

# SOUND™

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# INNOVATIONS

for **ELEMENTARY CLASS GUITAR**

An Innovative Method for Class Instruction

Jason **YEARY** | Aaron **STANG**

Congratulations on beginning to learn to play the guitar! With the help of your teacher, you'll be able to read music, play melodies, strum chords, perform songs with your friends, and sing while playing guitar. Your teacher will lead you through all these lessons, so be sure to pay close attention to the instruction. He or she may use videos and recordings to help you learn, but you can also use these extras on your own to help the learning process. Ask your teacher or an adult at home to help you get to the videos and audio online—they'll make learning the guitar much easier.

mp3

STREAMING  
VIDEO



*Sound Innovations for Elementary Class Guitar* is best used with the media available at [alfred.com/ElementaryGuitarSI](http://alfred.com/ElementaryGuitarSI). The site features streamable video lessons in which the author explains the lessons and performs the music in this book. Also on the site are downloadable MP3 recordings of all the music. Visit [alfred.com/ElementaryGuitarSI](http://alfred.com/ElementaryGuitarSI) to access this content.



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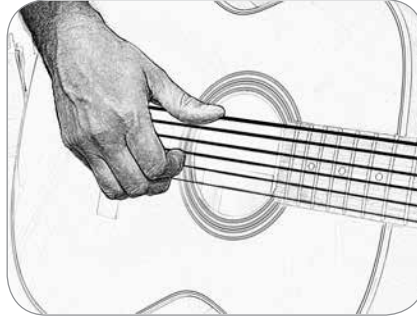
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Your teacher will demonstrate short musical examples. Watch and listen carefully. Then imitate and repeat back what you have heard.

## LESSONS 1A–1D | Plucking Strings with the Thumb

These first exercises use your right hand only (or left hand if you are using a left-handed guitar). You will pluck the strings with your thumb as shown in this picture.

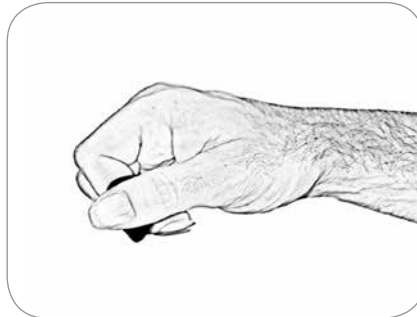


## OPTIONAL LESSON 1E | Using a Pick

In this lesson you will learn to use a guitar pick instead of your thumb. This is optional. The thumb works well and may be easier than learning to use a pick. However, a pick is very important for developing more advanced guitar technique and is especially useful for strumming chords.

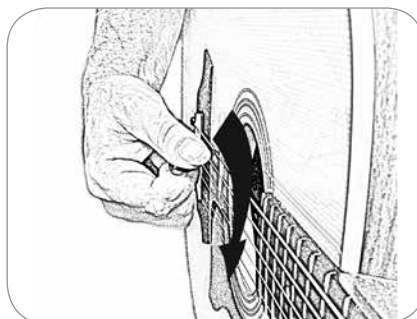
Picking refers to playing strings with a pick. Begin by playing all notes with a downstroke. Push the pick directly through the string, towards the floor. The pick should be held firmly between the thumb and index finger.

The teacher might ask you to play the thumb exercises again, except now with a pick.



## LESSONS 2A & 2B | Strumming

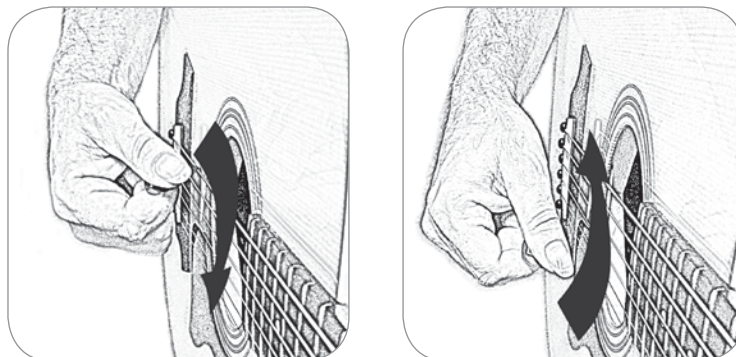
Strumming means playing all six strings at the same time. You can strum with your thumb or with a pick. Your teacher will demonstrate strumming the open strings of the guitar. Watch and listen carefully and then strum the exercises yourself.



## LESSONS 2C & 2D | Down-Up Strumming

In these exercises you will strum down and up. The *down-up strum* is one movement.

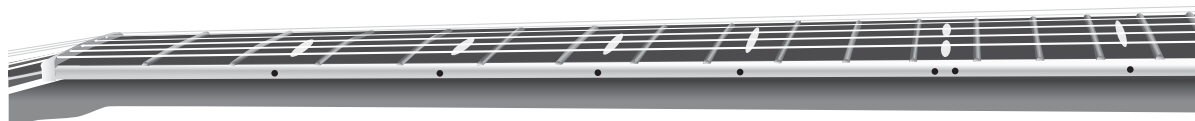
- Strum the open strings with a down-strum, and then strum through the strings with an up-strum as your hand returns to playing position.
- The hand strums down on the “count” and then strikes the strings again on the “&” that falls in between the counts (the up-strum).
- Strive for one fluid down-up motion—not two separate attacks.



## LESSONS 3 & 4 | Using Both Hands

We will now begin using both hands. Your right hand will pluck the strings and your left hand will press the strings down to the correct frets. Your teacher will direct you.

To help you find the correct frets all guitars have fret markers. Fret markers are located at the 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, and 12th frets.

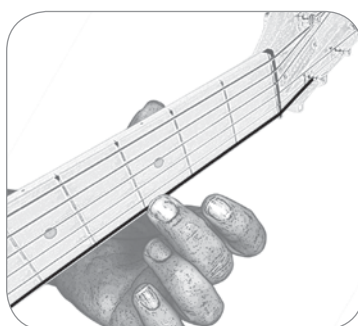


- Frets are numbered from the open string. An open-string note is called *open*. Next are the 1st fret, 2nd fret, 3rd fret, and so on.
- The markers on the fingerboard are used to locate frets faster. Many guitars have markers at frets 3, 5, 7, 9, and 12. Dots are often placed on the edge of the guitar neck and the 12th fret is marked with double dots.

Your teacher is going to ask you to play a G note at the 3rd fret of the 1st string. You can use your index finger, your middle finger, or your ring finger. See the diagrams below.



Index Finger



Middle Finger



Ring Finger

# LESSON 5 | Playing Songs from Tablature

- Tablature (or TAB) uses six lines representing the six strings of the guitar. The top line is string 1 (the one that is highest in pitch).
- The numbers indicate the frets that need to be fretted in order to sound the melody. They do not indicate which finger to use.
- We've already played the first song below, "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Now we will play and read it in tablature notation.
- Use finger 3 (ring) to play fret 4, and use finger 1 (index) to play fret 2. Slide finger 3 up the string to play the note on the 7th fret.
- After "Mary Had a Little Lamb," follow the teacher's directions for the rest of the songs.

### Example 1.15 MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB

Mar - y had a lit - tle lamb, lit - tle lamb, lit - tle lamb.

4 2 0 2 | 4 4 4 | 2 2 2 | 4 7 7

5 Mar - y had a lit - tle lamb who's fleece was white as snow.

4 2 0 2 | 4 4 4 4 | 2 2 4 2 | 0

### Example 1.16 HOT CROSS BUNS

Hot cross buns, hot cross buns, one a pen - ny, two a pen - ny, hot cross buns.

4 2 0 | 4 2 0 | 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 2 | 4 2 0

### Example 1.17 TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR

Twin - kle, twin - kle lit - tle star, how I won - der what you are.

0 0 7 7 | 9 9 7 | 5 5 4 4 | 2 2 0

### Example 1.18 TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR (String 2)

Twin - kle, twin - kle lit - tle star, how I won - der what you are.

0 0 7 7 | 9 9 7 | 5 5 4 4 | 2 2 0

# LESSON 6 | Playing Songs from Tablature on Multiple Strings

## Example 1.19 HOT CROSS BUNS (in G)

Hot cross buns, hot cross buns, one a pen - ny, two a pen - ny, hot cross buns.

In this version of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" you will play the melody on several strings instead of just one. Your teacher will demonstrate and explain.

## Example 1.20 TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR

Twin - kle, twin - kle lit - tle star, how I won - der what you are.

<sup>5</sup> Up a - bove the world so high, like a dia - mond in the sky,

<sup>9</sup> twin - kle, twin - kle lit - tle star, how I won - der what you are.

Follow your teacher's directions for the songs on the next page—"Jingle Bells" and "Ode to Joy."