

READING MUSIC ON THE GUITAR WITH TRADITIONAL AND TABLATURE NOTATION

THESE ARE THE NOTES IN 1st POSITION ON THE GUITAR,
THEY ARE TO BE PLAYED ON THE OPEN STRINGS AND ONE OF THE FIRST THREE FRETS

TRADITIONAL NOTATION:

NOTES ON THE STAFF:

LETTER NAMES OF EACH NOTE:

G F E D C B A G F E D C B A G F E

TABLATURE (TAB) NOTATION:

1-3 1 0 3 1 0 2 0 3 2 0 3 2 0 3 1 0

READING SIMPLE CHORD CHARTS

CHORD CHARTS ARE WRITTEN IN A FEW DIFFERENT WAYS DEPENDING ON:

- 1.) WHAT KIND OF GIG YOU ARE PLAYING.
- 2.) THE AREA OF THE COUNTRY YOU LIVE IN.
- 3.) AND HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO KEEP RECORD OF YOUR OWN MUSIC.

MOST PROFESSIONAL AND AMATEUR GIGS USE SIMPLE CHORD CHARTS THAT NOTATE THE CHORDS, THE RHYTHM, AND THE FORM OF THE MUSIC TO BE PLAYED.

EXAMPLE: "MED. ROCK 4" C F G7 C C

/ / / / | / / / / | / / / / | / / / / || C

1 2 3 4 *BAR LINE* *MEASURE*

IF YOU ARE IN THE AREA OF NASHVILLE, (OR EVEN SOME OTHER CITIES), YOU WOULD PROBABLY BE READING A CHORD CHART, BUT IT WOULD LOOK LIKE THIS:

EXAMPLE: "COUNTRY SWING" I IV V7 I I

/ / / / | / / / / | / / / / | / / / / || I

BY WRITING THE CHART IN THIS MANNER, MOST GOOD MUSICIANS CAN PLAY THE SONG IN ANY KEY, BECAUSE THE ROMAN NUMERALS REPRESENT THE CHORD ON THE SCALE DEGREE IN WHICH EVER KEY YOU CHOOSE TO PLAY THE SONG IN. (* OF COURSE KNOWING YOUR KEY SIGNATURES IS ESSENCIAL)

IF YOU ARE LEARNING GUITAR SIMPLY TO BACK YOUR OWN VOCALS, THE NEXT METHOD IS PROBABLY THE WAY YOU WILL USE TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR COVER SONG LIST AND ORIGINAL MUSIC. PLACE THE CHORD OR THE ROMAN NUMERAL ABOVE THE PARTICULAR WORD IN YOUR LYRICS SHEET THAT SIGNIFIES A CHORD CHANGE, AND WRITE IN THE STYLE OR RHYTHM.