

Open POSITION BASICS

YOUR FIRST 12 WEEKS ON GUITAR

BY JUNE BIRNIE

Introduction to Rhythm

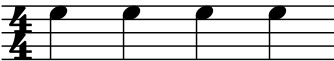


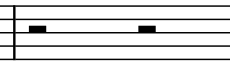
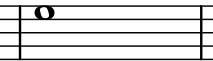
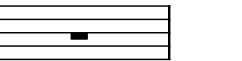
(quarter notes, half notes, and whole notes)

June Birnie

The **time signature** lets us know how many beats are in each measure and what kind of note we use to count each beat. Most music we work on is going to be in 4/4 time. The 4 on top lets us know that there are 4 beats in each measure and the 4 on the bottom lets us know that one quarter note counts as a single beat.

The vertical lines you see between groups of notes are called **bar lines**. They are there to mark the end of one **measure** (also called a bar) and the beginning of the next. Generally speaking a measure will have the same number of beats

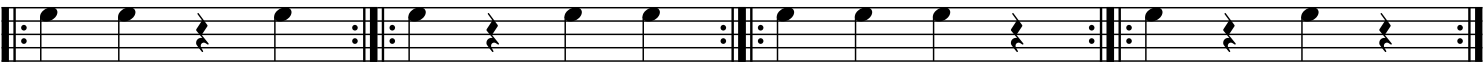
Below we have 3 different lengths of note/rest. Quarter, half, and whole.

Quarter Notes (One count each)	Quarter Note Rests	Half Notes (2 counts each)	Half Note Rests	Whole Note (Four counts each)	Whole note rest
					

Let's play some basic rhythms by plucking our open 1st string. Also be sure to count "one, two, three, four" out loud as you play. We will be using only down picks for now.

Each exercise is one measure and the double dots you see on either side of each measure means that it repeats, so play each measure over and over without pausing until you are able to perform it consistently. Be sure to mute the strings with your strumming hand during the rests.

1) 2) 3) 4)

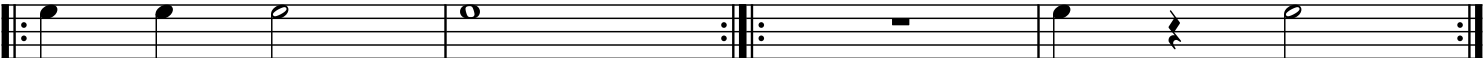


5) 6) 7) 8)



Now let's do some that are two measures long!

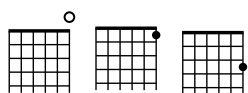
9) 10)



11) 12)



Reading on 1 String

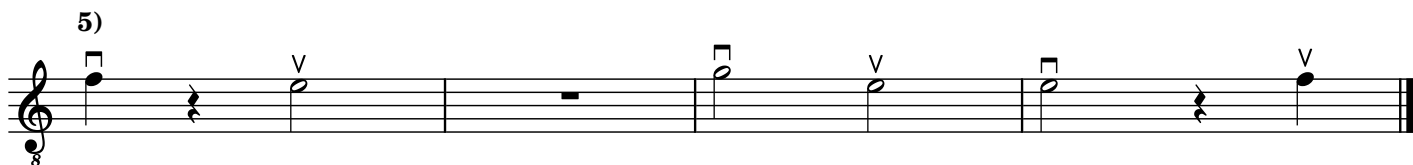
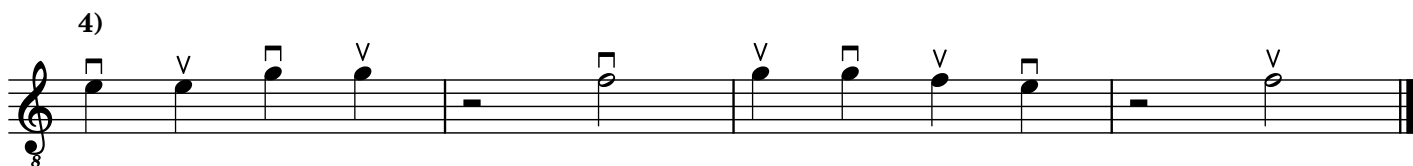
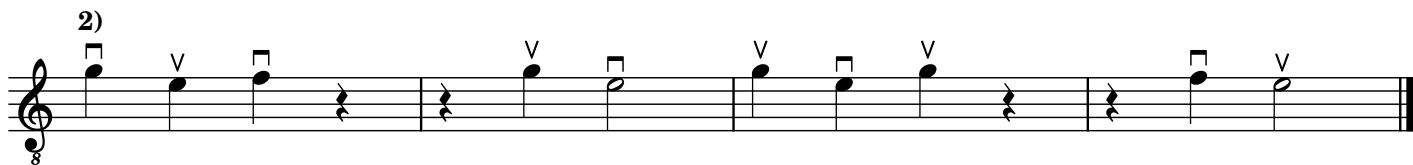
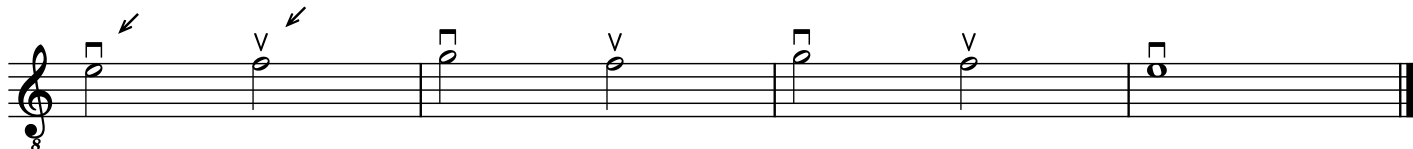


E F G



Pay close attention to the picking directions. We want to internalize the habit of alternating between down-picks and up-picks when playing on a single string.

1) Symbol for Down-pick Symbol for Up-pick



Symmetrical Picking

The Symmetrical Picking Technique Requires an understanding of three basic rules:

- 1) If playing multiple notes on the same string, alternate between up-picks and down-picks.
- 2) If changing strings toward the floor, the first pick on the new string will be a down-pick
- 3) If changing strings toward the ceiling, the first pick on the new string will be a up-pick

When most people start playing they have a tendency to only use downpicks. Our goal should be to be equally confident playing up-picks and down-picks.

Here are some basic excercises on two strings to help you internalize these principles.

1) Single strokes

Musical notation for single strokes exercise. It shows a single staff with two strings (T and B) indicated. The first string has a note with an up-pick symbol (u) above it. The second string has a note with a down-pick symbol (d) above it.

2) Double Strokes

3) Triple Strokes

4) Quadruple Strokes

Musical notation for double, triple, and quadruple strokes exercises. It shows three measures. The first measure is labeled '2' and contains two double strokes (u-d and d-u). The second measure is labeled '3' and contains three triple strokes (u-d-u, d-u-d, u-d-u). The third measure is labeled '4' and contains four quadruple strokes (u-d-u-d, d-u-d-u, u-d-u-d, d-u-d-u).

Now let's do what I call "3 on 3", "4 on 4" and "5 on 5"

5) 3 on 3

Musical notation for 3 on 3 exercise. It shows a single staff with two strings (T and B) indicated. The first string has three notes with up-pick symbols (u) above them. The second string has three notes with down-pick symbols (d) above them.

6) 4 on 4

Musical notation for 4 on 4 exercise. It shows a single staff with two strings (T and B) indicated. The first string has four notes with up-pick symbols (u) above them. The second string has four notes with down-pick symbols (d) above them.

6) 5 on 5

Musical notation for 5 on 5 exercise. It shows a single staff with two strings (T and B) indicated. The first string has five notes with up-pick symbols (u) above them. The second string has five notes with down-pick symbols (d) above them.

Musical notation for 21 exercise. It shows a single staff with two strings (T and B) indicated. The first string has 21 notes with alternating up-pick (u) and down-pick (d) symbols above them. The second string has 21 notes with down-pick symbols (d) above them.

Chords on 3 strings

Fingerings ->

1 32 3 1 132

*Note:
this isn't technically a full G major Chord,
But it will be the foundation for building chords
on more than 3 strings

Slash notation is a way of writing rhythms when writing every single individual note is unnessesary.
You will often see it used for a rhythm guitar part that accompanies the main melody.
Just think about them as blockier looking notes that only communicate rhythm

6

Two chord vamps
Strum the chord once per measure
(whole notes)

12

C G A E

1 2 3 4

16

D A G D

12 Bar Blues (Key of A)

20

A D A A

24

D D A A

28

E D A E

Hey Joe - Jimi Hendrix

Note that these songs have been simplified greatly.
The goal here is to get used to playing along with the track and practice keeping constant and confident time

♩ = 85

32

C G D A E

1 2 3 4

Chords on 4 strings

5 Chord progressions and rhythms to practice

7 Dm G C

Ties: When notes are "tied" together like this we treat them both as if they are one long note. This often occurs when we want a note to cross the bar line

11 Dm A

15 A D Dm

19 C D G

23 A Dm E

Another Brick In the Wall - Pink Floyd

♩ = 105

Staccato: When you see a dot above a chord (or note) we play it very short and fast. This is done with the strumming hand, muting the chord moments after it is strummed, but not so fast that the chord doesn't ring out at all.

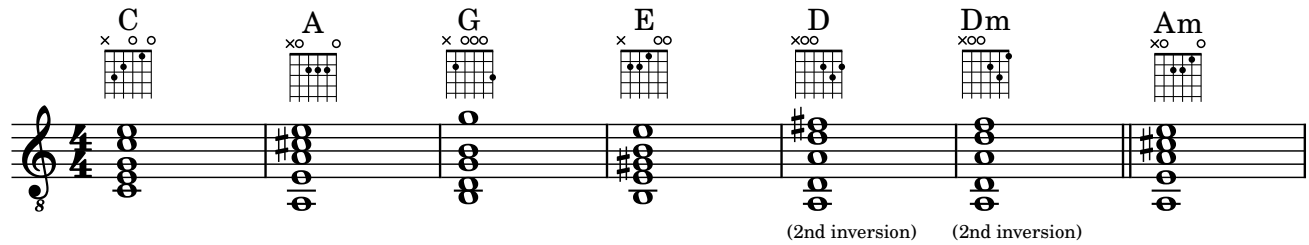
A 27 Dm

B 31 G

C 35 Dm

Form: A A A A B C C [lay out 2 measures] A A A A B C C A (Repeats until fadeout)

Chords on 5 Strings



Chord diagrams and musical notation for C, A, G, E, D, Dm, and Am on a 5-string guitar. The D and Dm chords are labeled as (2nd inversion).

8 Am C Dm G



12 E G A Am



16 Am C G E



20 G C Am D



24 C G Am Dm



Knockin' on Heaven's Door - Bob Dylan

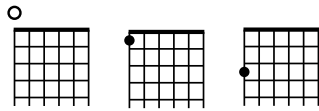
♩ = 65

28 G D Am G D C



Repeats for entire song

Reading on 6 strings



E F G

8

6

14

We Shall Overcome

$\text{♩} = 80$

21

25

29

33

Chords on 6 Strings

Mute the low E with your thumb on the chords C, A, Am, D, and Dm and strum through all 6 strings!

♩ = 140

505 - The Arctic Monkeys

Yellow Submarine - The Beatles

Note: The original recording of this song is played with the guitars tuned down 1 half step. (Eb Ab Db Gb Bb Eb) So tune accordingly if you wish to play along

A1 ♩ = 110

A2

B

Form: A1 A1 A2 A2 B B A1 A1 A2 A2 B B A1 A1 A2 A2 B B B(fade)

12 Bar Blues (key of A minor)

an interesting feature of having a 12 bar form is that it allows you to use a 6 beat rhythm that repeats asynchronously with the division of the measures. 12 bars = 36 beats and 36 is divisible by both 4 and 6. MATH!!