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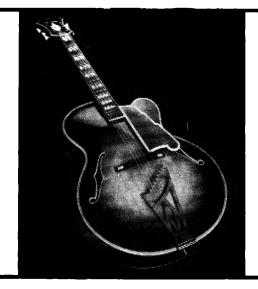


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# П

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## **GRADE ONE**

#### Mel Bay Modern Guitar Method

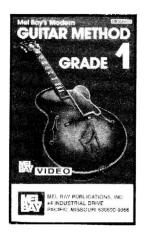
The Mel Bay Modern Guitar **Method** is the world's premier guitar course of instruction. Grade 1 presents basic material necessary to play contemporary quitar. Included are music theory, technical etudes and studies, solos, duets, and chord studies in the keys of C, A minor, G and E minor.

#### **SUGGESTED SUPPLEMENTS** TO THIS BOOK:

#### Guitar Studies Grade 1

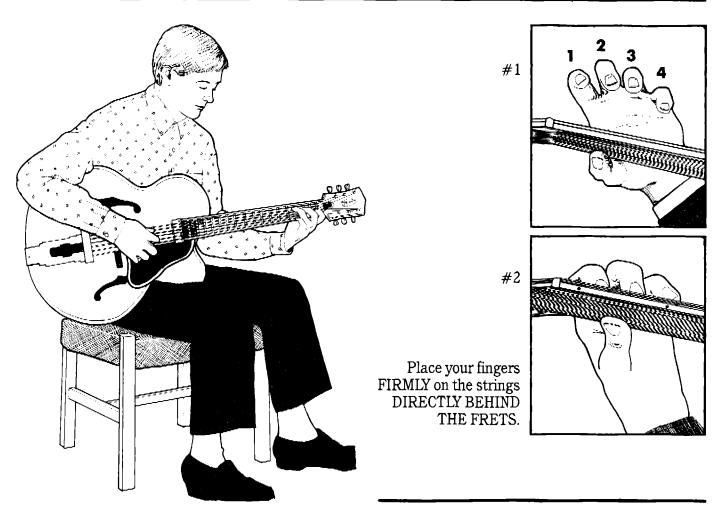
A carefully graded series of exercises, solos, duets, and chord studies written to supplement each musical concept presented in the Modern Guitar Method Grade 1. Studies are contained for each string and in the keys of C, A minor, G, and E minor.

**TEACHING VIDEO** NOW AVAILABLE

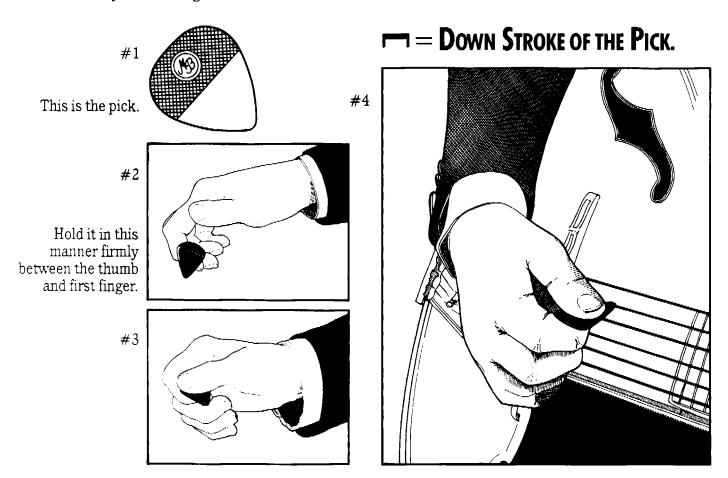


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# How to Hold the Guitar & Pick

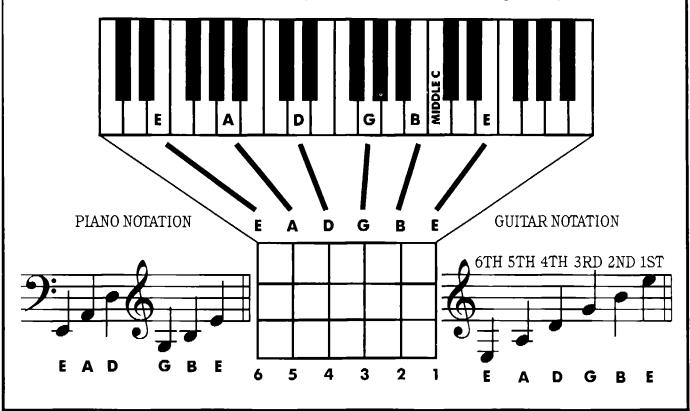


The correct way to hold the guitar.



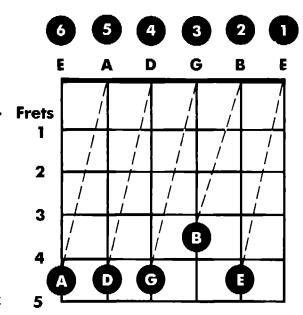
# TUNING THE GUITAR

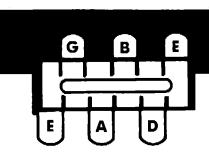
The six open strings of the guitar will be of the same pitch as the six notes shown in the illustration of the piano keyboard. Note that five of the strings are below the middle C of the piano keyboard.



### **Another Method of Tuning**

- 1. Tune the 6th string in unison with the **E** or 12th white key to the LEFT of MIDDLE C on the piano.
- 2. Place the finger behind the fifth fret of the 6th string.
  This will give you the tone or pitch of the 5th string (A).
- 3. Place finger behind the fifth fret of the 5th string to get the pitch of the 4th string (D).
- 4. Repeat same procedure to obtain the pitch of the 3rd string (G).
- 5. Place finger behind the fourth fret of the 3rd string to get the pitch of the 2nd string (B).
- 6. Place finger behind the fifth fret of the 2nd string to get the pitch of the 1st string (E).





## PITCH PIPES

Pitch pipes with instructions for their usage may be obtained at any music store. Each pipe will have the correct pitch of each guitar string and is recommended to be used when a piano is not available.

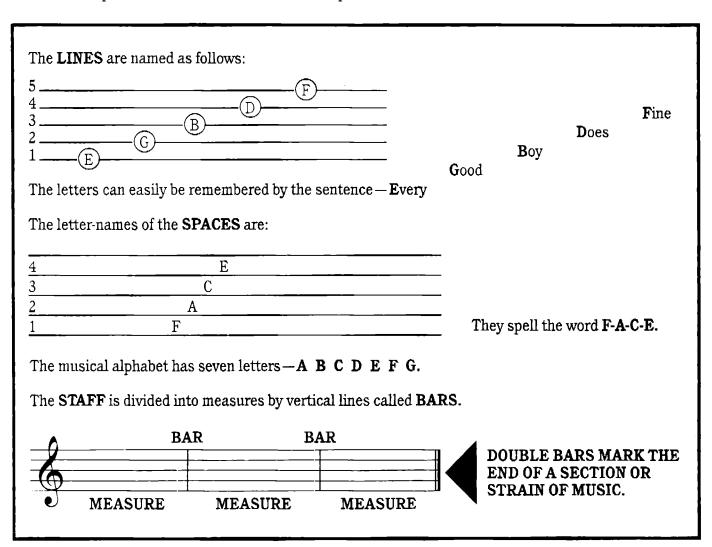
# THE RUDIMENTS OF MUSIC

#### THE STAFF:

Music is written on a STAFF consisting of FIVE LINES and FOUR SPACES. The lines and spaces are numbered upward as shown:

5TH LINE		
	4TH SPACE	
4TH LINE	3RD SPACE	-
3RD LINE	2ND SPACE	
2ND LINE ———	<del></del>	
1ST LINE	1ST SPACE	

The lines and spaces are named after letters of the alphabet.



## THE CLEF:



This sign is the treble or G

All guitar music will be written in this clef.

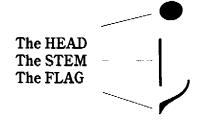


The second line of the treble clef is known as the G line. Many people call the treble clef the G clef because it circles around the G line.

## NOTES

THIS IS A NOTE:

A NOTE HAS THREE PARTS. THEY ARE



NOTES MAY BE PLACED IN THE STAFF,

ABOVE THE STAFF.



#### AND BELOW THE STAFF.

A note will bear the name of the line or space it occupies on the staff. The location of a note in, above, or below the staff will indicate the pitch.

**PITCH:** the height or depth of a tone.

**TONE:** a musical sound.

## Types of Notes









THE TYPE OF NOTE WILL INDICATE THE LENGTH OF ITS SOUND.

- This is a whole note.
  The head is hollow.
  It does not have a stem.
  - This is a half note.
    The head is hollow.
    It has a stem.
    - This is a quarter note.
      The head is solid.
      It has a stem.
      - This is an eighth note.
        The head is solid.
        It has a stem and a flag.

- = 4 Beats A whole note will receive four beats or counts.
  - = 2 Beats
    A half note will receive two beats or counts.
    - = 1 BeatA quarter note will receive one beat or count.
    - An eighth note will receive one-half beat or count.
      (2 for 1 beat)

## RESTS

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.

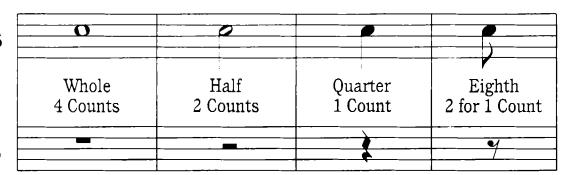


This is a quarter rest.

Half rest Half rest ine.

Whole rest
Whole rests hang down
from the line.

**Notes** 



**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.

44

Beats per measure

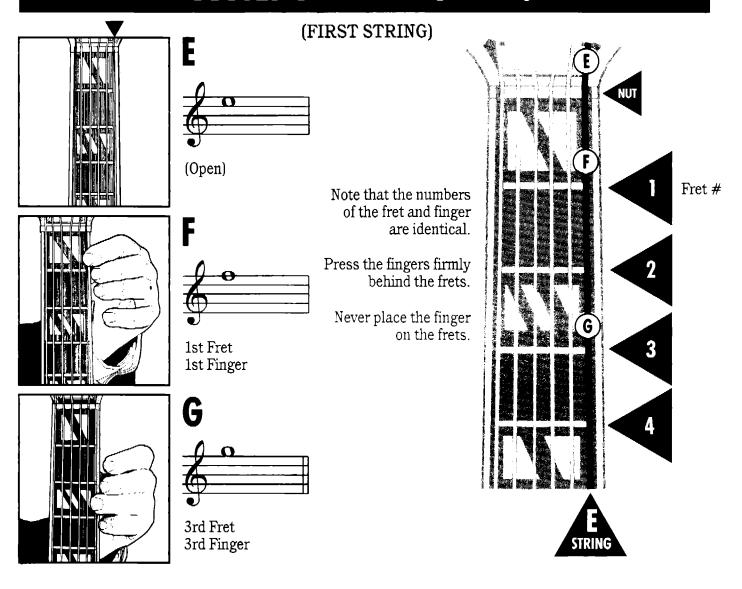
The type of note receiving one beat.

A quarter note receives one beat.



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

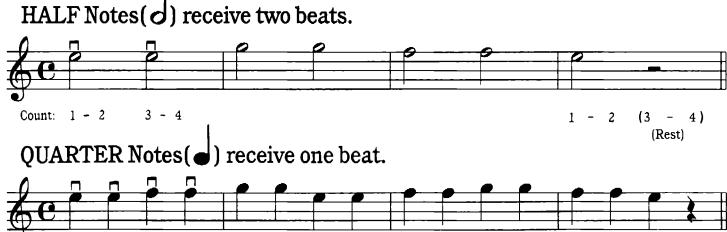
# Notes on the E String



#### WHOLE Notes(o) receive four beats.



Count:



#### 1st-String Etude



#### Etude No. 2

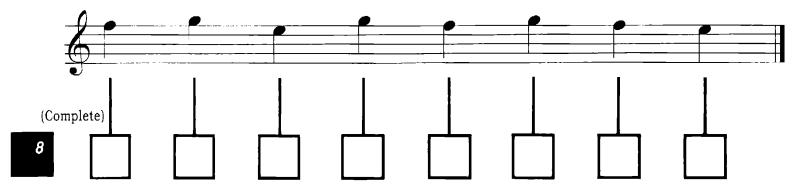


#### The Mixmaster

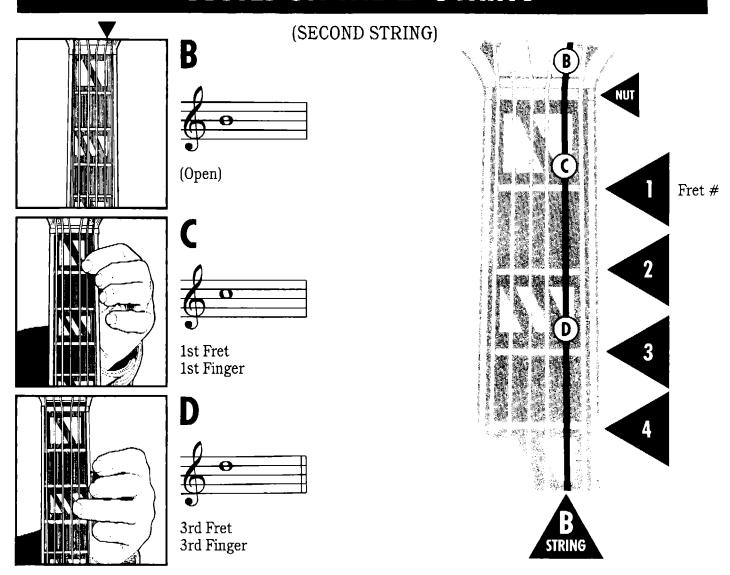


#### NOTES ON THE FIRST STRING

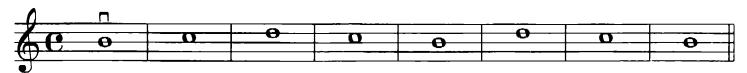
(Fill in the Blocks)



# NOTES ON THE B STRING



#### WHOLE NOTES



Count:  $1 - 2 \cdot 3 - 4$ 

#### HALF NOTES



## **QUARTER NOTES**



Count: 1 2 3 4

## THREE-FOUR TIME

This sign 3

 $indicates\,THREE\text{-}FOUR\,time.$ 

- 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 (p') will receive three beats.

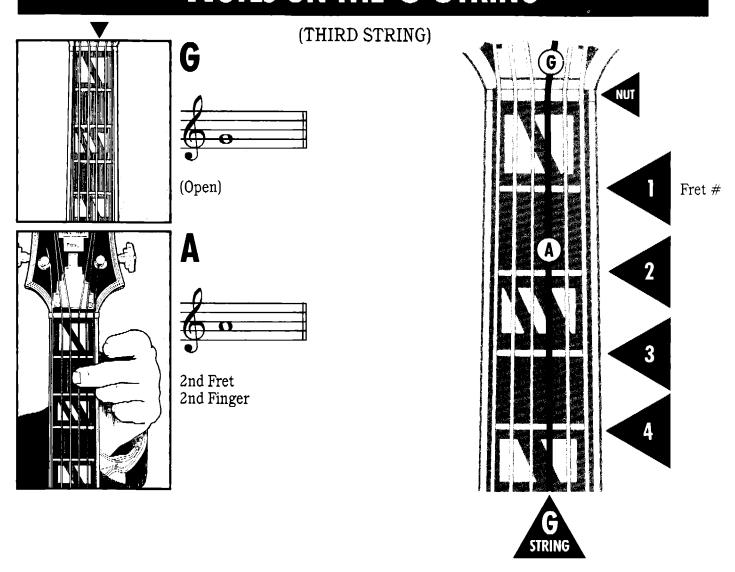
**EXAMPLES:** 

$$\bullet$$
 = 3 Counts

#### The Merry Men



# Notes on the G String



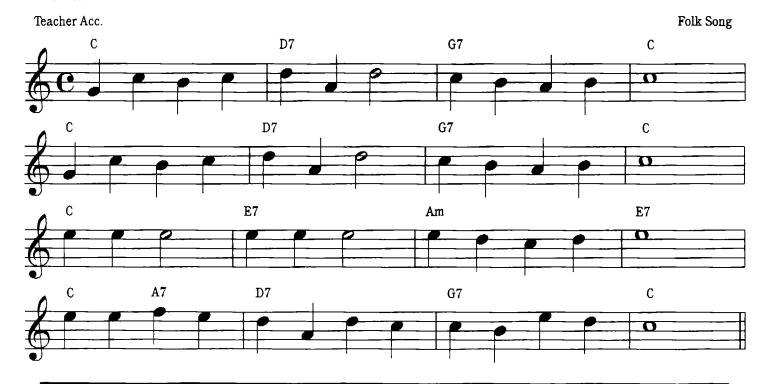
## A Study on the Third String



## Sparkling Stella



#### Aura Lee

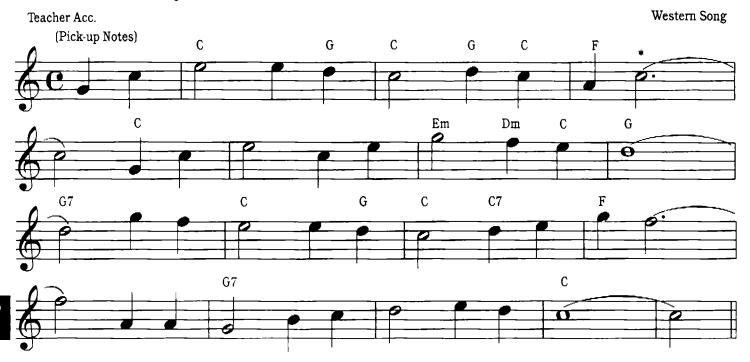


## PICK-UP NOTES

One or more notes at the beginning of a strain before the first measure are referred to as "pick-up notes."

The rhythm for pick-up notes is taken from the last measure of the selection and the beats are counted as such.

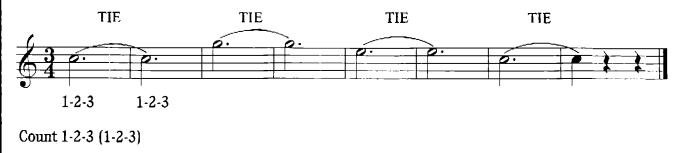
## Red River Valley



\*See "The Tie" on the top of page 13.

# THE TIE

The TIE is a curved line between two notes of the same pitch. The first note is played and held for the time duration of both. The second note is not played, but held.

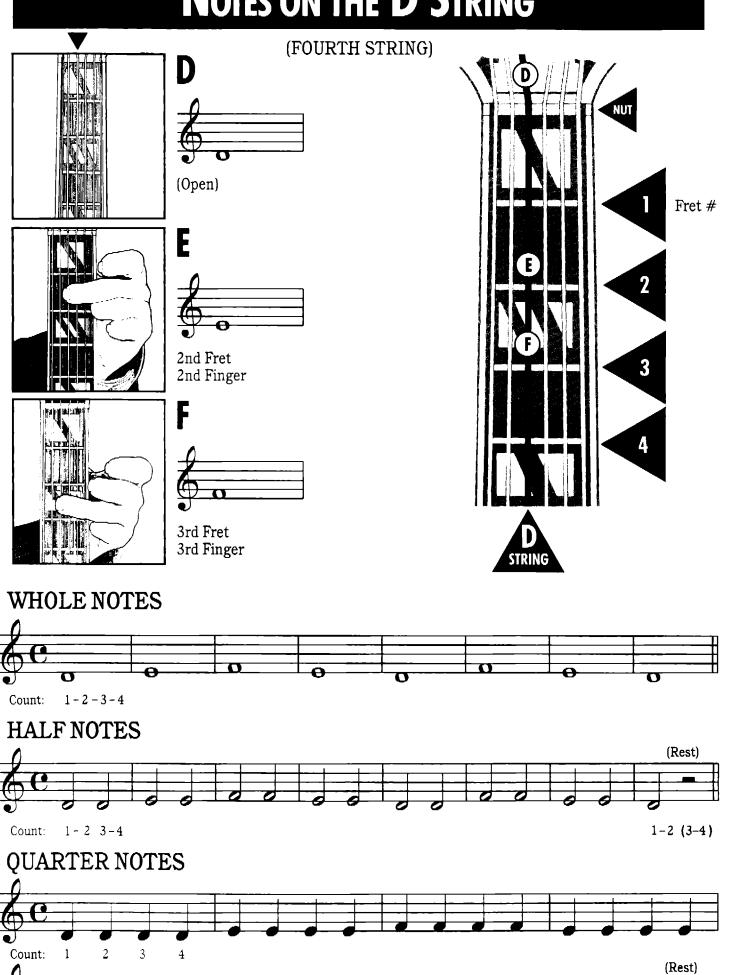




## When the Saints go Marchin' In



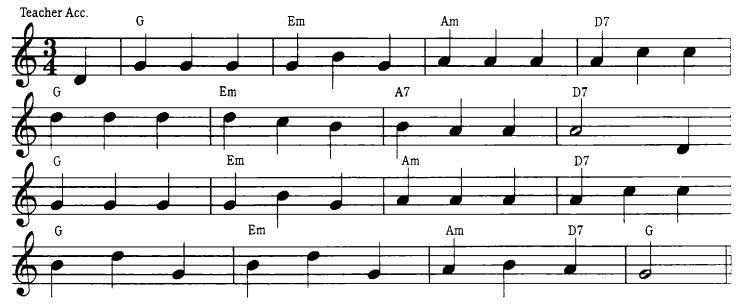
# Notes on the D String



(4)







## THE EIGHTH NOTE

An eighth note receives one-half beat. (One quarter note equals two eighth notes.)

**EIGHTH NOTES** 

**EIGHTH RESTS** 

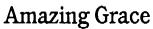
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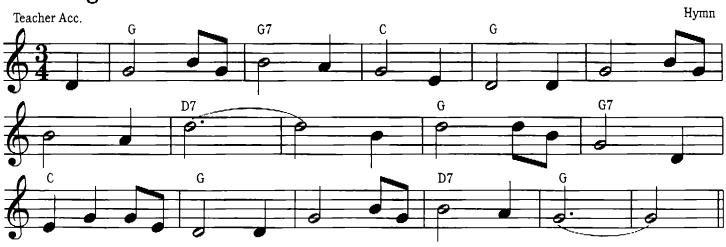
An eighth note will have a head, stem, and flag. If two or more are in successive order, they may be connected by a bar. (See example.)





٧

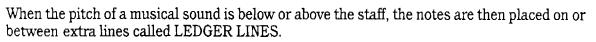




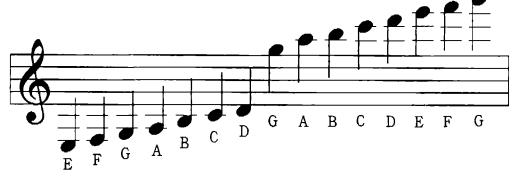




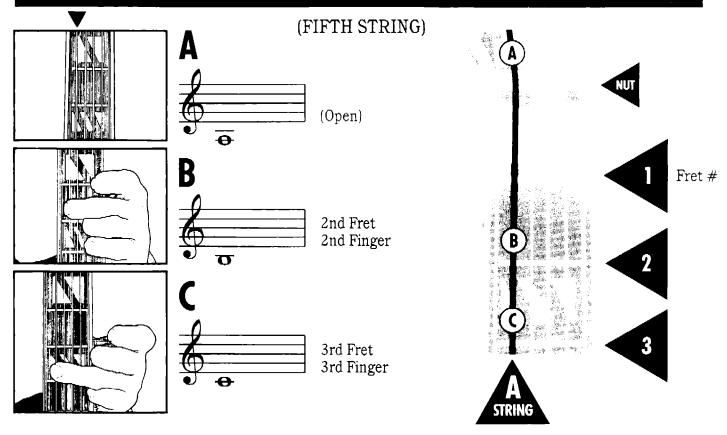




They will be like this:



# Notes on the A String



#### WHOLE NOTES

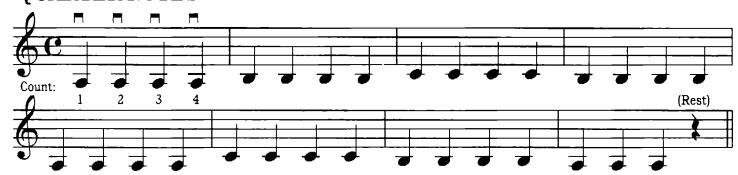


#### HALF NOTES



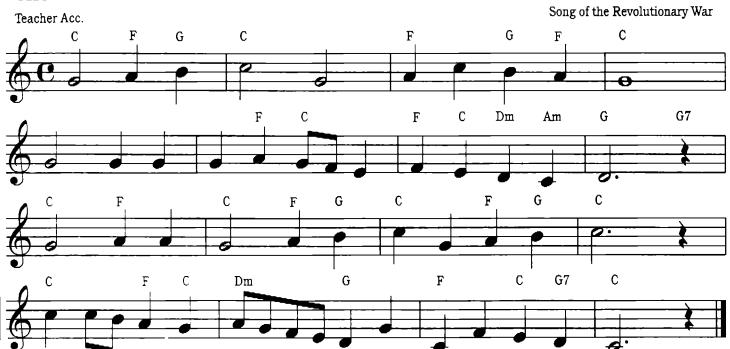
Count: 1-2 3-4

#### **QUARTER NOTES**



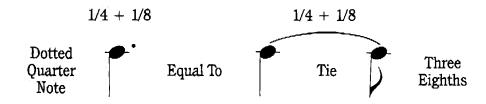






# **DOTTED QUARTER NOTES**

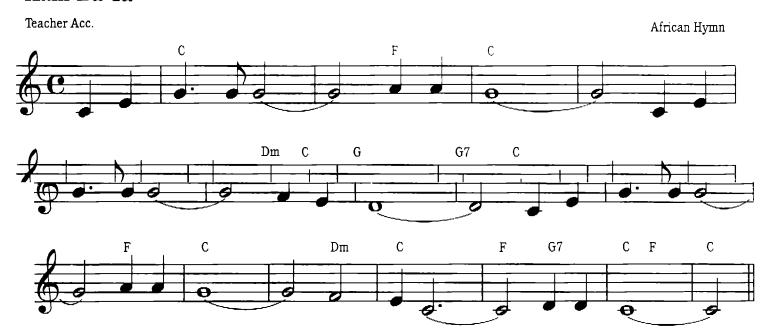
A DOT after a note increases its value by one-half.



The count for the dotted quarter note is as follows.



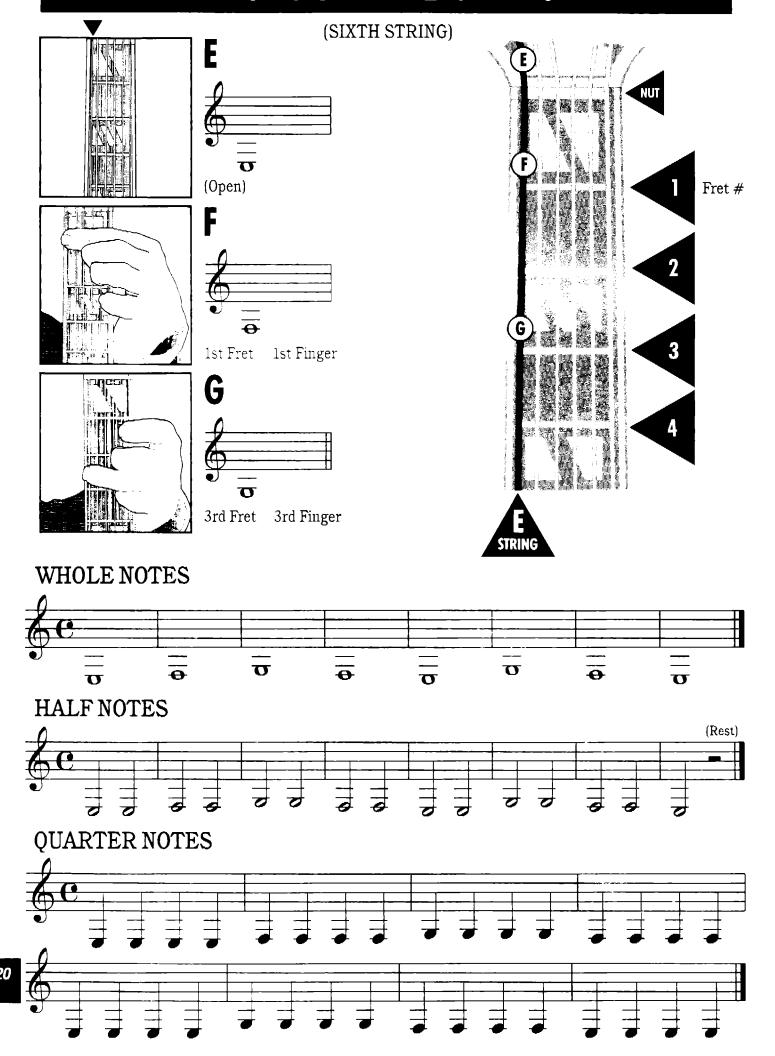
#### Kum-Ba-Ya



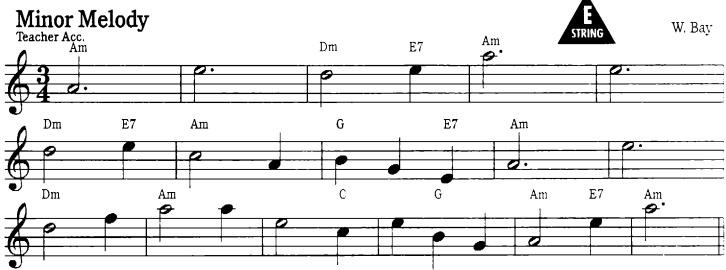
#### Michael, Row the Boat Ashore

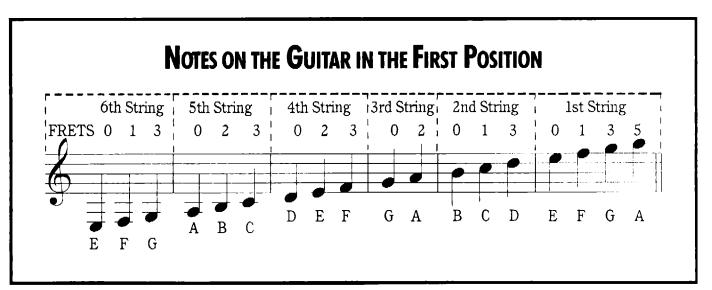


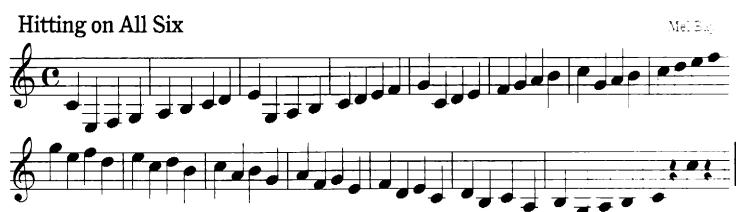
# Notes on the E String











# A WORD ABOUT DUETS

One of the first requisites of a good guitarist is the ability to play well with others. It is with this point in mind that I am stressing the value of duet training.

The modern guitarist has to have the ability to play SOLO, HARMONY, and RHYTHM.

Duet training will teach the student to perform his or her own part independently without the bewilderment or confusion caused by the rhythm or counterpoint appearing in the second part.

This is one of the most important phases of the student's training.

The second part in the following duets will be played by the teacher. The student will be required to play both parts later.

#### Our First Duet

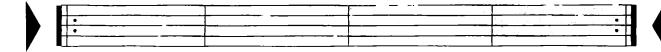
Arr. by Mel Bay

Guitar Duet

STUDEZY



Dots before and after a double bar mean repeat the measures between.



#### The Repeater

I = 1st Part II = 2nd Part



22

The dots placed above and below the third line of the staff at the double bar indicate that the piece is to be repeated.

## **C**HORDS

A MELODY is a succession of single tones.

A CHORD is a combination of tones sounded together.





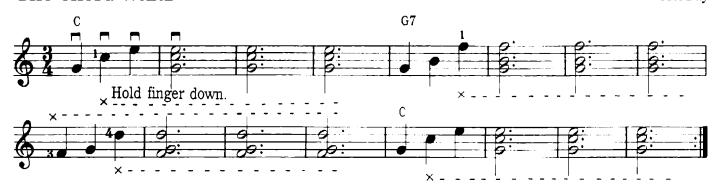
Tones in a Melody

The Same Tones as a Chord

We will construct our chords by playing the chordal tones separately as in a melody and, without raising the fingers, striking them together.



Mel Bay





Mel Bay



#### **Small Chord Etude**

Mel Bay



Practice the above etude until it can be played without missing a beat.

\*Note that the first finger holds down two notes (C-F) in the second chord.

# Four-String Chord Study

We use the same method for building four-string chords as we did in building the three-string chords. Play the chordal tones melodically, holding the fingers down until chord is reached, then strike them together producing the desired chord.

#### **EXERCISE**



#### Follow the Leader

Arr. by Mel Bay



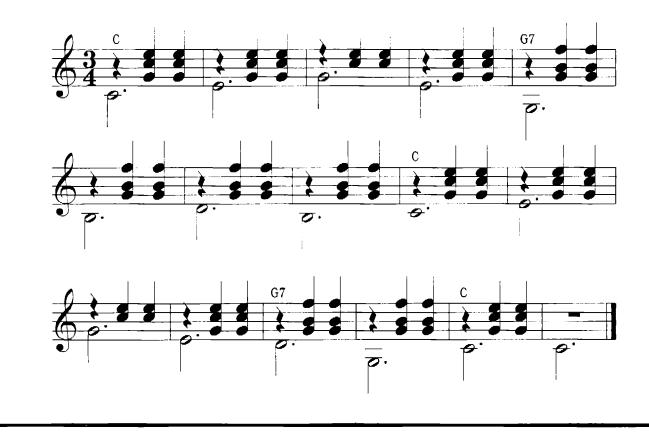
# BASS SOLOS WITH CHORD ACCOMPANIMENT

When playing bass solos with chord accompaniment, you will find the solo with the stems turned downward and the accompaniment with the stems turned upward.



In the example shown above, you see the dotted half note (E) with the stem downward. It is played on the count of one and is held for counts two and three.

The quarter rest over the dotted half note indicates that there is no chord accompaniment at the count of one. The chords with the stems upward are played on counts of two and three.





# THE KEY OF C

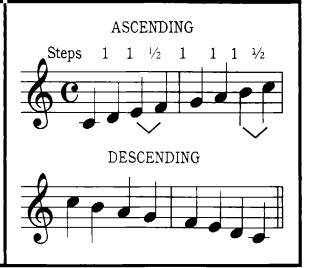
All music studied so far in this book has been in the key of C. That means that the notes have been taken from the C scale (shown at right) and made into melodies.

It is called the C scale because the first note is C and we proceed through the musical alphabet until C reappears: C-D-E-F-G-A-B-C.

We will cover the subject of keys and scales more thoroughly in the theory and harmony chapters appearing later in this course.

At present, we will deal only with basic fundamentals.

## THE C SCALE

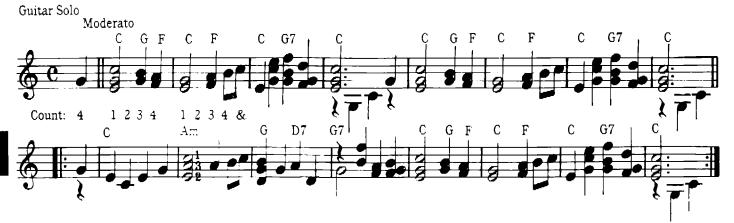


If the following arrangement on "Shenandoah" is difficult for the student at this point, the arrangement may be simplified by playing only the top two notes of each chord. A good way to learn this solo is to begin by playing only the top note of each chord and then gradually adding other notes as the student progresses.



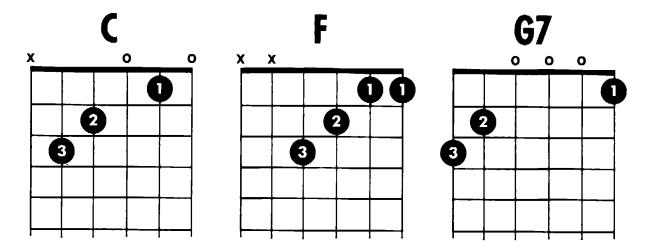
#### The Blue Bells of Scotland

Arr. by Mel Bay



# CHORDS IN THE KEY OF C MAJOR

The key of C has three principle chords. They are C, F, and G7.



The circles indicate the position where your fingers should be placed.

Numerals inside circles indicate the fingers.

"X" over the strings means that the strings are not to be played.

"O" over the strings indicates the strings to be played open.

Place fingers in positions indicated by the circles and strike them all together.

#### MUSICAL NOTATION OF THE CHORDS



#### In Three-Four Time



Guitar Solo



#### **STEPS**

A half-step is the distance from a given tone to the next higher or lower tone. On the guitar, the distance of a half step is one fret.

A whole step consists of two half steps. The distance of a whole step on the guitar is two frets.

The C scale has two half steps. They are between E-F and B-C. Note the distance of one fret between those notes. The distances between C-D, D-E, F-G, G-A, and A-B are whole steps.

Whole steps and half steps are also referred to as whole tones and half tones. We will refer to them as whole steps and half steps.



The above study should be played slowly with a gradual increase of speed until a moderate tempo has been reached. It is an excellent daily exercise.

## **CHROMATICS**

The alteration of the pitches of tones is brought about by the use of symbols called CHROMATICS (also referred to as ACCIDENTALS).



The sharp placed before a note raises its pitch ½ step or one fret.



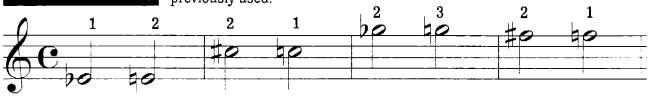
## THE FLAT

The flat placed before a note lowers its pitch ½ step or one fret.



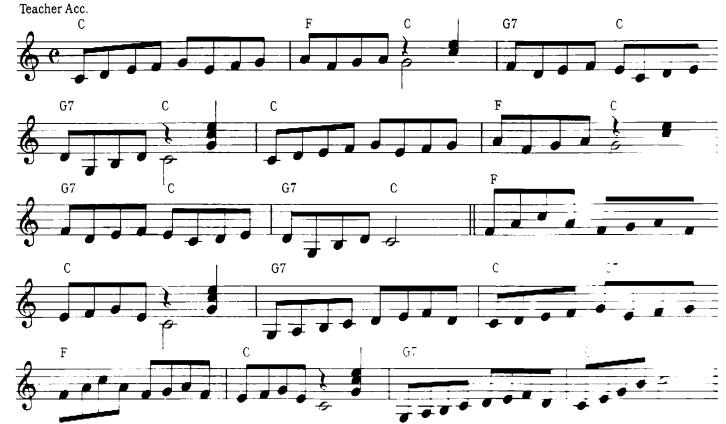
## THE NATURAL

The natural restores a note to its normal position. It cancels all accidentals previously used.



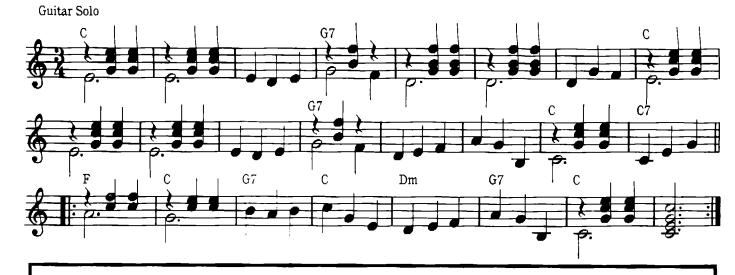
## **Running Around**

Mel Bay



#### Home, Home, Can I Forget Thee

Arr. by Mel Bay



#### **TEMPO**

TEMPO is the rate of speed of a musical composition. Three types of tempos used in this book will be: ANDANTE: A slow, easy pace. MODERATO: Moderate. ALLEGRO: Lively.



## THE KEY OF A MINOR

(Relative to C Major)

Each major key will have a relative minor key.

The relative minor scale is built upon the sixth tone of the major scale.

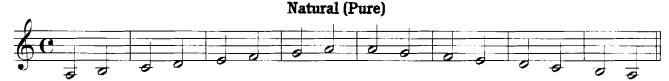
The key signature of both will be the same.

The minor scale will have the same number of tones (7) as the major.

The difference between the two scales is the arrangement of the whole steps and half steps.

There are three forms of the minor scale: 1) pure or natural, 2) harmonic, 3) melodic.

#### THE A MINOR SCALE



#### Harmonic

The 7th tone is raised one half step ascending and descending.



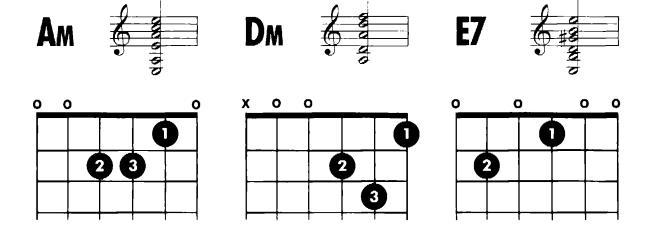
#### Melodic

The 6th and 7th tones are raised one half step ascending and lowered back to their normal pitch descending.

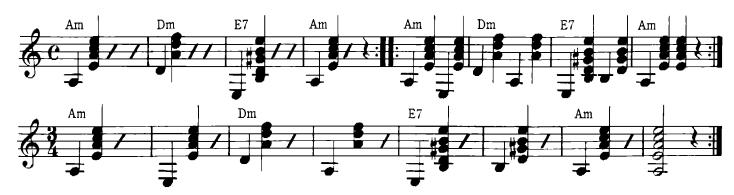


### THE CHORDS IN THE KEY OF A MINOR

M = Minor



#### Accompaniment Styles in A Minor



#### **Orchestration Style**

The diagonal line ( / ) indicates a chord stroke. They will fall only on each beat of the measure.



Repeat the accompaniment exercises until they can be played without missing a beat.

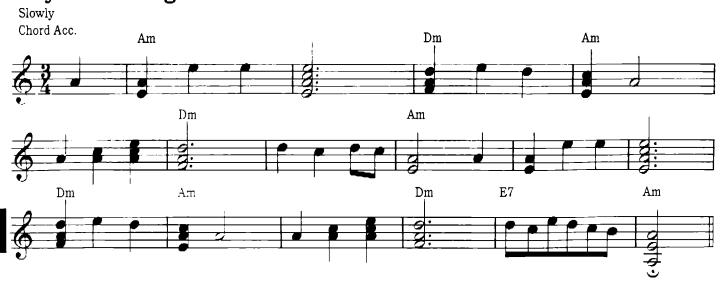
#### A Daily Scale Study in A Minor

Harmonic



**Hold Sign:** This sign placed over or under a note or rest indicates the prolonging of its time value.

#### Wayfarin' Stranger



#### FIRST AND SECOND ENDINGS

Sometimes two endings are required in certain selections...one to lead back into a repeated chorus and one to close it. They will be shown like this:

(1st Time) (2nd Time)

The first time, play the bracketed ending No. 1. Repeat the chorus. The second time, skip the first ending and play ending No. 2.







## WORDS INDICATING VARIATIONS OF TEMPO

RITARDANDO or RITARD (rit.)...To grow slower

ACCELERANDO (acc.)...To increase the speed



\*D.C. al Fine...Repeat from the beginning to the word "Fine."

D.C. al Fine

## Another Daily Scale Study in A Minor



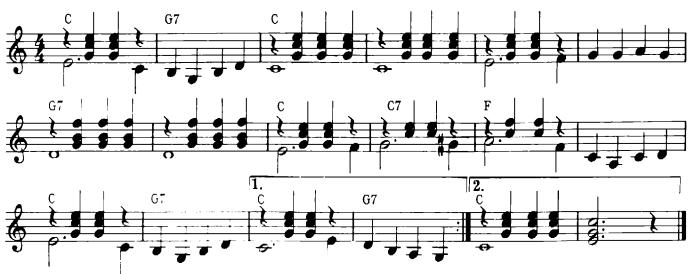
## THE UP STROKE

V = UP STROKE. This stroke will be used on repeated eighth notes of the same pitch.

#### A Visit to the Relatives



#### **Careless Love**



Guitar Duet



\*D.C. al Fine means to go back to the beginning and play until the word "Fine" or "End" appears.

# THE KEY OF G

The key of G will have one sharp (F#). It will be identified by this signature:



The F notes will be played as shown:



6th String

4th String

1st String

2nd Fret 2nd Finger 4th Fret 4th Finger

2nd Fret 2nd Finger

### THE G SCALE



Note that, in order to have the half steps falling between the seventh and eighth degrees of the scale, the F must be sharped. Our major scale pattern is then correct  $(1, 1, \frac{1}{2}, 1, 1, \frac{1}{2})$  STEPS).

### **TWO-FOUR TIME**

This sign



indicates two-four time

2—beats per measure

4—a quarter note receives one beat

Two-four time will have two beats per measure with the quarter note receiving one beat.

### In the Evening by the Moonlight



## 

### Accompaniment Styles in the Key of G



\*This sign (1/2) means that the previous measure is to be repeated.



The following etude introduces the notes D and B being played together. This is done by playing the note D with the first finger on the third fret of the second string and playing the note B with the second finger on the fourth fret of the THIRD STRING.

### Etude



Guitar Duet Arr. by Mel Bay Moderato Fine D.C. al Fine A Scale Study  $(Repeat \sqcap V)$ A Serenade Guitar Solo Mel Bay Moderato G D7 D9 D9 D7 G

### Austrian Hymn



### Home on the Range



### The Little Prince



### Carry Me Back to Old Virginny



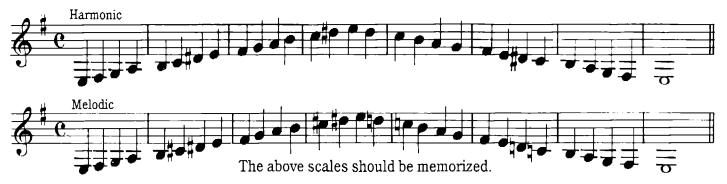
\*The wavy line before the last chord means to glide the pick slowly over the strings, producing a harp-like effect. The musical term for this is QUASI ARPI.

# THE KEY OF E MINOR

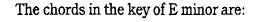
(Relative to G Major)

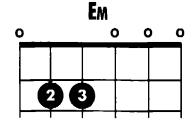
The key of E minor will have the same key signature as G major.

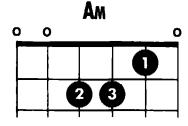
### TWO E MINOR SCALES

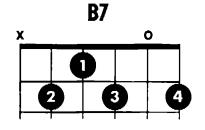


# THE CHORDS IN THE KEY OF E MINOR

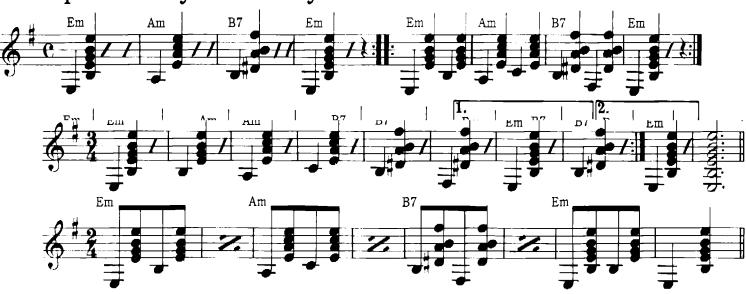








### Accompaniment Styles in the Key of E Minor



### **Orchestration Styles**





# A CHORD REVIEW

The key of C has six chords. They are C, F, G7, Am, Dm, and E7. The latter three are in the relative minor key but use the key signature of C.

**A7** 

All "outside" chords are ACCIDENTAL CHORDS.

The most commonly used of these chords are D7 and A7.

The six chords found in the key of G are G, C, D7, Em, Am, and B7.

The most common accidental chords found in the key of G are A7 and E7.

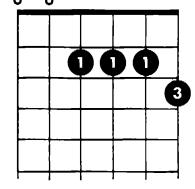
Spotting the accidentals in the various chords will facilitate the reading of them...for example:

B7 will have a D #

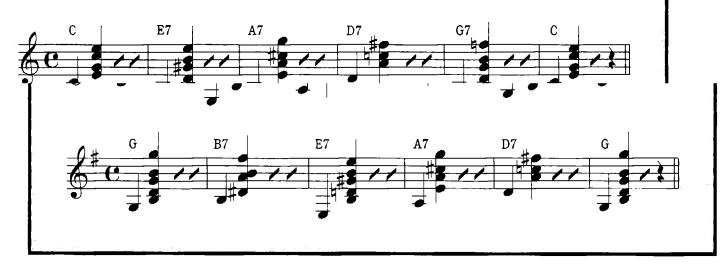
E7 will have a G#

A7 will have a C#

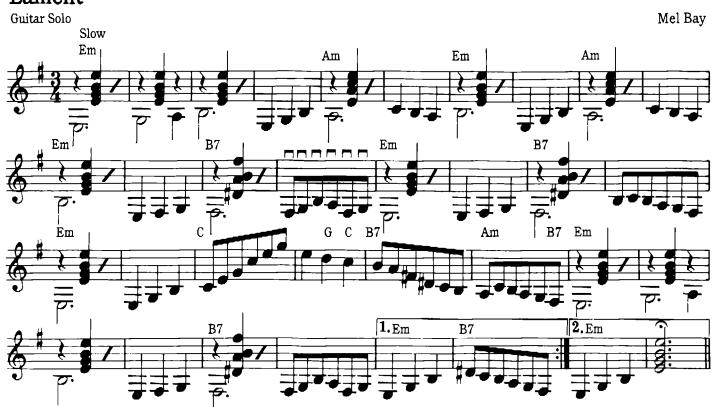
D7 will have a F#



In the following studies, you will see how they appear.







**Guitar Duet** 



# TONE

Music is composed of sounds pleasant to the ear.

SOUND may be made from NOISE or TONE.

NOISE is made by irregular vibrations such as would be caused by striking a table with a hammer, the shot of a gun, or slapping two stones together.

TONE is produced by regular vibrations as would be caused by drawing a bow over the strings of a violin, striking the strings of a guitar, or blowing through a wind instrument such as a trumpet.

A tone has four characteristics...PITCH, DURATION, DYNAMICS, and TIMBRE.

PITCH: the highness or lowness of a tone.

DURATION: the length of a tone.

DYNAMICS: the force or power of a tone (loudness or softness).

TIMBRE: quality of the tone.

A note represents the pitch and duration of a tone.

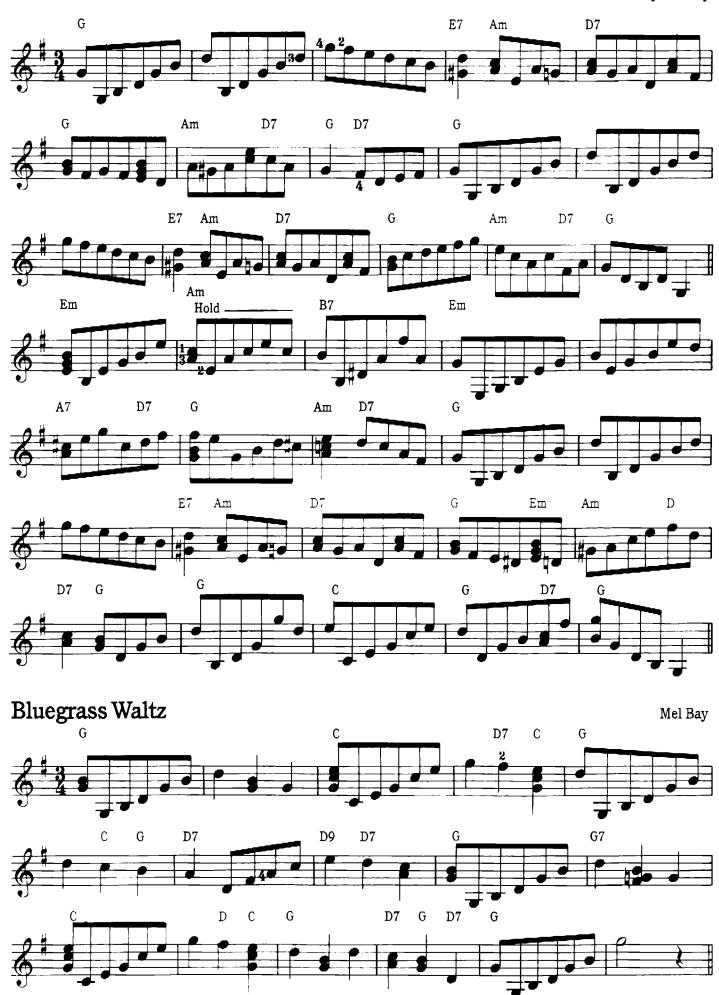
Dynamics are indicated by words such as...

very soft	( <i>pp</i> )	Pianissimo
soft		
medium soft	(mp)	Mezzo piano
medium loud		
very loud		

Timbre depends upon the skill of the performer plus the quality of the instrument which is being played.



Sor's Waltz Arr. by Mel Bay



# Certificate of Completion

This is to certify that

Student's Name

has now completed Mel Bay's Modern Guitar Method Grade 1 and is now ready to enter Mel Bay's Modern Guitar Method Grade 2.

Teacher's Name

Date