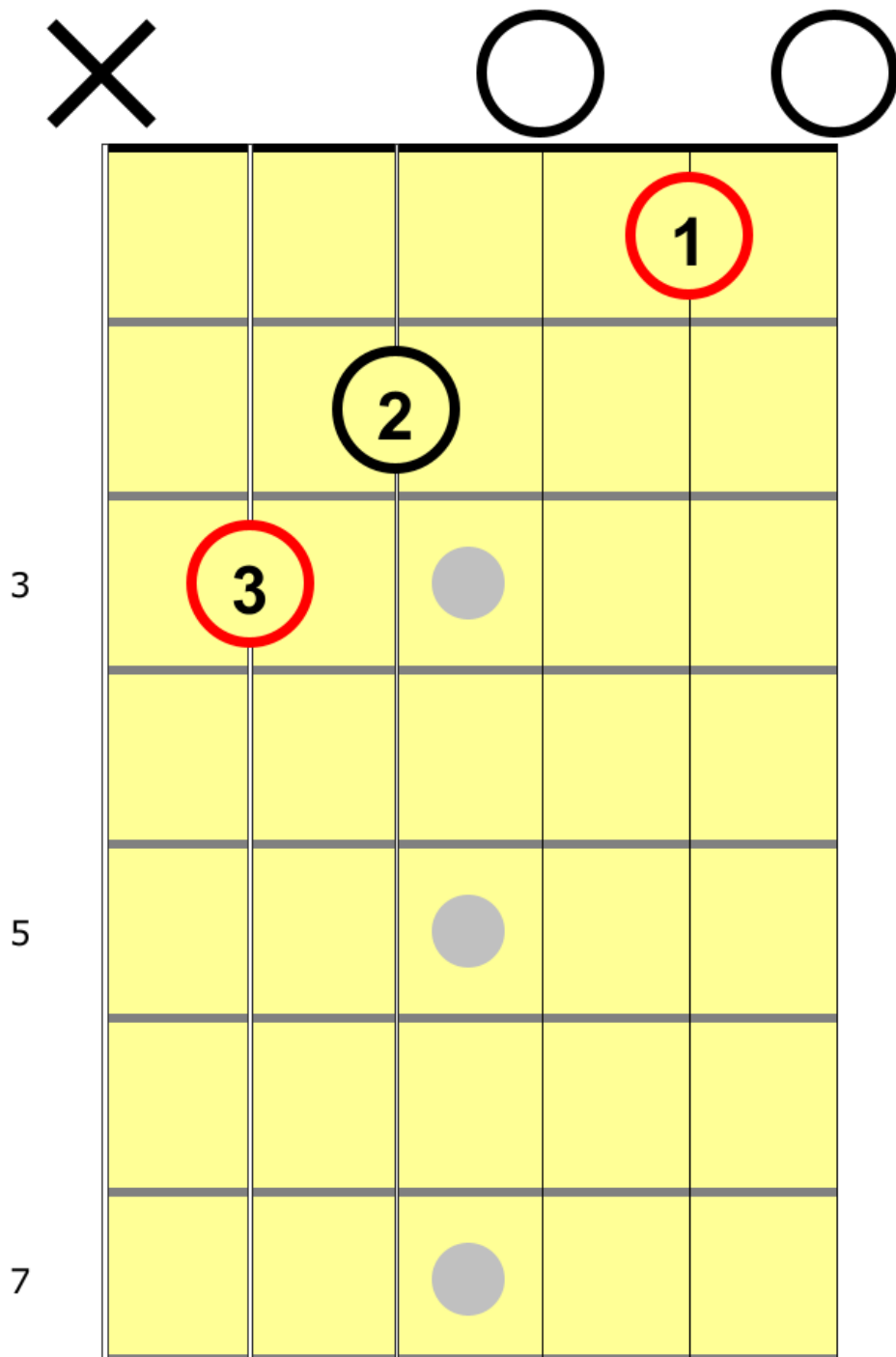
# NOTES ON THE FIRST STRING



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



## "C" Chord - Open Position



ver 1b, June 4, 2023

# Basic Strum #1: Down-Up

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!

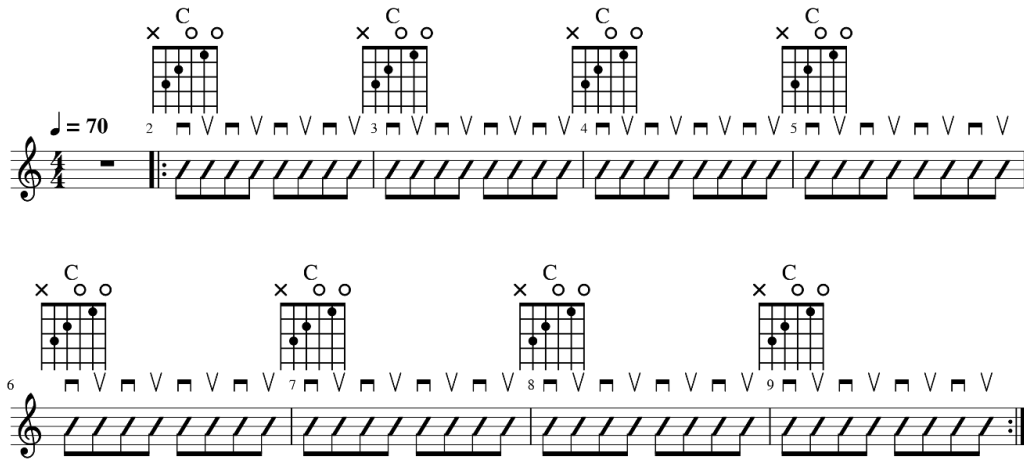
## Homework: Strumming an open “C” chord

- 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




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


## Homework: Learning 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

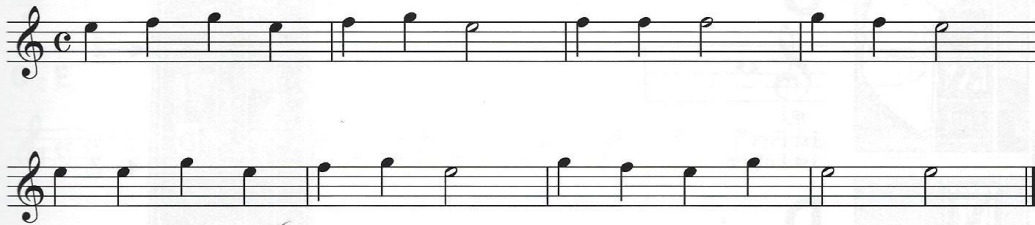


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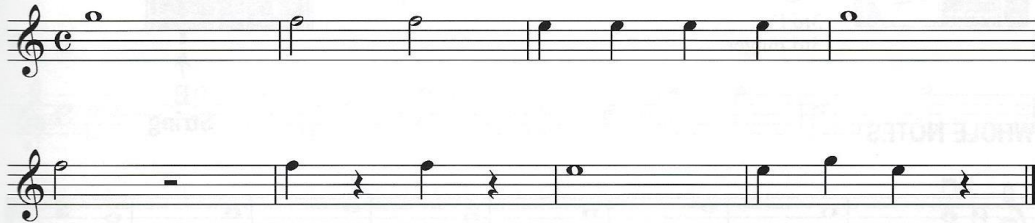
## 1st-String Etude



## Etude No. 2

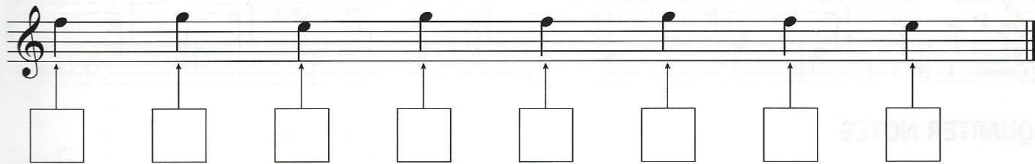


## The Mixmaster



### 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 1<sup>st</sup> string (open position) are:

- E – open string
- F – 1<sup>st</sup> fret
- G – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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” – 1<sup>st</sup> fret
- “G” – 3<sup>rd</sup> fret

So what about the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  $\text{♩} = 80$  2 C 3 N.C. 4 C 5 C

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

**B**

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

15 C 16 N.C. 17 C 18 C

The musical notation is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The piece is divided into two sections, A and B. Section A consists of 9 measures: measure 1 has a whole rest; measures 2-5 contain half notes on F#4, G#4, A4, and B4 respectively, each preceded by a 'C' chord marking; measures 6-9 contain half notes on C5, B4, A4, and G#4 respectively, with 'N.C.' (no chord) markings in measures 7 and 8, and a 'C' marking in measure 9. Section B consists of 8 measures: measure 10 has a whole rest; measures 11-14 contain half notes on F#4, G#4, A4, and B4 respectively, each preceded by a 'C' chord marking; measures 15-18 contain half notes on C5, B4, A4, and G#4 respectively, with 'N.C.' markings in measures 16 and 17, and 'C' markings in measures 15 and 18. The piece ends with a double bar line at the end of measure 18.

# HOMEWORK – WEEK 2

R Mohme

ver 1b, June 4, 2023

## Basic Strum #1: Down-Up

♩ = 70

2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9

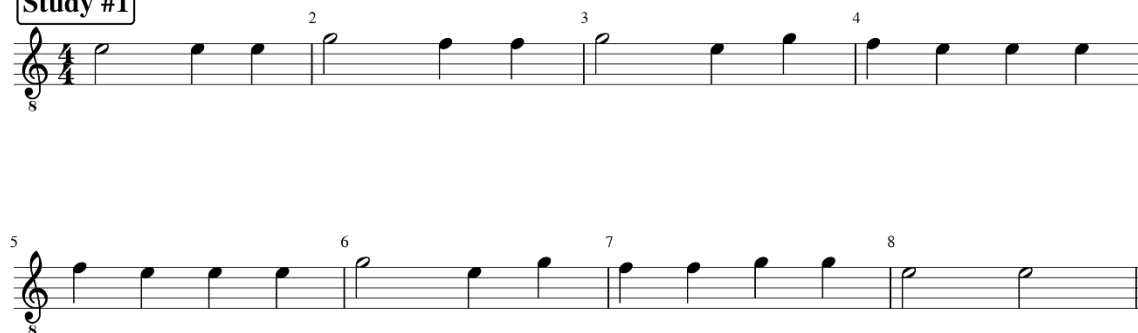
Basic Strum #1: Down-Up - version 1b, 6/4/23

ver 1a July 1, 2023

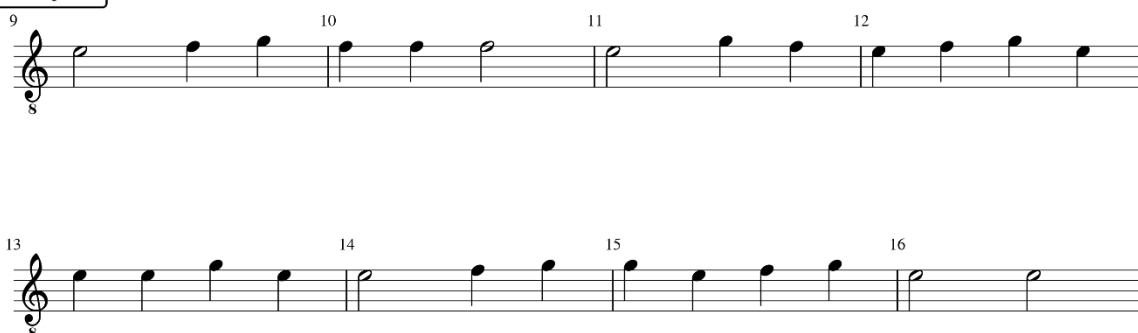
## Homework Week 2

$\text{♩} = 60$  tempo = 100bpm

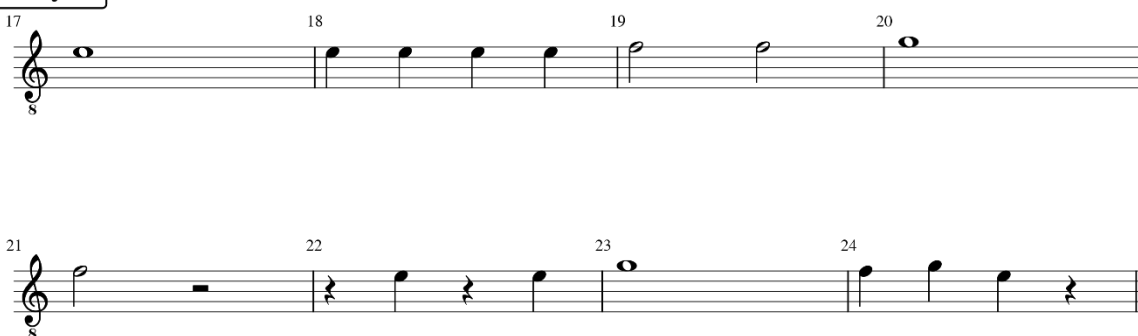
### Study #1



### Study #2



### Study #3



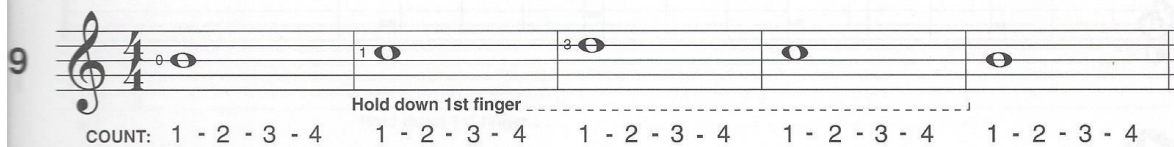
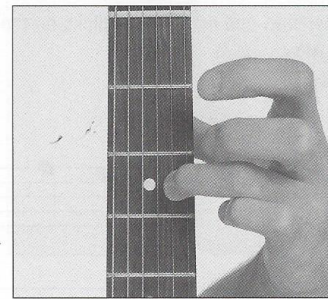
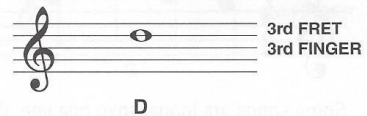
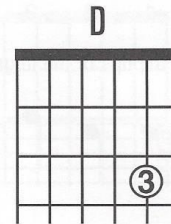
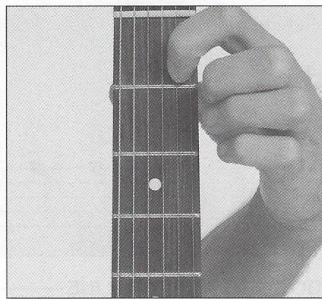
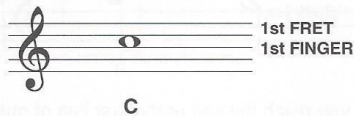
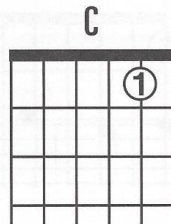
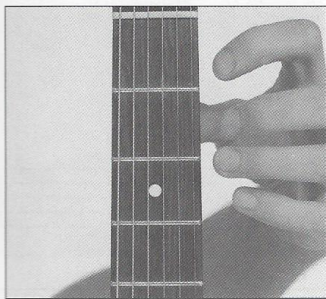
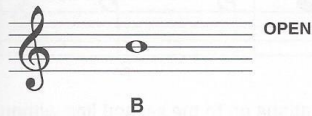
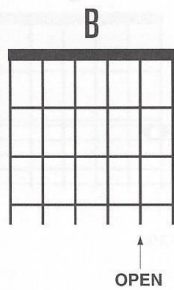
Month 1 - Homework Week 2 - version 1a, 7/1/23



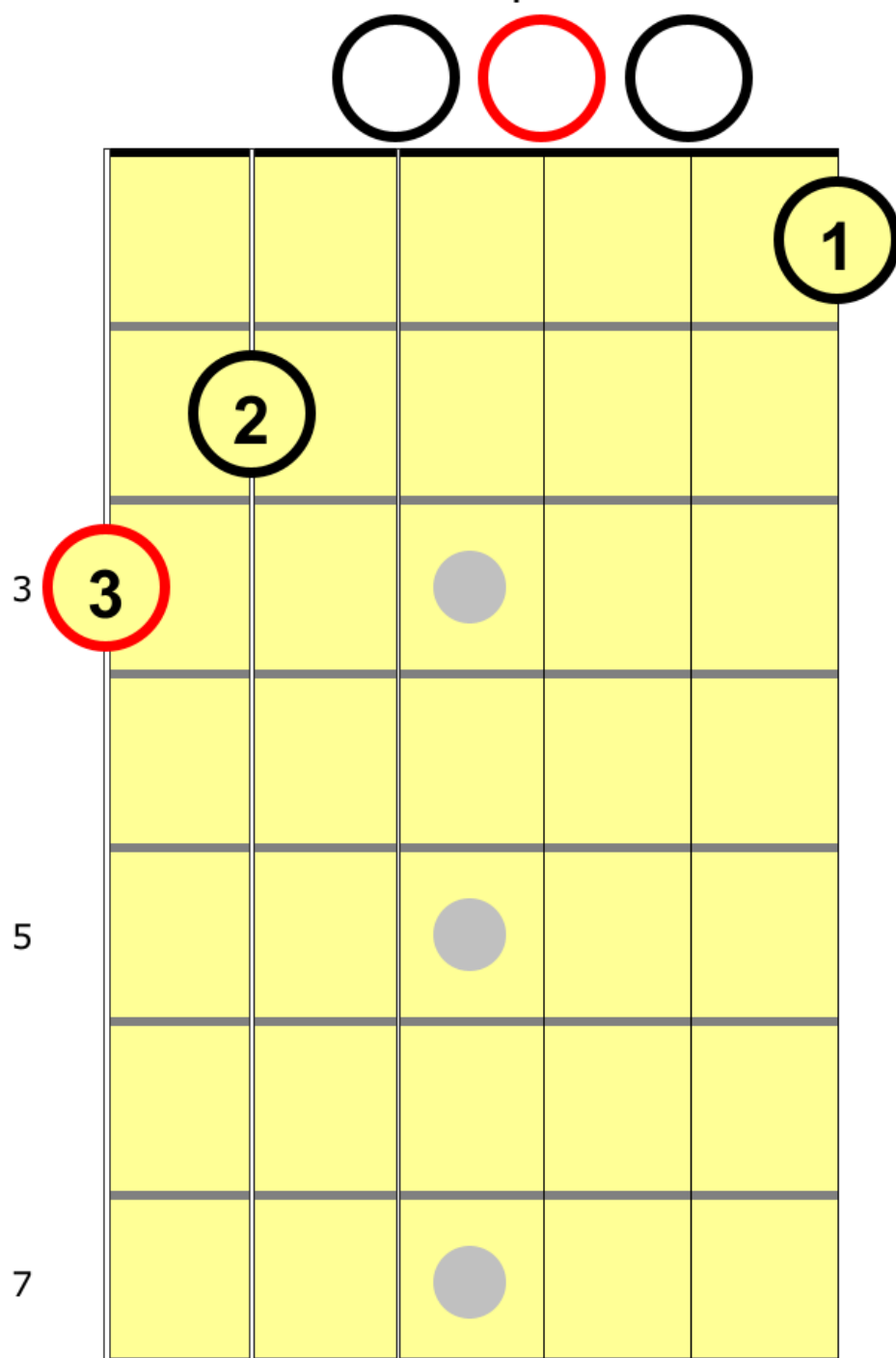
## WEEK 3 (String #2, “G7” Chord)

- 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



## "G7" Chord - Open Position



# HOMEWORK – WEEK 3

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

ver 1b (July 17, 2023)

### C - G7 Practice

1  $\text{♩} = 70$

2  $\text{C}$   $\text{G}^7$   $\text{C}$   $\text{G}^7$

3 4 5

6  $\text{C}$   $\text{G}^7$   $\text{C}$   $\text{G}^7$   $\text{C}$

7 8 9 10

### 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

**A**

1  $\text{♩} = 80$  2  $G^7$  3  $C$  4  $G^7$  5  $C$

6  $G^7$  7  $C$  8  $C$  9  $N.C.$   $C$

**B**

10 11  $C$   $G^7$  12  $C$  13  $N.C.$   $C$  14  $G^7$   $C$

15  $N.C.$   $G^7$  16  $C$   $N.C.$  17  $G^7$  18  $N.C.$   $C$



# HOMEWORK – WEEK 4

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

ver 1a (June 4, 2023)

### C - G7 Practice

The musical score is written on a single staff in 4/4 time, with a tempo marking of  $\text{♩} = 70$ . It consists of two lines of music. The first line contains measures 1 through 5. Measure 1 is a whole rest. Measures 2 through 5 each contain a half note, with a guitar chord diagram above each. The diagrams are: C major (measure 2), G7 (measure 3), C major (measure 4), and G7 (measure 5). The second line contains measures 6 through 9. Measures 6, 7, and 8 each contain a half note with a guitar chord diagram (C, G7, C respectively). Measures 9 and 10 each contain a half note with a guitar chord diagram (G7, C respectively). The staff includes various rhythmic markings: slanted lines for half notes, vertical lines for quarter notes, and a 'V' marking for a quarter rest in measure 8. The score ends with a double bar line in measure 10.

# Homework Week 4

**Study #1**

Musical notation for measures 17-20 of 'The Rose Tree'. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. Measure 17 contains four eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, and C5. Measure 18 contains four eighth notes: D5, E5, F5, and G5. Measure 19 contains four eighth notes: A5, B5, C6, and D6. Measure 20 contains four eighth notes: E6, F6, G6, and A6. The notes are beamed in pairs.




31  
rev. 1.17

## 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.

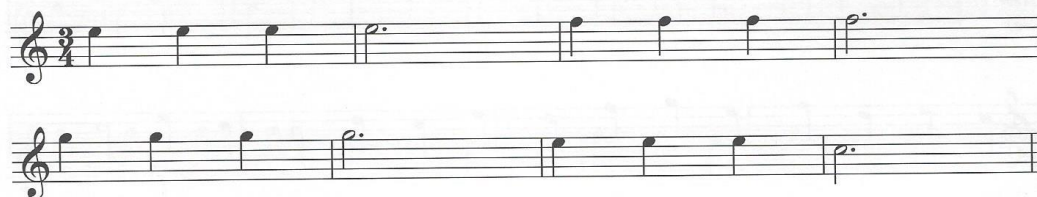
## Dotted Half Notes

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

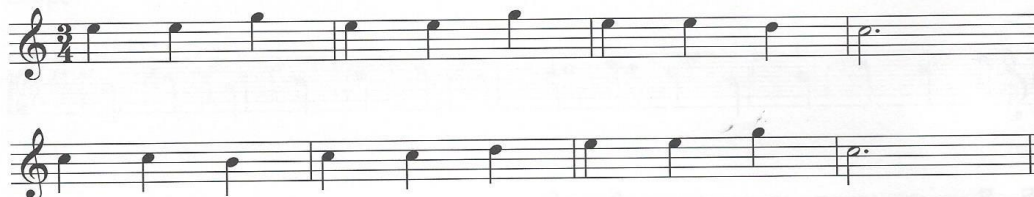
A dotted half note (♩•) will receive three beats.

Examples: ♩ = 2 counts    ♩• = 3 counts

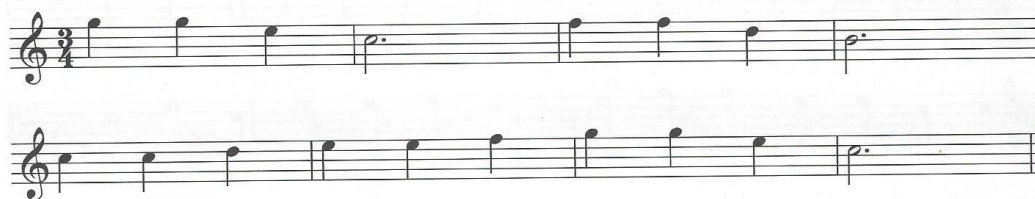
### 3/4 Song



### 3/4 Study



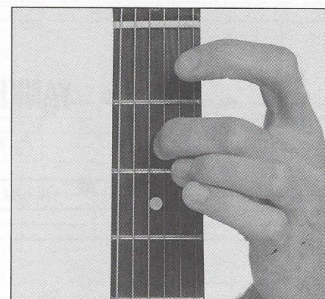
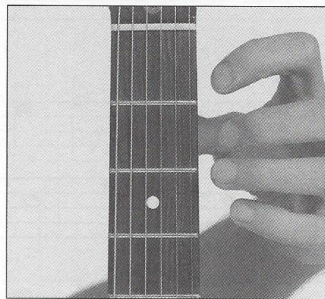
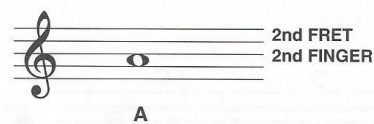
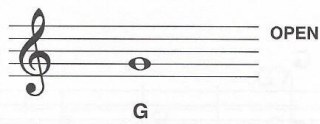
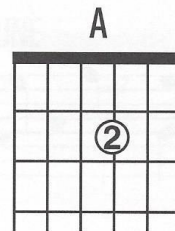
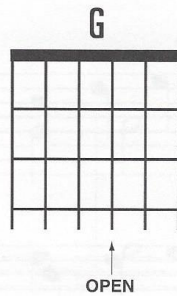
### Waltz



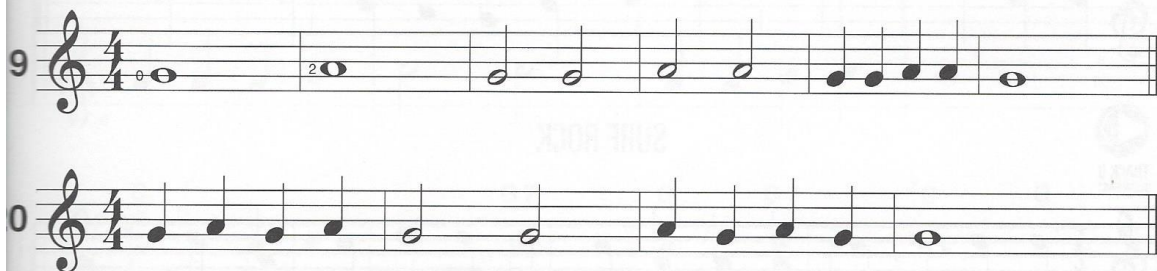
### The Merry Men



# NOTES ON THE THIRD STRING

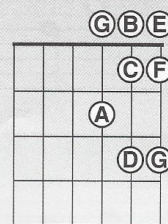
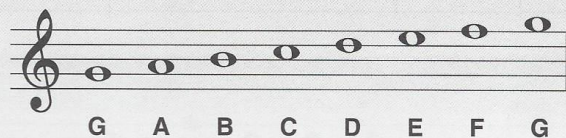


Keep the fingers arched over the strings at all times so they will be in position to finger the next note.



## THREE-STRING REVIEW

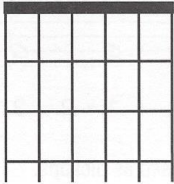
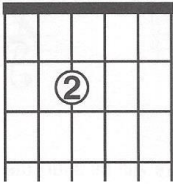
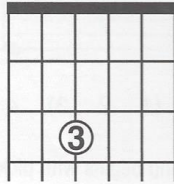
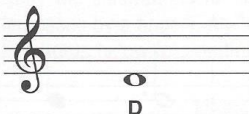
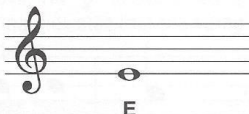

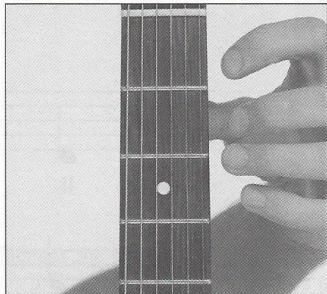
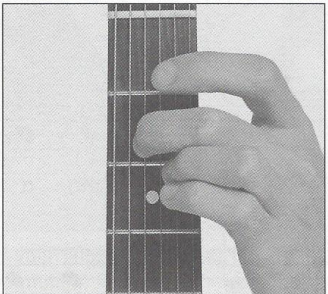
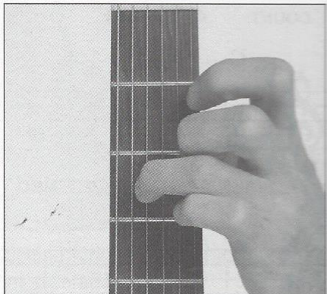
Here are all the notes we've learned so far.



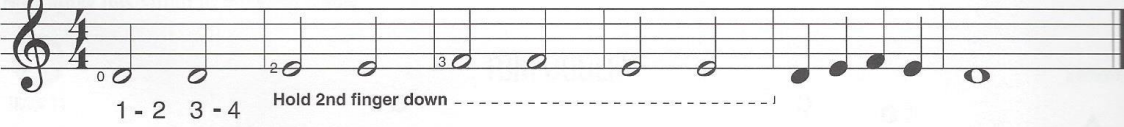
Play through these notes up and down. Then play just the low G and the high G, and notice how similar they sound. The distance between two different notes with the same letter name is called an **octave**.




# NOTES ON THE FOURTH STRING

<b>D</b>  OPEN	<b>E</b>  2nd FRET 2nd FINGER	<b>F</b>  3rd FRET 3rd FINGER
 <b>D</b>	 <b>E</b>	 <b>F</b>
		

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

28   
 1 - 2 3 - 4 Hold 2nd finger down -----

29 

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

(1 2 3) 4 1 2 3 4

(1 2) 3 4 1 - 2 3 - 4

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



### WORRIED MAN BLUES

Traditional

31

**PICKUP** **G**

It takes a wor-ried man to sing a wor-ried song. It

COUNT: 4 1

**C** **G**

takes a wor-ried man to sing a wor-ried song. It

**C** **G**

takes a wor-ried man to sing a wor-ried song. I'm wor-ried

**D7** **G**

now, yes now, but I won't be wor-ried long.

32

**C** **G7**

COUNT: 3 4 1

**C**

1 - 2

## 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

### AMAZING GRACE

Traditional

43

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

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

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



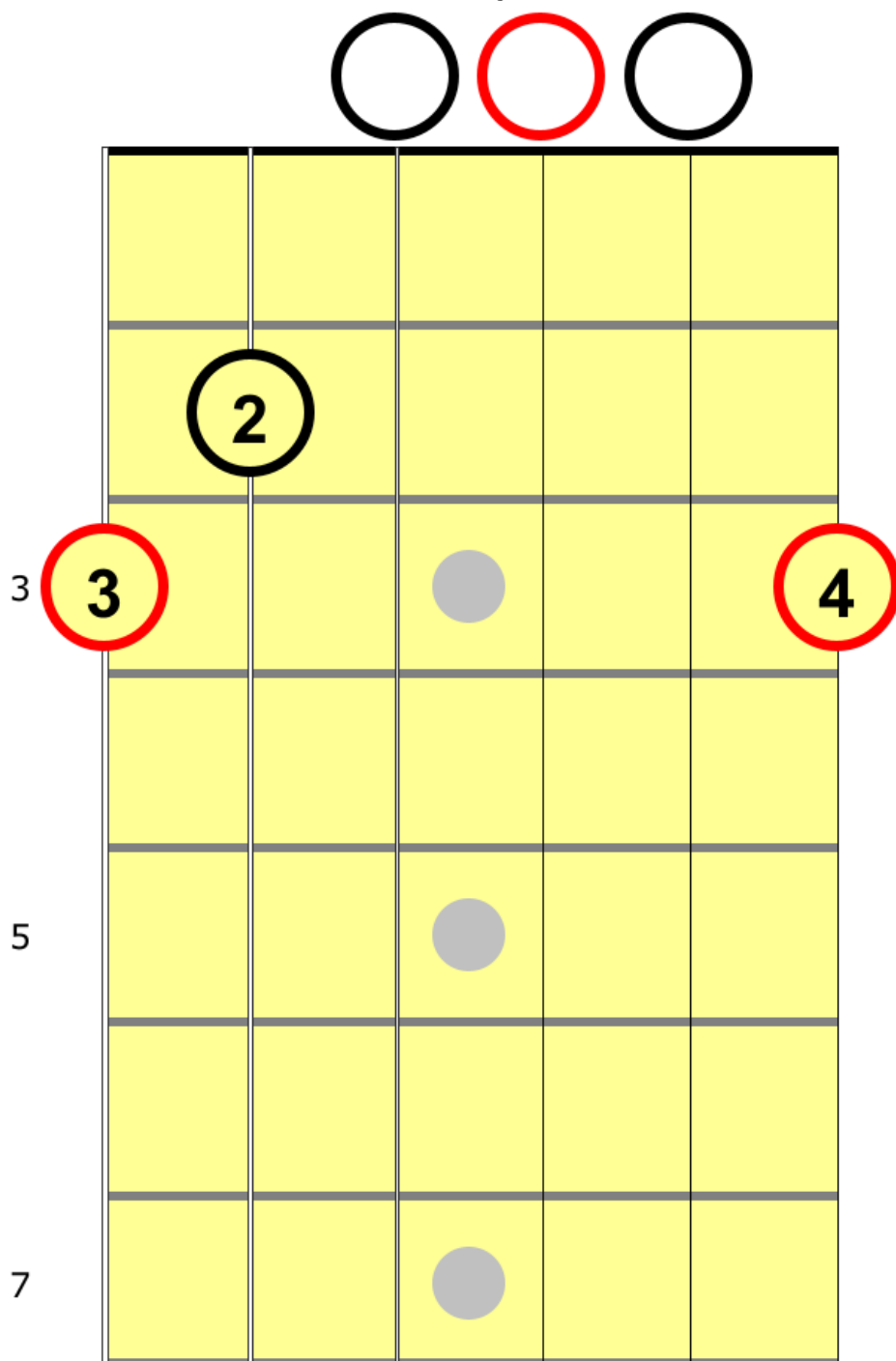
TRACK 18  
SLOW/FAST

### RIFFIN'

44

D7                      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**

1  $\text{♩} = 80$  2 C 3 G 4 G<sup>7</sup> 5 C

6 C G 7 G<sup>7</sup> C 8 G G<sup>7</sup> 9 G G<sup>7</sup>

10 C G 11 C G<sup>7</sup> 12 C G 13 G<sup>7</sup> C

14 C G C G<sup>7</sup> 15 C G G<sup>7</sup> C 16 G C G<sup>7</sup> C 17 G<sup>7</sup> 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

$\text{♩} = 160$

C G G7

melody

8 Freight train freight train run so fast

harmony

8

bass

8

5 G C

8 Freight train freight train run so fast

8

8

9 E7 F

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

8

8

13 C G C C

8 won't know where I've gone

8

8

Freight Train - version 1e, 7/31/23

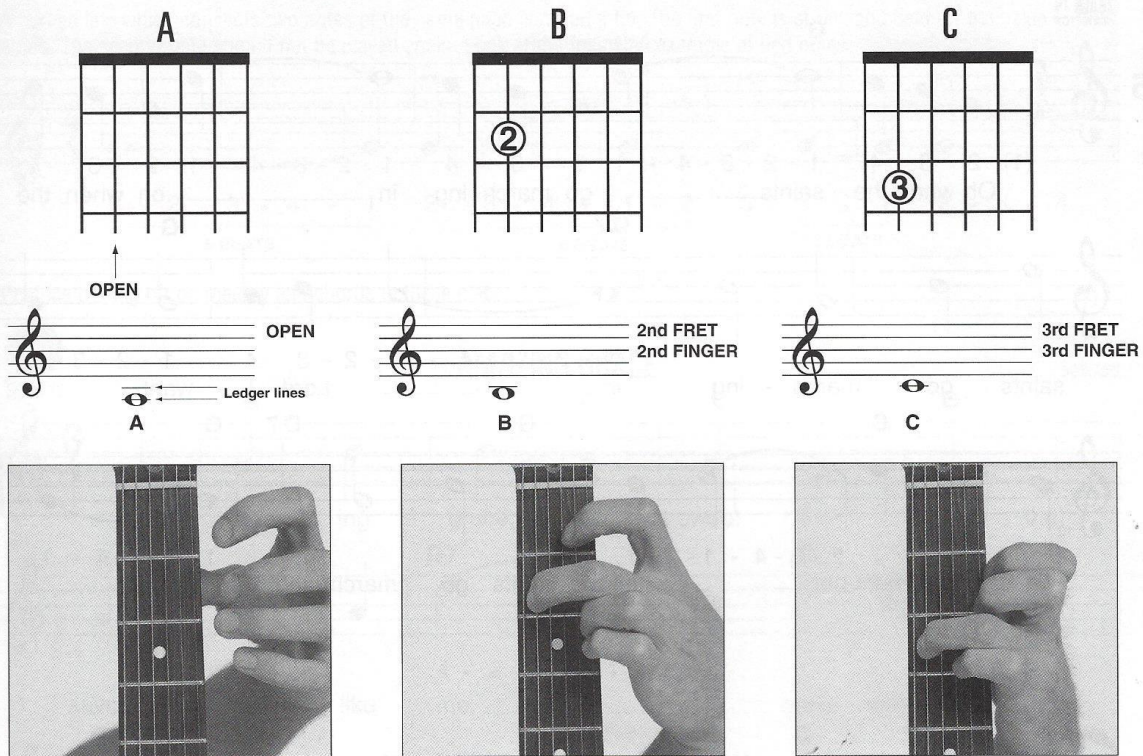
1 of 1

## 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



47

Hold 2nd finger down



## BLUES BASS

48

**A**

**D7**

**A**


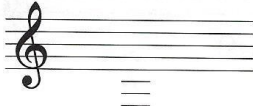
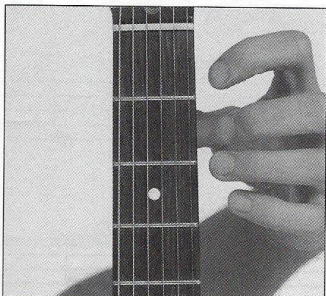
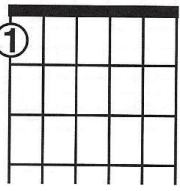

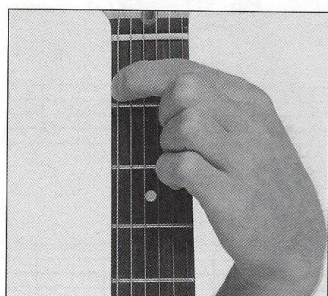
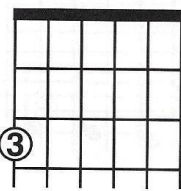
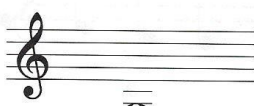
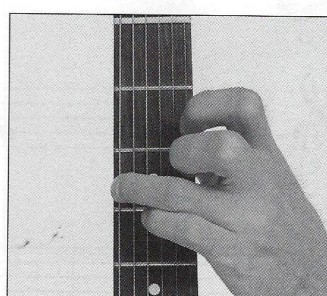
**E7**

**D7**

**A**

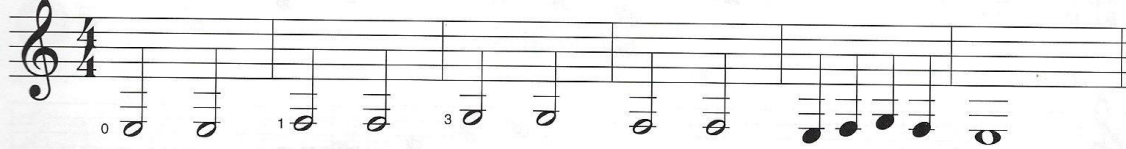


# NOTES ON THE SIXTH STRING

<p><b>E</b></p>  <p>↑ OPEN</p>  <p><b>E</b></p> 	<p><b>F</b></p>  <p>①</p>  <p>1st FRET 1st FINGER</p> <p><b>F</b></p> 	<p><b>G</b></p>  <p>③</p>  <p>3rd FRET 3rd FINGER</p> <p><b>G</b></p> 
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After you play these exercises, write the letter names below each note.

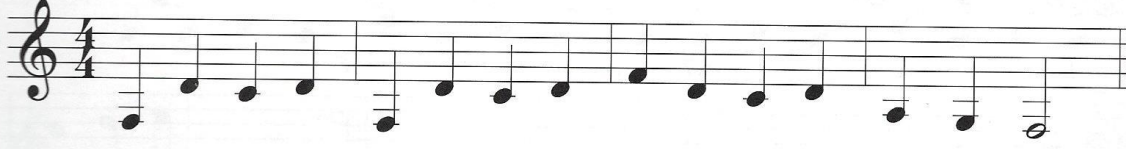
51




0 1 3

Hold 1st finger down -----

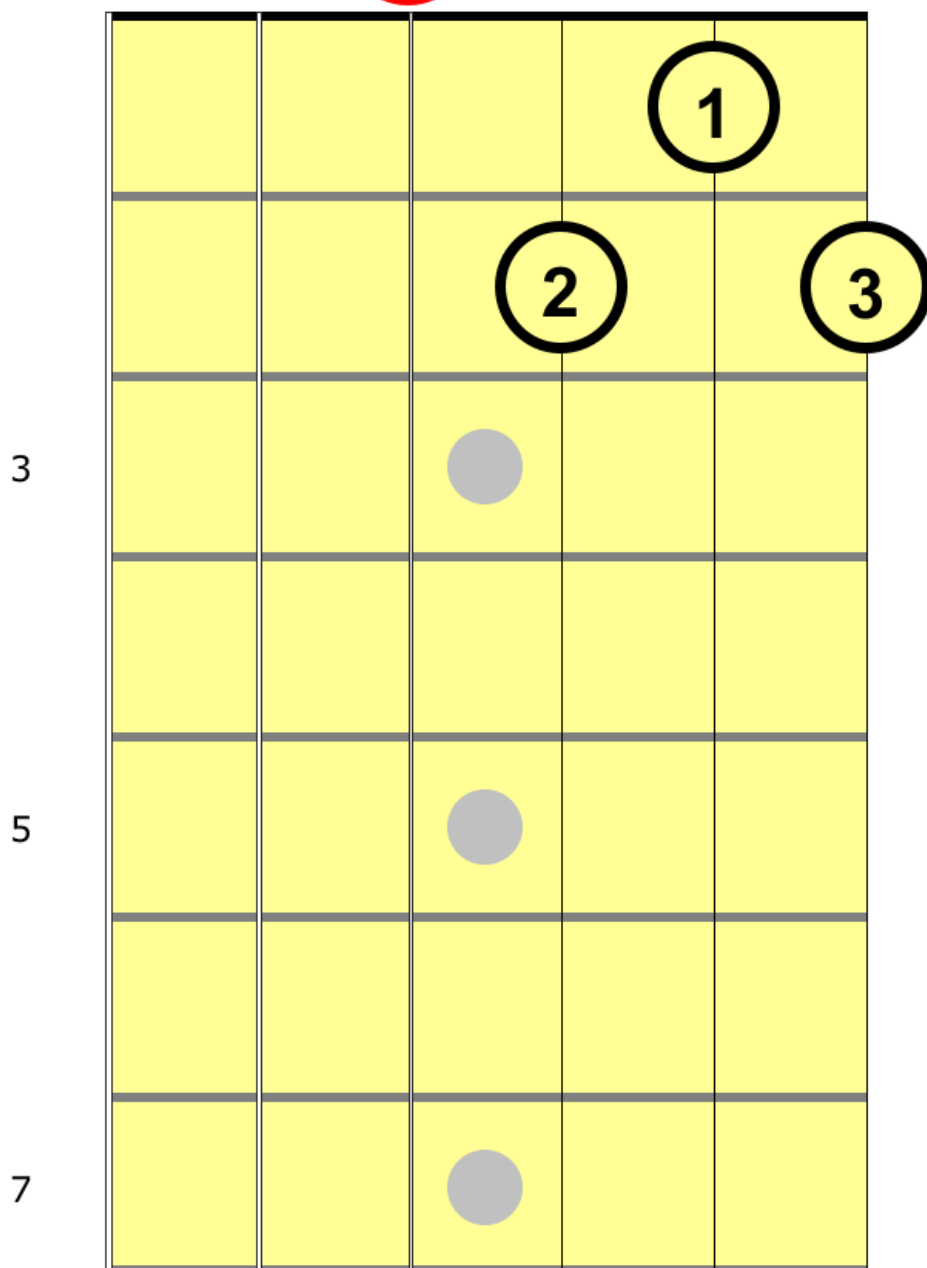
52



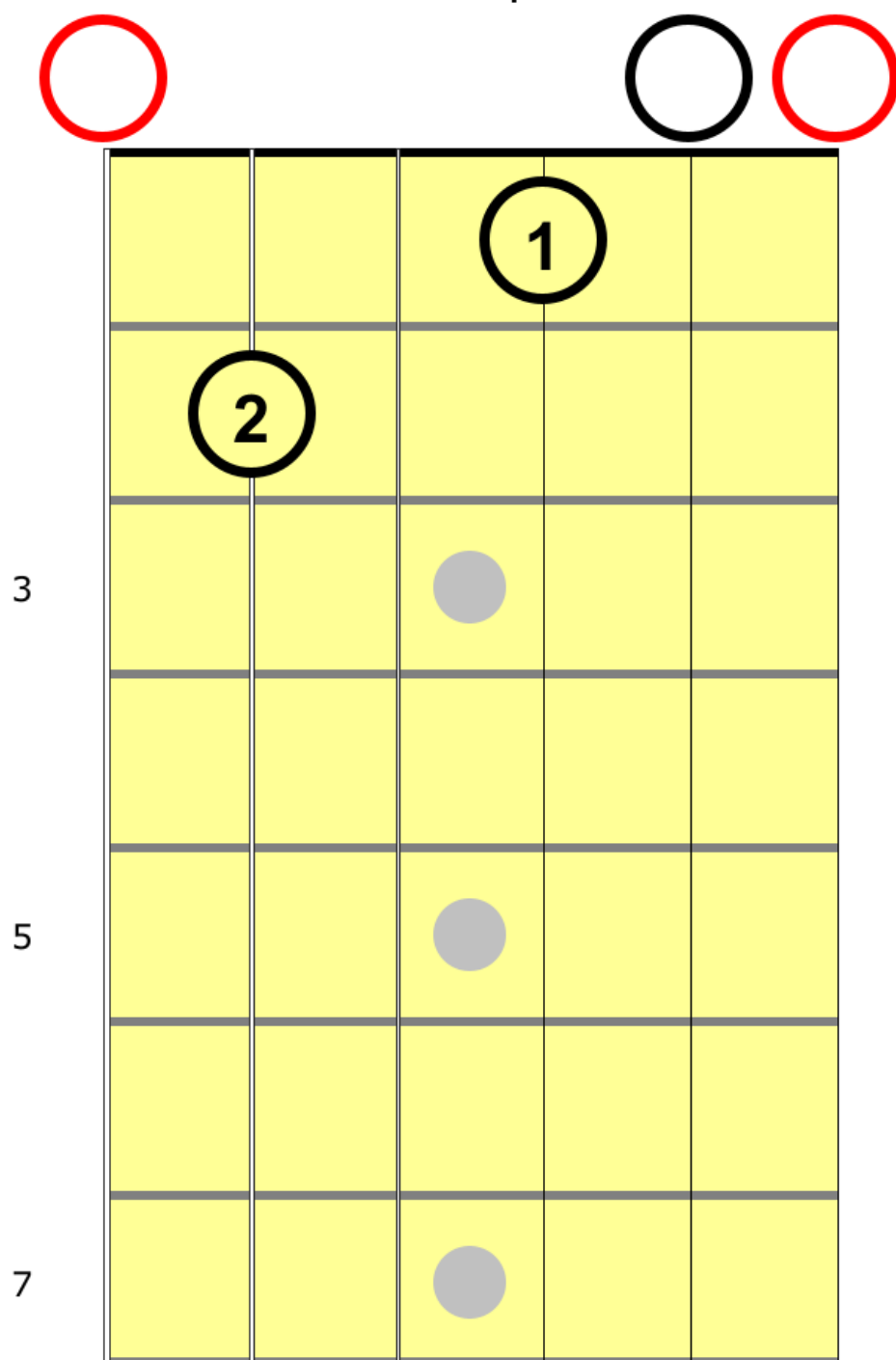
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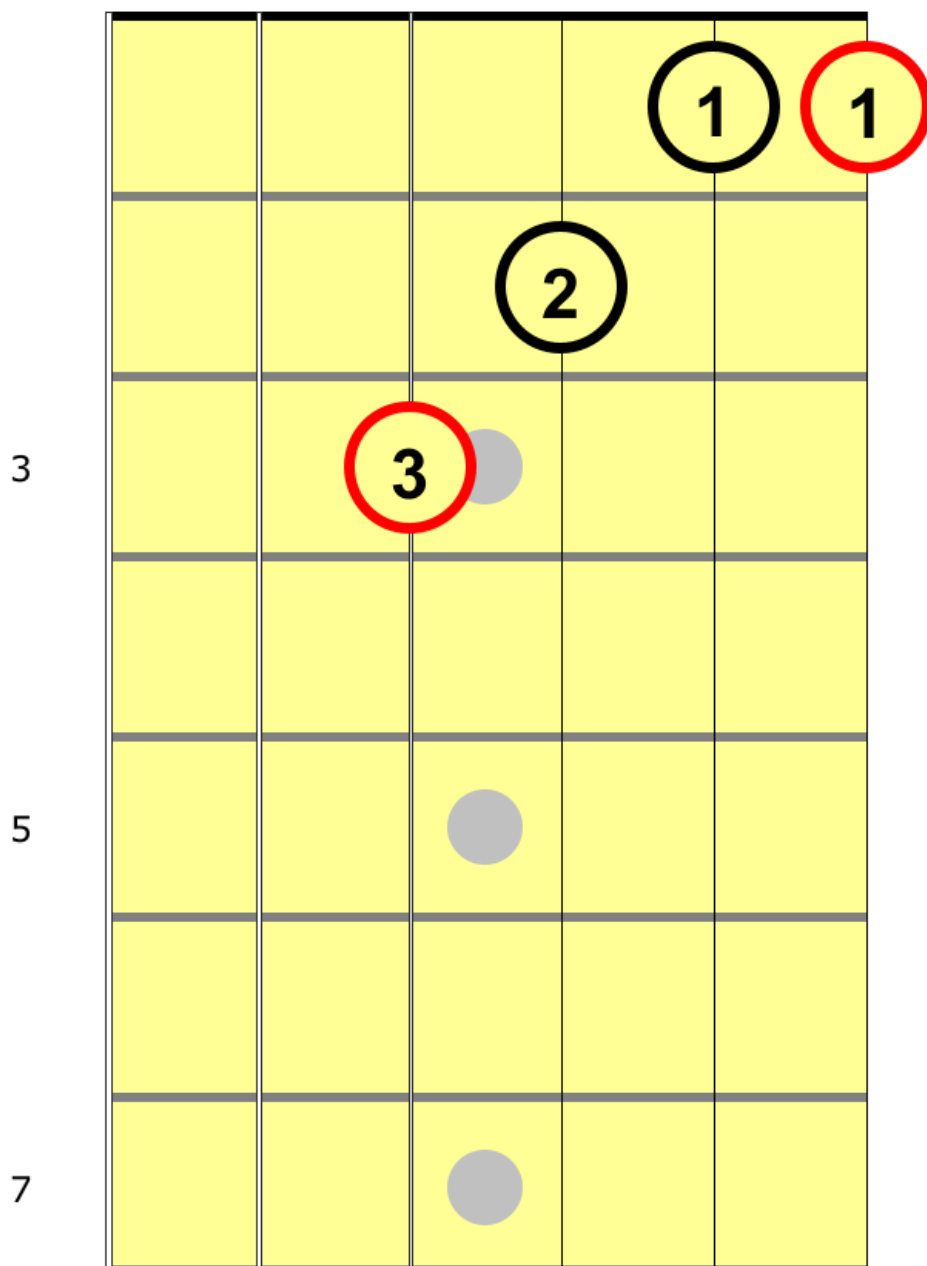
## "D7" Chord - Open Position



## "E7" Chord - Open Position



## "F" Chord - Open Position



ver 1e, Feb 21, 2020

# Freight Train

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

**♩ = 160**

**C** **G** **G7**

melody

8 Freight train freight train run so fast

harmony

8

bass

8

5 **G** **C**

8 Freight train freight train run so fast

8

8

9 **E7** **F**

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

8

8

13 **C** **G** **C** **C**

8 won't know where I've gone

8

8

Freight Train - version 1e, 4/1/23

1 of 1

## 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

$\text{♩} = 160$

C G G7

melody

Freight train freight train run so fast

harmony

bass

5 G C

Freight train freight train run so fast

9 E7 F

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

13 C G C C

won't know where I've gone

Freight Train - version 1e, 4/1/23

1 of 1