

## Introduction

I do not take credit for the exercises or instruction in this brief book. I learned it all with research from others that desired to help guitarist in their journey.

We all know that learning the notes of the guitar is something every guitar player should learn. Think about when you first started learning guitar. Many train in a school, in which case they did learn the notes. Then again, many guitarist are self taught. In my years of playing guitar I never bothered to learn notes that I did not think I would need.

Knowing the notes on the 6th and 5th string will be an advantage to learning bar chords. Most guitarist do not journey farther than that. As a self taught guitar player, I only learned the notes on those strings because of playing chords. It was not a practice that I intended to learn. Then with the use of playing scales as patterns I never thought that I would need to know all the notes.

I spent a lot of time learning rhythm techniques, strumming patterns, and songs. I was not a very good lead guitarist and spent more time writing music than I did learning to play lead. I was in many bands as I grew up and relied on my pentatonic patterns to play lead guitar.

Then after 30 years, and placing the guitar down for many of those as I played the role of life, I got a spark again. The spark I got was not for another but for myself to pick up where I left off.

This led to a guitarist that wanted to improve his playing and knowledge of the guitar. There are several steps involved in my journey to broaden my knowledge. One of them started with the circle of 5ths. Man did I wish I knew about that when I was younger. Makes figuring out and transcribing songs painless!

The next one I wanted to venture toward is learning all the notes on the fretboard. There are many reasons behind wanting to do this and for me, it is wanting to improve the way I play lead guitar.

So enough of this introduction stuff, let's get into the meat and potatoes!

## A Neck and Pesky Notes!

There is a difference in knowing the fretboard and internalizing the fretboard. If someone plays a note do you know what that note is immediately? Will it take you a minute to count up to the note? If you know what the note is then this is not the write training for you. If you want to learn to internalize the fretboard then stick around for the show. I hope this will help you if not get you all the way there.

Knowing the fretboard is the first step in our journey. I will instruct you in using a set of octave shapes to identify individual notes. I want you to understand the use of the octave shapes that I outline below and put them into practice first. Get comfortable with the use of them as they are the first step to learning the notes on the fretboard.

Internalizing the fretboard requires a bit of practice. I will lay out simple exercises to help you along the way. Soon you will with little to no hesitation know the note on the fretboard with little to no effort.

There are a few things to remember as we progress through the exercises. First I would like to say, "Do not try to learn everything in a couple of hours". Guitarist that have time to practice for four hours or more a day, I would suggest an hour of the exercises. For typical guitarist that only have an hour or two a day, I would suggest 30 to 45 minutes max.

Think of each exercise as what you will work on that day. Then on the next day continue with the same exercise until you have mastered it. Some exercises are easier than others. If you remember to practice it until the exercise becomes second nature to you.

Read the directions for each exercise. I will lay out a few images to better explain the steps for the first few exercises.

Please take note that we never play an open string in any exercise. Play the string that is open on the 12th fret. Remember that I would rather hear a fret buzz than to hear that open note.

Use a metronome on most of the exercises. If you do not have a metronome at home, use a website for timing. <https://www.metronomeonline.com>

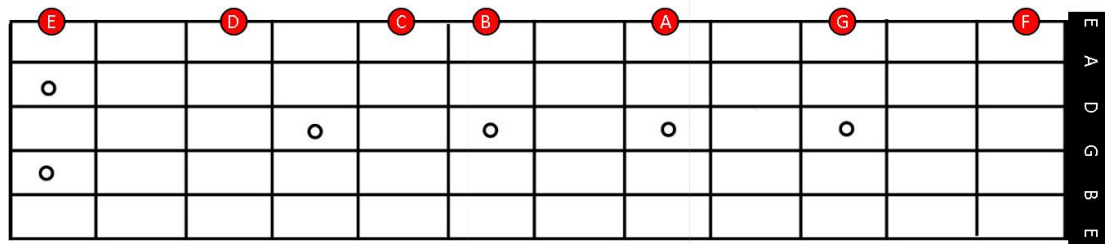
It is important to say out loud the note name you are hitting. This will help you with memorizing the note.

We will only use whole notes throughout the exercise. Sharps and flats are one fret higher or lower than the whole note. Later if you would like to include sharps and flats that is your decision.

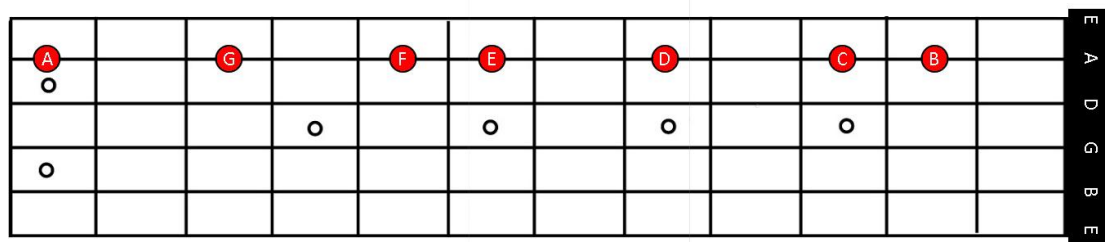
## Learn the Notes On the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Strings

We need to know the notes on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> string. It does not matter if you need to count up the musical alphabet to get there. Remember that there are no sharps and flats between E and F as well as B and C.

### 6<sup>th</sup> String Whole Notes



### 5<sup>th</sup> String Whole Notes



As I stated before we do not need to know sharps or flats. I will give you a brief overview of what a sharp or flat is. A sharp and a flat are the same note. It is referred to as a sharp when you need to raise the note by a semitone. If you need to lower the note by a semitone it is referred to as a flat.

So as long as you understand the musical alphabet. If you are able to count up the alphabet skipping where sharps and flats will be, we are ready to begin our journey.

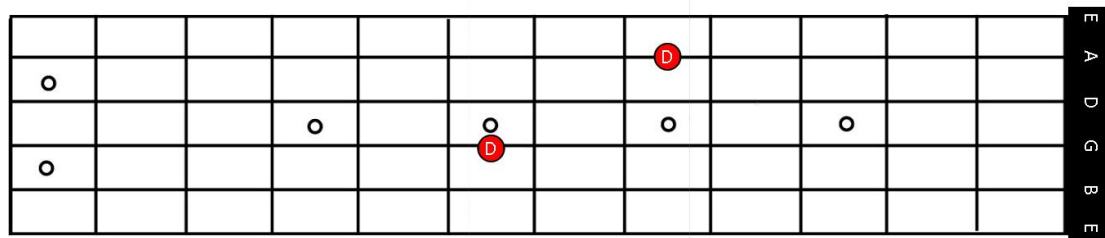
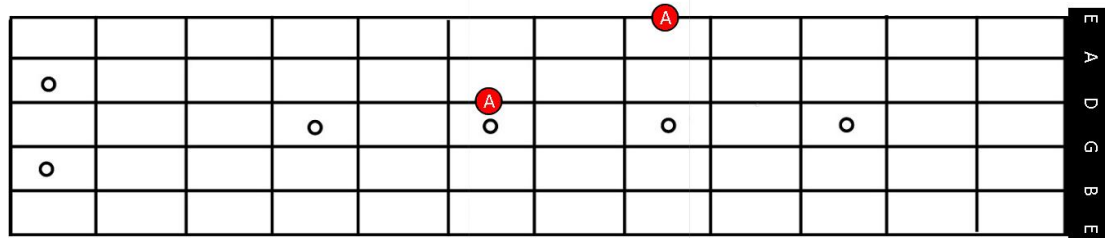
## Octave Shapes

An octave is the distance between two notes with the same name. This may be higher or lower on the registry. With this knowledge we may use octave shapes on the guitar to find the same note higher or lower on the registry.

There are a total of 4 octave shapes that I use to help me identify the same note on the guitar. These shapes may be used either forward or reverse direction. You will have the opportunity to learn this as of the last lessons. Memorize these shapes there are only 4 of them and they will be very important to you as a guitarist.

### Octave Shape 1:

The first shape is to start with a note on the 6<sup>th</sup> string. Move two frets higher and two strings down. This is the first octave shape and may be used from the 6<sup>th</sup> string and from the 5<sup>th</sup> string.

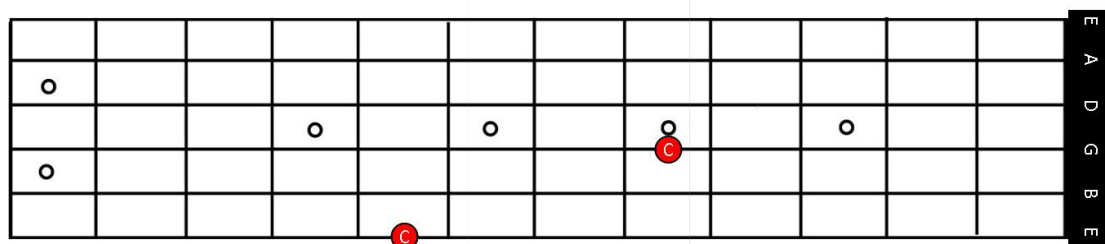
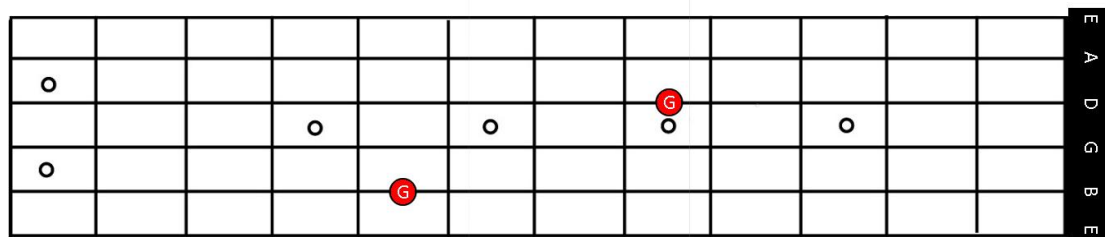


Remember that this shape works backwards as well if it is a note on the D or G String. Get comfortable looking at it from both positions. This fact holds true for all the octave positions.

### Octave Shape 2:

Now if we are on the 4<sup>th</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> string the next octave shape comes into play.

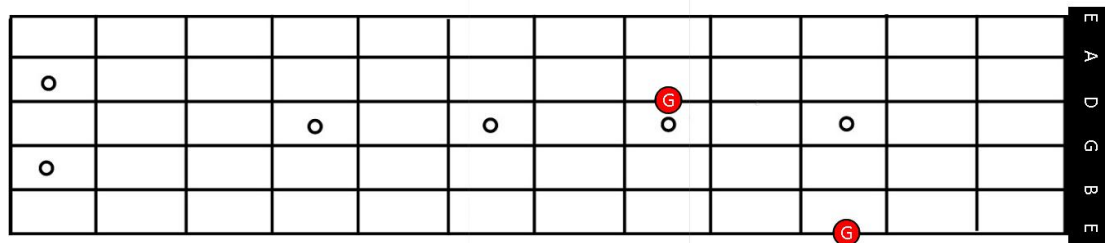
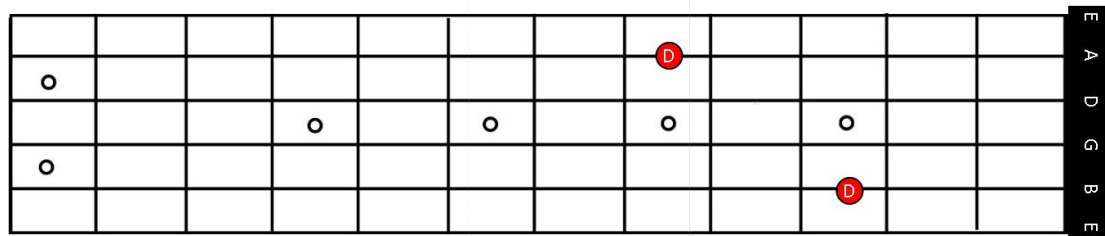
3 frets up and 2 strings down



### Octave Shape 3:

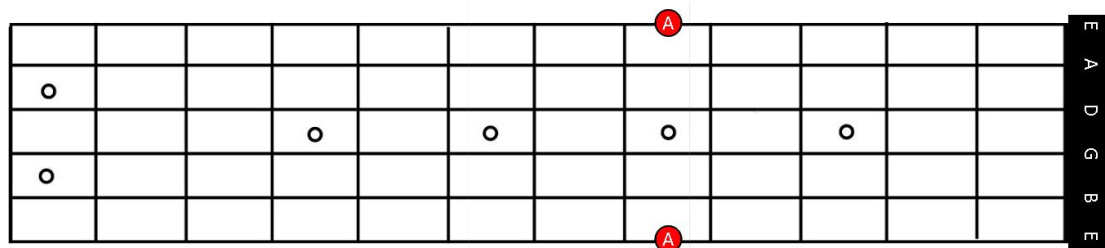
The third shape applies to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> string.

2 frets down 3 strings down.



### Octave Position 4:

The 1<sup>st</sup> string and the 6<sup>th</sup> string are tuned the same in standard tuning. The 1<sup>st</sup> string is 2 octaves higher than the 6<sup>th</sup> string.



## Summary

In summary we have learned the names of the notes on the 5th and 6th string. We have also learned how to identify any note on the fretboard with the use of octave positions. I would take some time to familiarize yourself with the above information and put it to use often. Remember that if you are naming notes on the guitar to say them out loud so you can hear it when your finger is on that note.

Now it's a matter of learning to internal our knowledge. You are now able to name any note on the fretboard with the use of an octave pattern. Now it's time to dive a little deeper. Let's get some practice modules going to help you learn to internalize the fretboard.

## Internalize the Fretboard

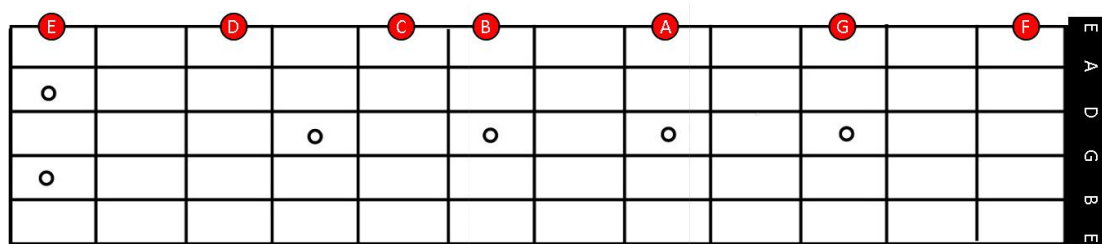
Internalizing the fretboard comes with a list of exercises. They are not difficult exercises to follow, but you need to do a few things that I mentioned early in this booklet.

1. Use a metronome ( <https://www.metronomeonline.com> )
2. Speak each note out loud as you play it.
3. Use the 12 fret to play all open notes.
4. Do not worry about sharps or flats.

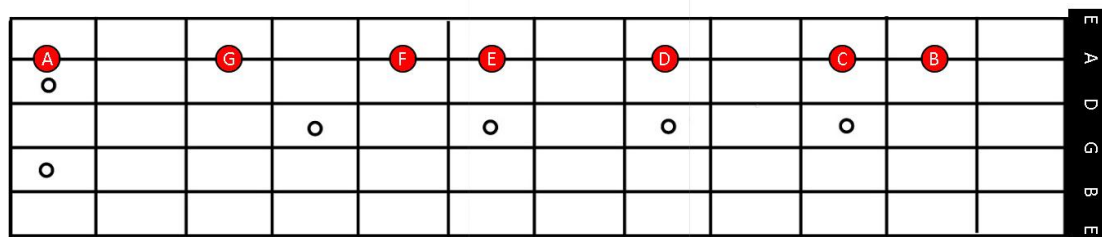
Exercise 1:

On the 6<sup>th</sup> string only play random notes and call out the note as you play it. Just call out any random note and find it. Do not use note order, just call them out randomly. Try not to hit a sharp or a flat in the process.

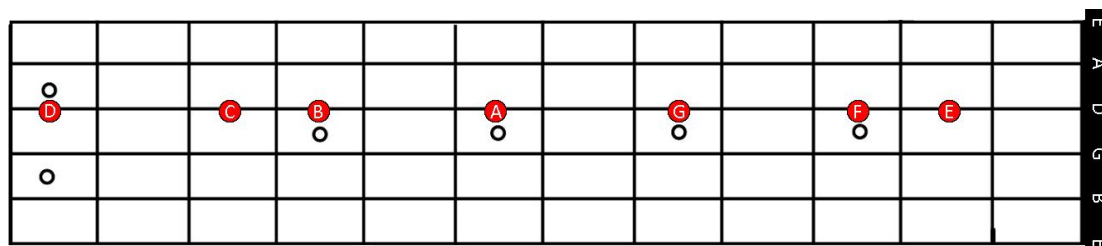
Do this exercise until you are confident that if I were to call out, "C", you could nail it in an instant. Remember use the 12<sup>th</sup> fret for E, do not use open notes.



After you are confident with the 6<sup>th</sup> string move to the 5<sup>th</sup> string and do the same thing.



We will continue with this exercise for every string. Here are the notes on the 4<sup>th</sup> string.



[illegible]

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

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

In this exercise we are going to play a note moving vertically down the neck. The first note will be played on the 6<sup>th</sup> string, the second on the 5<sup>th</sup>, the third on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and so on. When you get to the 1<sup>st</sup> string go back up the neck to the 6<sup>th</sup> string.

- ### Example notes to hit in the key of E

E					E						
o										E	
			o		o		o		o		
o			E								
E							E				

### Exercise 3:

This is the same exercise as number 2 above. The difference is that we will play 3 notes per string. If the key is E then you will play E, F, and G. As before use a metronome and select different keys. Call out the name of each note as you play it.

This exercise will help you play a simple 3 note lick at every position on the neck.

### Exercise 4:

In this exercise we are going to stop things up quite a bit. There is a random note generator located at <https://random.bretpimentel.com> Go into the options and turn off all sharps and flats. Next tell it to only generate 2 notes.

Now with the metronome play the random 2 notes on each string as before. Play the two notes on the 6<sup>th</sup> string, followed by the same two notes on the 5<sup>th</sup> string. Continue to the first string and then work your way back to the 6<sup>th</sup> string.

Remember to say the note as you play it and try to keep in time with the metronome. Use the 12 fret for any open strings.

### Exercise 5:

Almost the same as the previous exercise. This time you will play the first note on the 6<sup>th</sup> string, and the second note on the 5<sup>th</sup> string. Continue alternating notes to string 1 and back to the 6<sup>th</sup> string again.

### Exercise 6:

Now we will switch the random note generator to 3 notes. Play all notes on each string from 6 to 1 and back to 6.

Remember all exercises are the same. Use 12 fret instead of open strings and keep the metronome going. Be sure to say each note out loud as you progress.

### Exercise 7:

Still using 3 notes on the random note generator play one note per string all the way down to string 1 and back to string 6. Remember to use a metronome and to call out the name of each note that you play.



Last exercise:

For the last exercise we are going to use the 4 different octave patterns to find notes on the fretboard. By this point of your training it should almost be second nature to you what the note on the fretboard is.

Simply pick a random note on the neck of the guitar and with the use of the octave patterns both forward and reverse find all the notes on the guitar neck.

## In Conclusion

I wrote this as a way to help guitarist wanted to dive deeper into guitar. I believe giving them a simple way to remember the notes on the guitar neck will help them along the way.

Keeping in time with a metronome is a fantastic method. At first the timing might seem a little fast in which you may slow down the metronome. Get to the point where you desire to speed up the metronome.

Additional things you should think about is picking. Use alternate picking technique as you play each note. Becoming familiar with alternate picking is a nice way to increase pick speed later on.

If you managed to read this far, I will be the first to say that I am impressed. Many people will not bother to read, they will just look for the exercise and work on the problem at hand. If you read this far give me a sentence in the comments that includes something about your axe.

Best of luck to all guitarist wanting to learn the notes on the fretboard! Syxguns