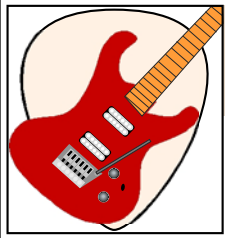




YouTube notes

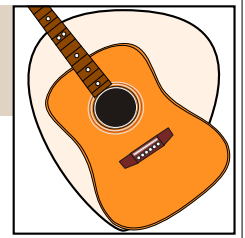
Note names for guitar





YouTube notes

www.youtube.com/user/gchguitaracademy
www.ebooks4guitar.com



Understanding musical note names

There are 7 notes, which are named after the first 7 letters of the alphabet.

A B C D E F G

These note names are repeated over and over.

A B C D E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E F G

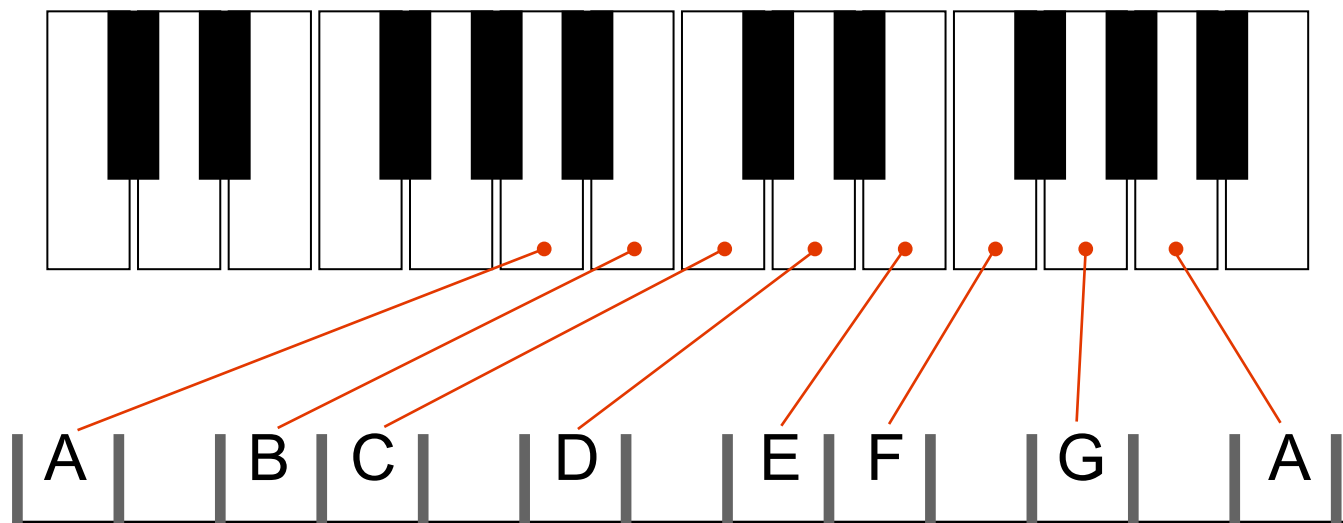
Musically speaking these notes aren't equally distributed, so when looking at the way they appear on the neck of the guitar, the B, C and the E, F are closer to one another. In other words on the neck of the guitar B and C and E and F are only one fret apart whereas the other notes are two frets apart.

A B C D E F G A

Notes and frets



Because this distribution of the notes is a musical rule, the same spacing appears on most other musical instruments. On a piano or keyboard it is easy to see, because the B, C and E, F are next to one another with no black notes whereas all the other notes have a black note in between them. This is why a keyboard has the now famous pattern of black and white notes.



One interesting thing this leads to is the fact that there is no B#, E#, Cb or Fb, we will look more closely at sharps and flats later. On a piano or keyboard the sharps and flats are represented by black notes.

Step One

The first step in learning the names of the notes on the guitar is to memorize the names of the open strings. To help remember the string names you can use a saying.

Here are a couple of the more common sayings. Find one you like and memorize it.

E A D G B E

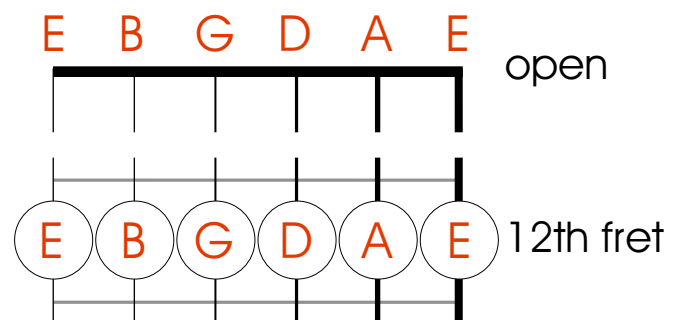
Every Angry Dog Grows & Bites Eventually

Eddie Ate Dynamite, Good-Bye Eddie

Elephants And Dogs God Blesses Everything

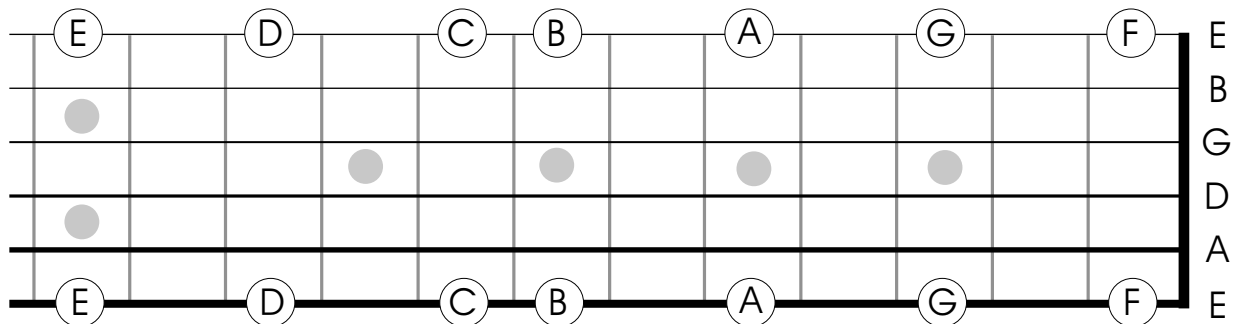
The open string notes names repeat on the 12th fret because the 12th fret is an octave above the open position.

Because the 12th fret position is important it is marked with an oversized fret marker or a double dot on most guitars.

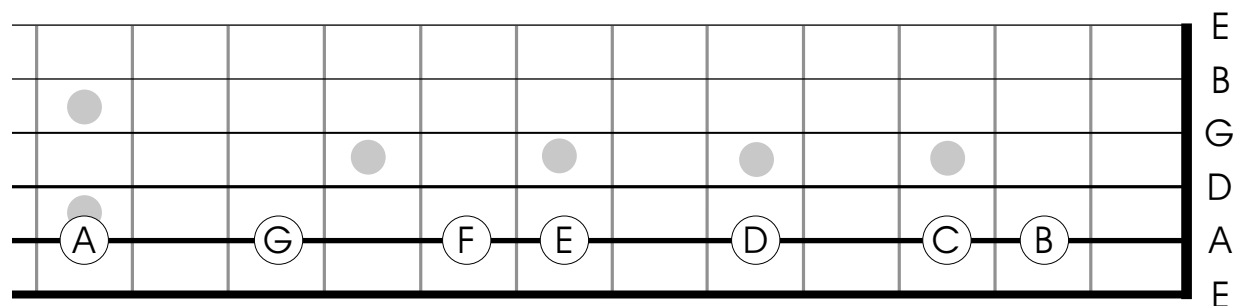


Step Two

The next step is to learn the note names on the bottom 2 strings, these are important even if you don't want to learn to read music because many chords and scales take their names from the bottom 2 strings. The note names are the same on the bottom and the top string because they are both E strings.



Once you can remember the note names on the E string you can move on to the A string. Again you will notice that the B,C and E,F don't have a space.



Once you know the names of the strings and the note names on the bottom 2 strings, you pretty much know all you need for the sake of contemporary music. However you can go on to memorize the other strings one by one if you choose.

Step Three

Finding all the notes from the E & A string

If you choose to memorize the notes on the bottom 2 strings only, you can find most of the note names for the remaining strings using octaves. An octave is where the note name repeats at a higher or lower pitch.

See these examples below for a better understanding of this.

1 A B C D E F G 2 A B C D E F G 3 A B C D E F G 4 A B C D E F G 5 A

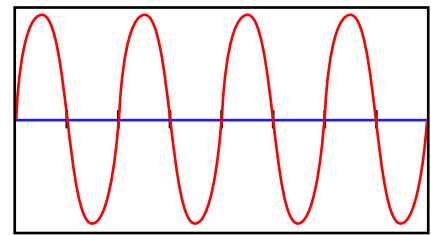
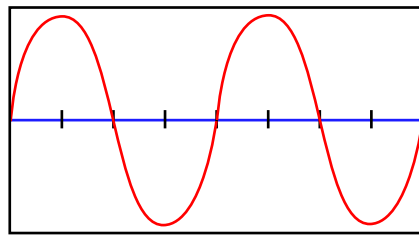
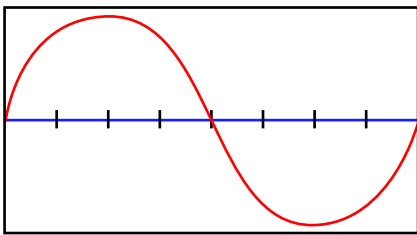
- 2 is one octave higher than 1
- 2 is one octave lower than 3
- 3 is two octaves higher than 1
- 3 is two octaves lower than 5
- 5 is four octaves higher than 1

From a scientific point of view, an octave up is when the frequency is doubled and an octave down is when the frequency halved.

1 octave down

reference

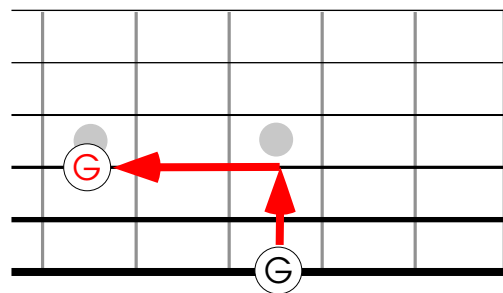
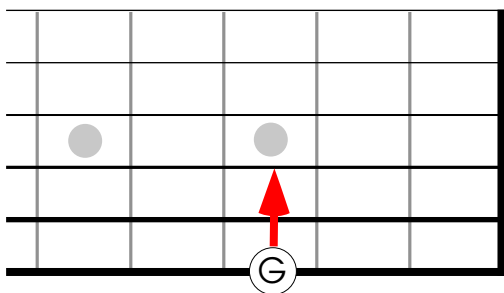
1 octave up



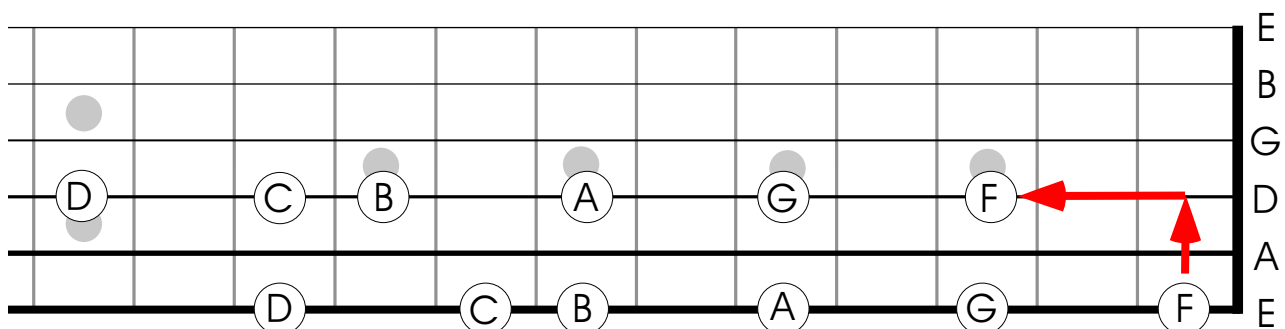
The octave up from any note on the bottom E string can be found using a simple formula;
2 strings up, 2 frets up

2 strings up

2 frets up



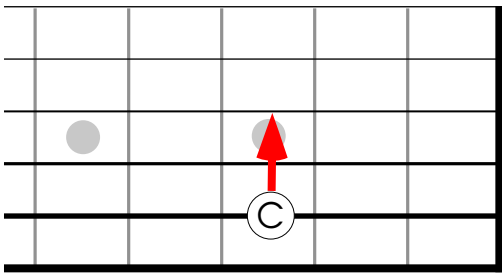
This formula works on every note on the E string.



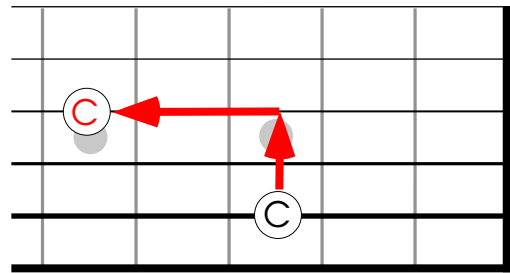
This formula also works on the A string.

2 strings up, 2 frets up

2 strings up



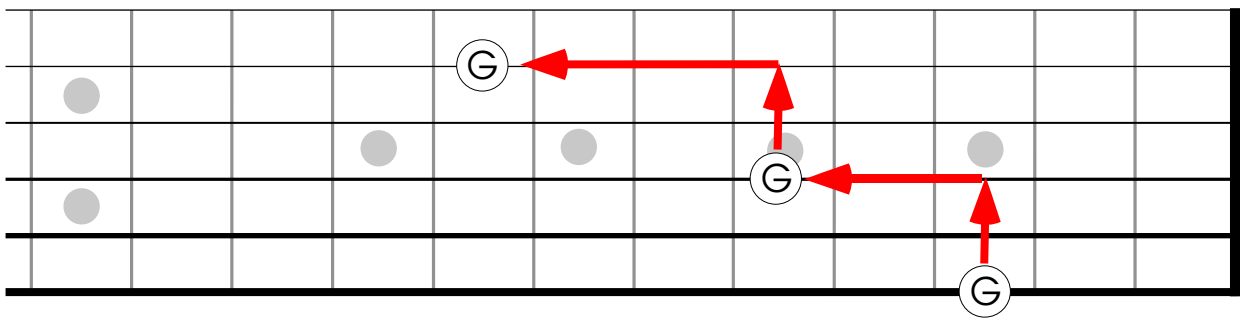
2 frets up



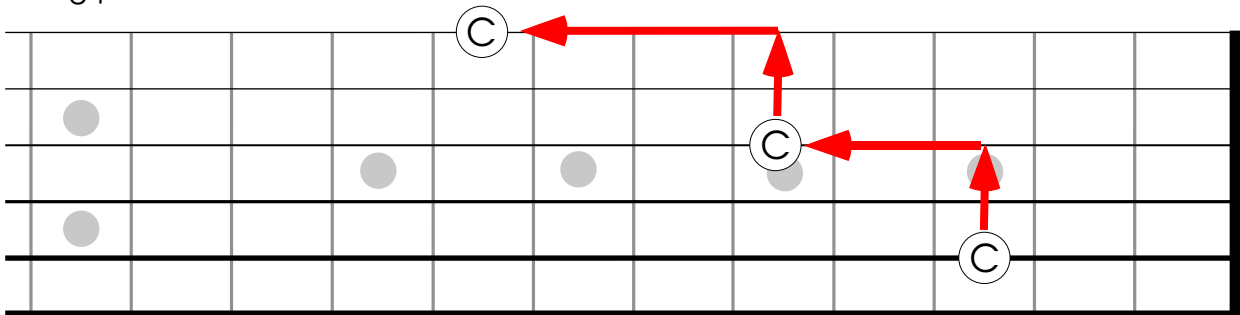
You can expand this method to find the second octave by using the formula 2 strings up, 3 frets up. This expanded formula also works on the A string making it possible name most of the notes on the guitar relatively quickly and easily. The complete formula is as follows.

2 strings up, 2 frets up - 2 strings up, 3 frets up

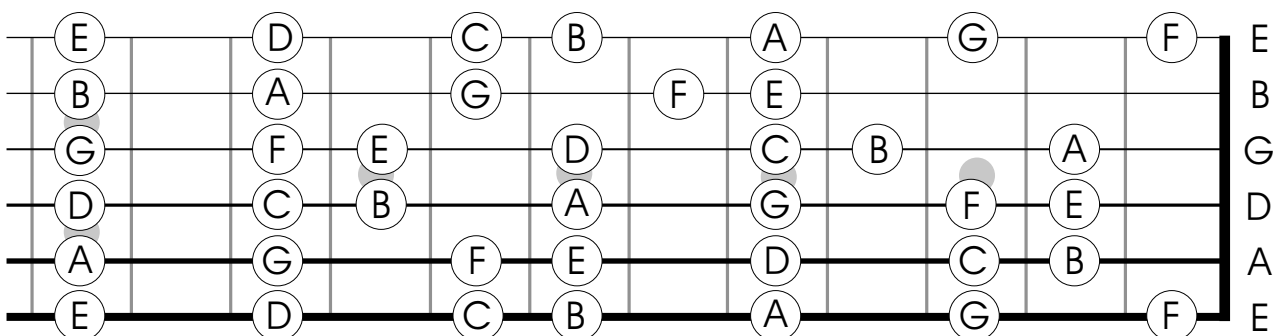
E string plus 2 octaves



A string plus 2 octaves



All the notes you should easily be able to learn

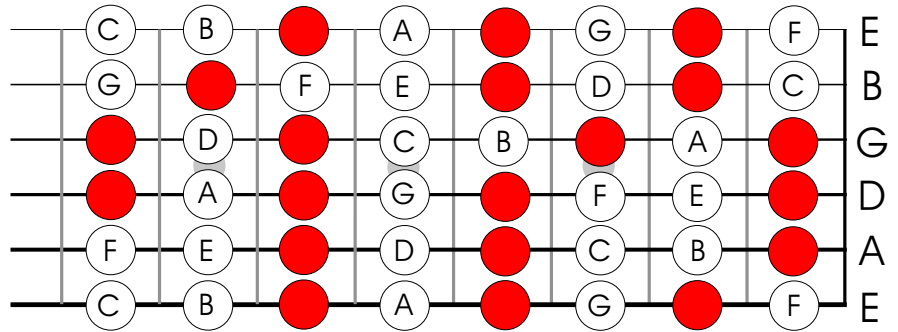


Sharps and flats

sharp = a semitone up = a fret up

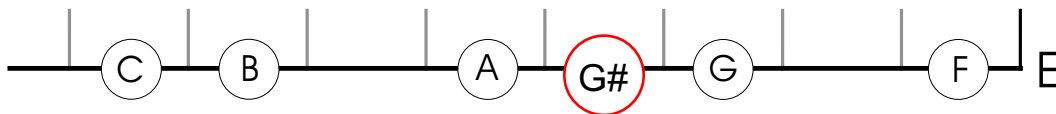
b flat = a semitone down = a fret down

On the neck map we have looked at so far we have lots of spaces that I have marked here red. These spaces are the sharps and flats and there is good reason I have left them as spaces at the moment.

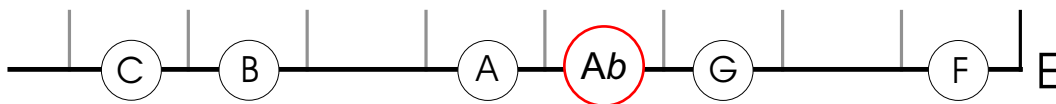


Using the definition at the top of the page we can find all the sharps and flats, for example to find 'G#' on the bottom 'E' string we simply move the 'G' up by one fret to the 4th fret. However, there is a complication you should be aware of. If you now look for the 'Ab' on the bottom 'E' string you move the 'A' from the 5th fret down by one fret and it ends up on the same fret as the 'G#'.

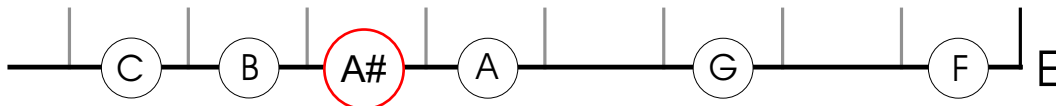
'G#' = 'G' UP by one fret



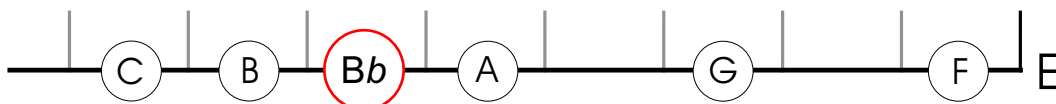
'Ab' = 'A' DOWN by one fret



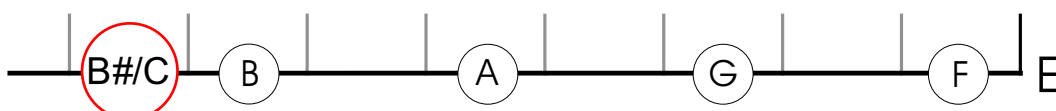
'A#' = 'A' UP by one fret



'Bb' = 'B' DOWN by one fret



'B#' = 'B' UP by one fret

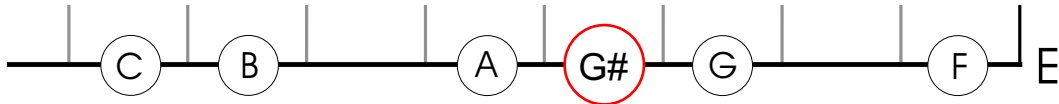


When is a note called sharp or flat

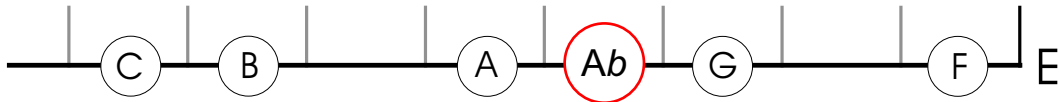
Using this definition you can find any sharp or flat note that you are looking for, however actually naming a note based on the fret is a little more complicated because it depends on the key signature. If you don't know the key signature of a tune you can't tell accurately whether the note is a sharp or flat.

For example

The 4th fret is 'G#' in the key of 'A' major, 'B' major, 'F#' major or 'C#' major.



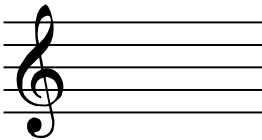
The 4th fret is 'Ab' in the key of 'Eb' major, 'Ab' major, 'Db' major, 'Gb' major or 'Cb' major.



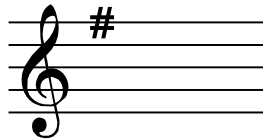
If you don't know about or understand key signatures, please learn them or revise them if you want to accurately name the frets without a previous reference.

List of key signatures

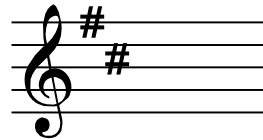
C major



G major



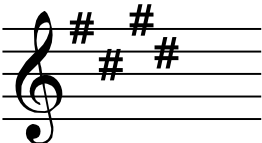
D major



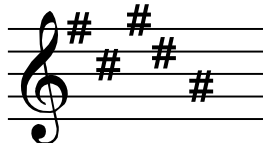
A major



E major



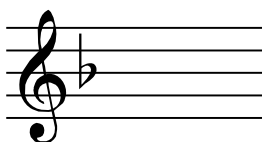
B major



F# major



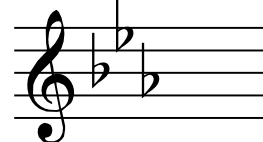
F major



Bb major



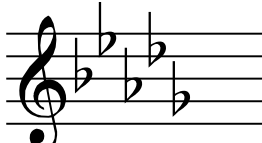
Eb major



Ab major



Db major



Gb major



Cb major





neck map

