

# SOUND<sup>TM</sup>

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# INNOVATIONS

for **GUITAR**

A Revolutionary Method for Individual or Class Instruction

Aaron **STANG** | Bill **PURSE**

Congratulations on your decision to be a musician!

Guitar is one of the most popular and versatile of all instruments. With a guitar you can strum chords and sing, write your own music, play alone, or perform with friends or family. You can join a band or even become a virtuoso guitar star. Would you like to perform, compose, produce records, or go into another area of the music business? Learning guitar can provide a foundation for any career in the music industry. Playing guitar involves artistic inspiration and mastering the right tools and skills. This book is all about providing you with those tools and skills. With your teacher's guidance you will learn critical skills and techniques such as strumming and fingerpicking chords, playing rock and blues riffs, creating your own guitar parts, improvising, reading music and applying practical music theory concepts. The artistic inspiration will come from you.



mp3



The accompanying DVD features both authors discussing and demonstrating all notes, chords, concepts and techniques taught in the book. Many of the songs and ensemble pieces are performed live so students can listen to the music; play along, and see important up-close examples of left and right hand technique. Plus, DVD Chapter icons throughout the book clearly indicate the location of all demonstrated examples, songs, and techniques so students can immediately access the relevant DVD information.

The DVD includes recorded accompaniments for every line of music in your *Sound Innovations* book. These recordings can be played with the included SI Player, easily uploaded to your MP3 player or transferred to your computer. Additionally, many CD and DVD players are equipped to play MP3s directly from the disc. To play an accompaniment, simply choose the file that corresponds to the line of music in the book. Each line has been numbered and named for easy reference.

Also included on the DVD is the SI Player with Tempo Change Technology. The SI Player features the ability to change the speed of the recordings without changing pitch-slow the tempo down for practice or speed it up to performance tempo! Use this program to easily play the included MP3 files or any audio file on your computer.



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# CONTENT SUMMARY

This book focuses on real-world guitar skills such as chords, strumming, fingerpicking, rock and blues riffs, creating guitar parts, improvising, reading music, and practical music theory. This content summary provides an easy-to-reference overview of the general learning sequence of skills and concepts.

## LEVEL 1

**Notes:** E, F, G (6th string); A, B, C (5th string)

**Rhythms:** ♩, ♪, ♫, ♮, ♯, ♭, ♮, ♮,  $\frac{4}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$

**Chords:** E, Am, and Em; “specialty chords” F Flamenco, G Flamenco, Dm/A and Bm/A

**Technique & Skills:** downstroke (▣), strumming, fingerpicking, brush stroke (⋮)

**Terms & Symbols:** accidentals, ♯, ♭, ♮, ♮, 1st position, 2nd position, repeat signs, 1st and 2nd endings, block chord, arpeggio

**Rhythm Guitar Patterns:** basic  $\frac{4}{4}$  fingerpicking pattern

**Music Styles:** Flamenco, blues, acoustic fingerstyle

**Repertoire:** Acoustic Fantasy

## LEVEL 2

**Notes:** D, E, F (4th string); G, A (3rd string)

**Chords:** E7, G, C, D, A5, A6, D5, D6, E5, E6

**Terms & Symbols:** chromatic, half step, tonic, key signature, tie, ▣, ♯, blues song form, power chord, tie

**Technique & Skills:** palm mute

**Rhythm Guitar Patterns:** boogie pattern in A; fingerpicking patterns in  $\frac{3}{4}$

**Music Styles:** Flamenco, bass-line blues riffs, blues boogie, acoustic fingerstyle, folk

**Repertoire:** The Blues Boogie Rhythm  
Plaisir d'Amour

## LEVEL 3

**Notes:** B, C, D (2nd string); E, F, G (1st string)

**Rhythms:** ♩.

**Terms & Symbols:** accent, ritardando, blues licks, improvise, lick

**Technique & Skills:** alternate picking, hammer-on, pull-off, slide, improvisation

**Rhythm Guitar Patterns:** One-grip blues, blues boogie in A; fingerpicking patterns in  $\frac{3}{4}$

**Music Styles:** traditional, flamenco, classical, acoustic fingerstyle, blues-rock

**Repertoire:** Amazing Grace  
Flamenco Mood  
Ode to Joy  
One Grip Blues

## LEVEL 4

**Chords:** G7

**Rhythms:** swing eighth notes

**Terms & Symbols:** major, minor, dominant 7, (♯), *D.S. al Coda, To Coda*, a tempo, swing feel, staccato, blue notes

**Technique & Skills:** playing by ear

**Music Styles:** folk and American traditional, classical, jazz

**Repertoire:** Simple Gifts

Für Elise

When the Saints Go Marchin' In

## LEVEL 5

**Chords:** G7 (new form), D/F#, A7, D7, F

**Rhythms:** ♪

**Terms & Symbols:** roots music, shuffle, barre

**Technique & Skills:** shuffle rhythm


**Rhythm Guitar Patterns:** three-chord rock and roll, alternating thumb, blues shuffle

**Music Styles:** rock and roll, roots music, blues shuffle

**Repertoire:** Corinna, Corinna

A Blues Shuffle

## LEVEL 6

**Rhythms:** 

**Terms & Symbols:** dynamics, *f*, *mf*, *p*, *mp*, triplets

**Chords:** Dm, B7

**Music Styles:** classical, blues-rock, Spanish-classical, American traditional

**Repertoire:** Minuet in G

Aguado Study

One Finger Blues

Romanza

Simple Gifts

**APPENDIX 1:** Parts of the Guitar

**APPENDIX 2:** Guitar Types

**APPENDIX 3:** Holding the Guitar

**APPENDIX 4:** Technique and Warm-Up Exercises

**APPENDIX 5:** Tuning the Guitar

**APPENDIX 6:** Reading Music and Tablature Notation

**APPENDIX 7:** Reading Rhythm Notation

# Level 1: Notes on the 6th and 5th Strings

See appendix 6 for a complete overview of music notation and tablature.

1

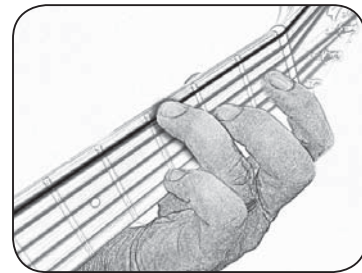
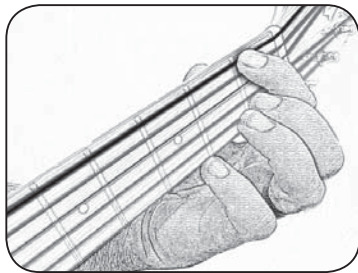
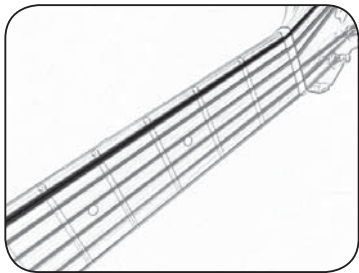


**FIRST NOTES: E, F, and G**—These notes are on the 6th string.

**E**  
Open

**F**  
1st Finger  
1st Fret

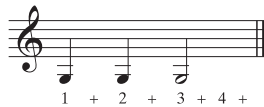
**G**  
3rd Finger  
3rd Fret



 E is under the 3rd ledger line* below the staff.	 F is on the 3rd ledger line below the staff.	 G is under the 2nd ledger line below the staff.
<b>T</b> <b>A</b> <b>B</b> 0	<b>T</b> <b>A</b> <b>B</b> 1	<b>T</b> <b>A</b> <b>B</b> 3

\*For more on ledger lines see appendix 6.

**QUARTER NOTE** ♩ = 1 count (1 +)  
**HALF NOTE** ♪ = 2 counts (1 + 2 +)



**4/4 TIME SIGNATURE**

$\frac{4}{4}$  = Four counts per measure  
 $\frac{4}{4}$  = A quarter note receives one count

## TECHNIQUE

- Right hand: Play all notes with a **DOWNSTROKE** of the pick ♮. Strike the string with a downward attack, towards the floor, coming to rest on the 5th string. The term **SIMILE** means to continue playing in the same manner.
- Left hand: To produce the best tone with the least amount of pressure, place your fingertip directly behind the fret, but not on top of it.

2

**FIRST NOTES**—Listen as your teacher counts and plays E, F, and G notes, then echo back each measure. (Count “1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and.”)

Teacher counts/plays	Students echo	Teacher counts/plays	Students echo	Teacher counts/plays	Students echo
♩ ♩ ♩ ♩	♩ ♩ ♩ ♩	♩ ♩ ♩ ♩	♩ ♩ ♩ ♩	♩ ♩ ♩ ♩	♩ ♩ ♩ ♩
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +
Open		1st finger		3rd finger	
<b>T</b> <b>A</b> <b>B</b> 0 0 0 0	<b>T</b> <b>A</b> <b>B</b> 0 0 0 0	<b>T</b> <b>A</b> <b>B</b> 1 1 1 1	<b>T</b> <b>A</b> <b>B</b> 1 1 1 1	<b>T</b> <b>A</b> <b>B</b> 3 3 3 3	<b>T</b> <b>A</b> <b>B</b> 3 3 3 3

3

**STAY DOWN**—Play F with your 1st finger, and hold it down as you play G. Don’t release the F until it’s absolutely necessary to play the open E.

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

4

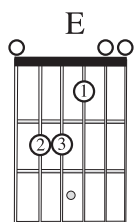
**FLAMENCO MOOD**—*Flamenco* is a type of Spanish folk music. Guitar is central to the Flamenco style, which has influenced many other styles of guitar from classical to rock.

A **CHORD** is three or more notes played at the same time. Guitarists often play combinations of chords and single notes.

5



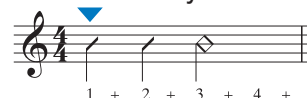
**FIRST CHORD: E**—To play the E chord, place your fingers as shown in the diagram, and *strum* through all six strings following the instructions below. (See appendix 6 for how to read chord diagrams.)



Notice that the lowest note of the E chord (the open 6th string) is E, which is also the name of the chord. The note or letter name of any chord is called the **ROOT**.

To **STRUM** the E chord, position your pick on the low E string, holding it with a very relaxed grip, and allow your hand to *fall* through all six strings, stopping after it passes through the first string (closest to the floor). Then return to astrum again. Don't *push* your hand through; just allow it to drop through the strings to create a single, even sound, not six separate notes.

**RHYTHM SLASHES** ( / ) indicate rhythm without showing pitch. They are often used in conjunction with chord diagrams to indicate the rhythmic strum pattern for the chords.



6

**FIRST STRUM**—This exercise introduces the E chord.

7

**MOVING CHORDS**—Slide the E shape up one fret and play all six strings to create a very interesting chord we will call F Flamenco. Make sure your fingers maintain the E shape as you slide up the strings. Playing all six open strings gives us a chord we will call G Flamenco. These two Flamenco-style chords are not “standard” guitar chord forms, but they sound great and are used in Flamenco guitar.

8



**FLAMENCO MOOD (duet)**—In this song Guitar 1 plays the melody and Guitar 2 plays the chords. Play along with the CD track. (On the CD, you will first hear the duet, followed by Guitar 2 alone then, Guitar 1 alone.)

# Level 5: Three-Chord Rock and Blues

## THREE-CHORD ROCK AND ROLL

Like the blues progression, many rock songs are based on just the I, IV, and V chords. The following common three-chord rock and roll chord pattern is found in countless songs including, "Wild Thing," "Hang On Sloop," "Twist and Shout," "Louie, Louie," "La Bamba," "Get Off of My Cloud," "Good Lovin'," "Love Is All Around," and "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling."

Tip: It's important to understand that all songs have many things in common, so whenever you learn a chord progression or standard rhythm pattern for one song, you are actually learning something that will apply to many, many other songs you play.

### KEY SIGNATURES

1 sharp (F#) = Key of G



2 sharps (F#, C#) = Key of D



3 sharps (F#, C#, G#) = Key of A



An eighth rest equals an eighth note:  $\text{r} = \text{note}$

66

**THREE-CHORD ROCK AND ROLL IN G**—This progression is excellent practice for learning to change chords in tempo.



Chord diagrams for G (21 3), C (32 1), D (132), C (32 1), G (21 3), C (32 1), D (132), C (32 1).

1 + 2 + (3) + 4 + 1 + 2 + (3) + 4 + 1 + 2 + (3) + 4 + 1 + 2 + (3) + 4 +

67

**THREE-CHORD ROCK AND ROLL IN D**—This example introduces an A chord. Use the indicated fingering.

Chord diagrams for D (132), G (21 3), A (213), G (21 3), D (132), G (21 3), A (213), G (21 3).

1 + 2 + (3) + 4 + 1 + 2 + (3) + 4 + 1 + 2 + (3) + 4 + 1 + 2 + (3) + 4 +

68

**THREE-CHORD ROCK AND ROLL IN A**—Here is the same common progression in the key of A. Sometimes there are common fingers when changing from one chord to another. Look for those and use the same fingers wherever possible.

- When playing the A chord, your 1st finger is on the 3rd string. Don't lift it as you change to the D chord.
- As you change from the D chord to the E chord, you can keep your 1st finger on the string, but slide it backwards one fret so it is in position to play the E chord. Then, place your 2nd and 3rd fingers down.

Chord diagrams for A (213), D (132), E (231), D (132), A (213), D (132), E (231), D (132).

1 + 2 + (3) + 4 + 1 + 2 + (3) + 4 + 1 + 2 + (3) + 4 + 1 + 2 + (3) + 4 +