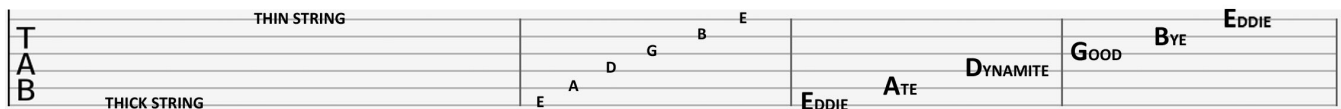


An Introduction to GUITAR TAB

“TAB” is short for Tablature. It is a very easy way to write guitar music. It has huge advantages over the normal way of writing music (Standard Notation) as it tells us EXACTLY what string and fret(s) to play.

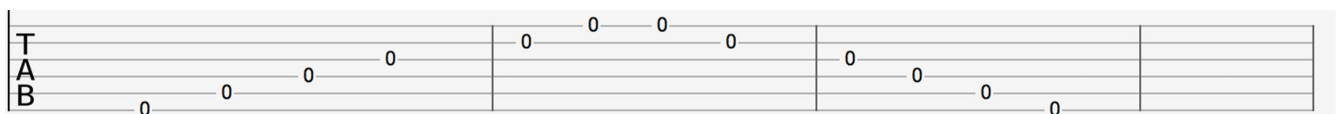
The first thing to understand is that all you are looking at is a map view of your guitar strings from above. The only initial strange thing is the order of the strings – it is quite common to feel that the strings are ‘upside down’.



Notice how the first E string (the thin high sounding one) is the TOP LINE as you look at the picture. If you look down at your strings while you are playing you may regard that string as the bottom string as physically it resides nearest the floor...ie the bottom! It's NOT! It's the TOP! In guitar world anyway....Once you understand this, you will be able to read TAB just fine...

So...how do we write actual notes? It's easy...there are 2 types of note – OPEN or FRETTED.

OPEN means you just play the string without pressing any frets. Keep your left hand off the strings and strum! All those strings are OPEN. They are written with the number '0' (meaning no frets). So if you hit each open string one after the other, starting with the thick E string, it is written like this:



You can see that reading left to right, the Tab is telling us to play each open string in turn.

The other type of note is FRETTED. If you look at your guitar neck (the long thin bit!) you will see that it is divided into rows. The spaces in between the metal bars are called frets. By pressing on them you can play different notes all over the guitar. As long as you can count, then you can read TAB.

