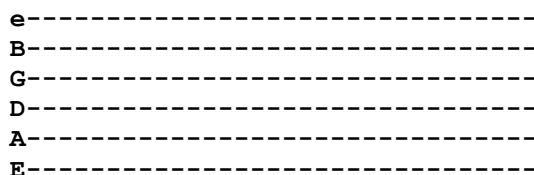


Reading Guitar Tab

Guitar tablature (tab for short) is a system of notation that graphically represents strings and frets of the guitar fret board. Each note is represented by a number which indicates the fret to play and the appropriate string.

The Basics of Reading Guitar Tab

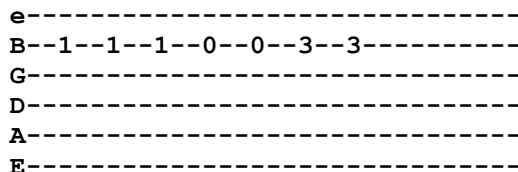
Tabs are written in lines, each line representing a string on the guitar. The thickest string being the bottom most line (E) and the thinnest string being the topmost (e). I like using the lower case e to illustrate the thinnest e string.



Numbers are placed on these lines to represent finger positions on the guitar fret board. If you read the diagram below you would play this on a guitar by putting your finger tip in the middle of the first fret on the 2nd (B) string (the second thickest string from the bottom) which is a C note.

As musical notes this would read as follows C C C B B D D.

The 'zero' represents playing an open string which means playing the B string with no finger position on the fretboard.



The one shortcoming of guitar tab is it doesn't usually represent how long to hold a note or rhythm very well. Although some good tab writers will represent it by how much space is between each note. Tab works best if you listen to the song for guidance on timing then read the notes and practice it.

Most of the music I will give you will have the staff (notes) as well as the tabs as shown on the example below (Crazy Train by Ozzie Osborne) which tells you how long to hold each note: