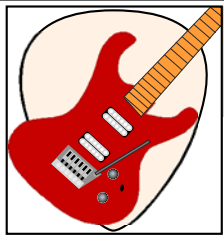




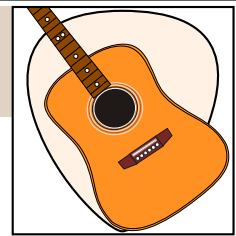
How to play fingerstyle

introduction





chord changes



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

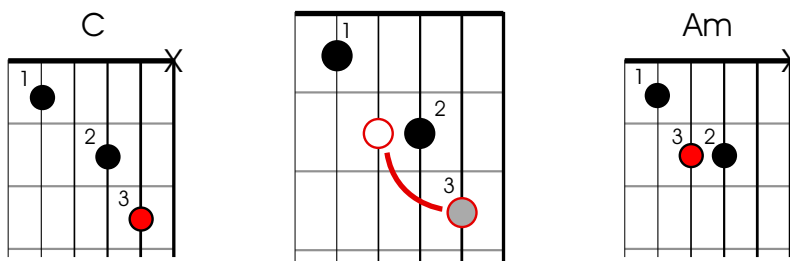
Lesson 1 - Open Chord exercises

This is a series of exercises designed to help you memorize the chords and speed up the changes. You'll benefit a lot by repeating 2 or 3 chords over and over, I call them chord push-ups. This type of exercise is really beneficial when you find a chord change in a song that you struggle with, rather than practising the song over and over again it's far more effective and time efficient to do the chord change you're having difficulty with over and over again.

Play the following chord exercises either unaccompanied or with a metronome. You can use a metronome to help you improve your timing as well as your speed.

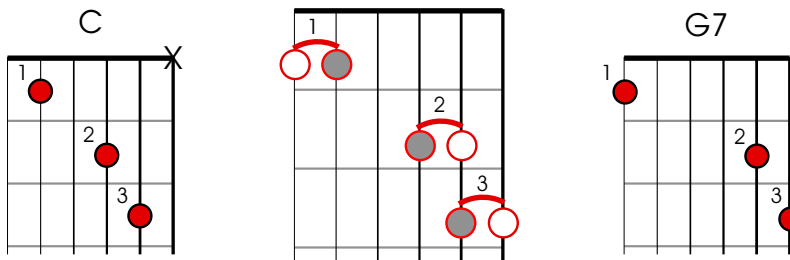
Exercise 1 - 'C major', 'A minor' and 'G dominant 7th' (C, Am, G7)

Start by playing the 'C' and 'Am' by moving one finger and repeat until you get it.



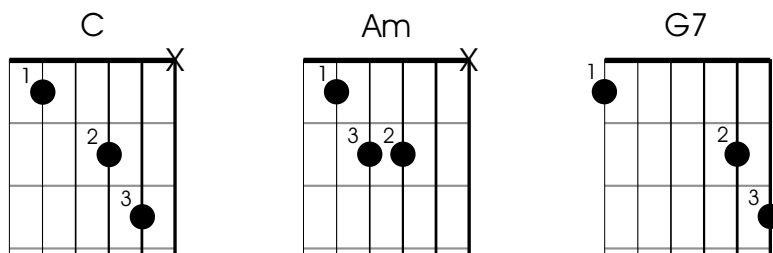
C - - - Am - - - C - - - Am - - - C - - - Am - - - C - - - Am - - -

Play the 'C' and then change to 'G7' and repeat until you get it.



C - - - G7 - - - C - - - G7 - - - C - - - G7 - - - C - - - G7 - - -

Now bring all the chords together to play this exercise.

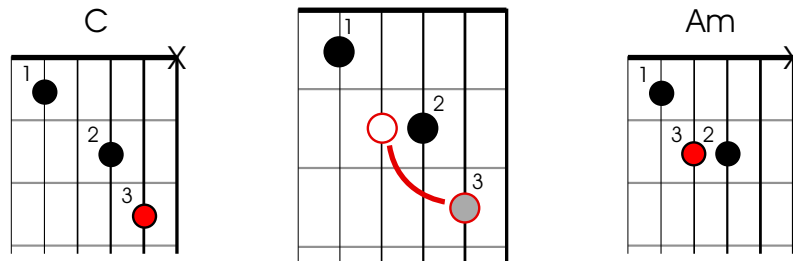


C - - - Am - - - C - - - Am - - - C - - - G7 - - - C - - - Am - - -

C - - - Am - - - C - - - Am - - - C - - - G7 - - - C - - - - - -

Exercise 2 - 'C major', 'A minor' and 'E minor' (C, Am, Em)

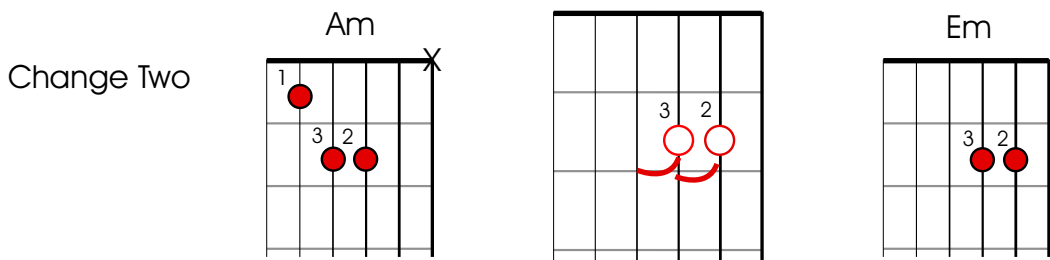
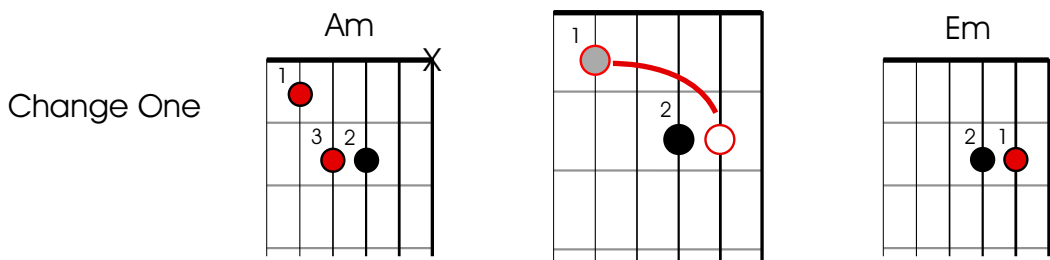
Start by playing the 'C' and then change to 'Am' by moving one finger and repeat until you get it.



C - - - Am - - - C - - - Am - - - C - - - Am - - - C - - - Am - - -

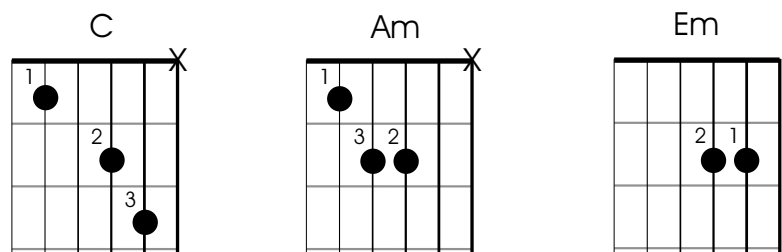
Play the 'Am' and then change to 'Em' and repeat until you get it.

Note. There are two ways to play this change so try both to decide which one you like.



Am - - - Em - - - Am - - - Em - - - Am - - - Em - - -

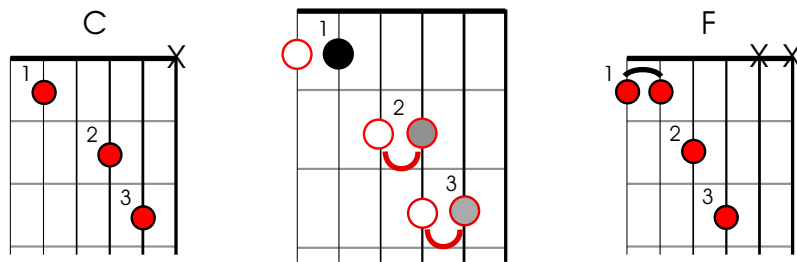
Now bring all the chords together to play this exercise.



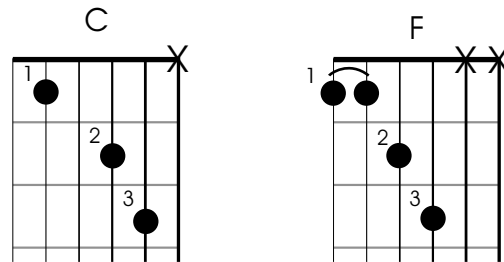
C - - - Am - - - Em - - - Am - - - C - - - Am - - - Em - - - Am - - -
 Em - - - Am - - - Em - - - Am - - - C - - - Am - - - Em - - - Am - - -

Exercise 3 - 'C major' and 'F major' (C, F)

This exercise just involves going between the C and F, however that isn't as easy as it sounds. The F major chord is probably the hardest open chord to play and it might take a lot of practise before you can play it cleanly.



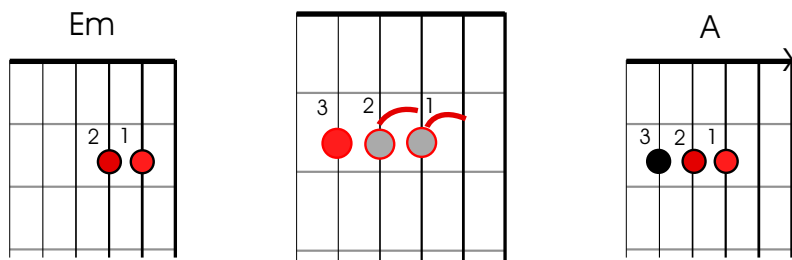
Now bring these 2 chords together to play this exercise.



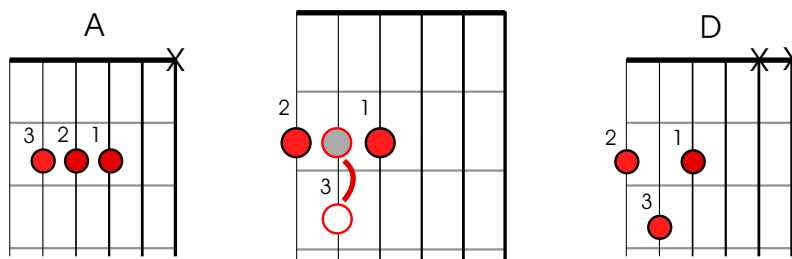
C - - - F - - - C - - - F - - - C - - - F - - - C - - - F - - -

Exercise 4 - 'E minor', 'A major', 'D major' and G (Em, A, D, G)

These chords have very little in common, however you should be able to play the change from Em to A without too much trouble. A to D and D to G are common changes and so you will find it beneficial to practise them now before you come across them in a tune.



Em - - - A - - - Em - - - A - - - Em - - - A - - -

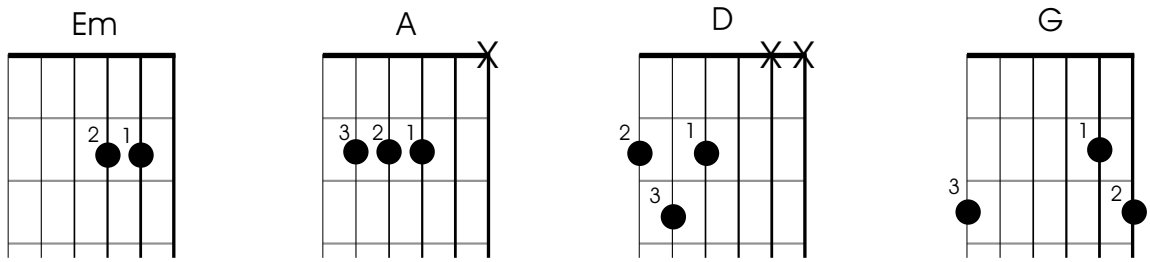


A - - - D - - - A - - - D - - - A - - - D - - -

There is no short cut for the D to G, you just have to practise this change.

D - - - G - - - D - - - G - - - D - - - G - - -

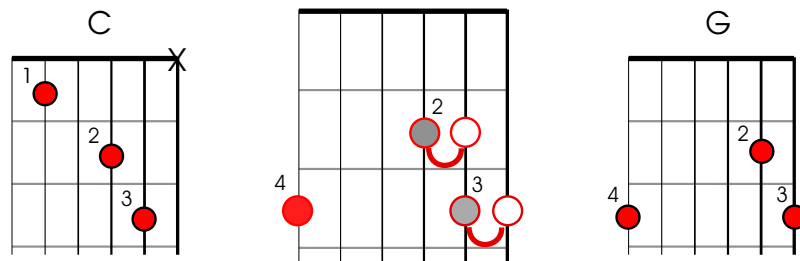
Now bring all the chords together to play this exercise.



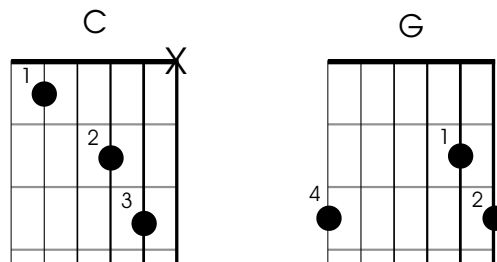
Em - - - A - - - D - - - D - - - Em - - - A - - - D - - - D - - -
 G - - - A - - - D - - - D - - - G - - - A - - - D - - - D - - -
 Em - - - A - - - D - - - D - - - Em - - - A - - - D - - - - -

Exercise 5 - 'C major' and 'G major' (C, G)

Sometimes it is good practise to change the fingering of a chord in order to make the chord changes flow more easily and smoothly. In this case by changing the fingering of the 'C major' chord you can get between the 'C' and the 'G' with a lot more ease.

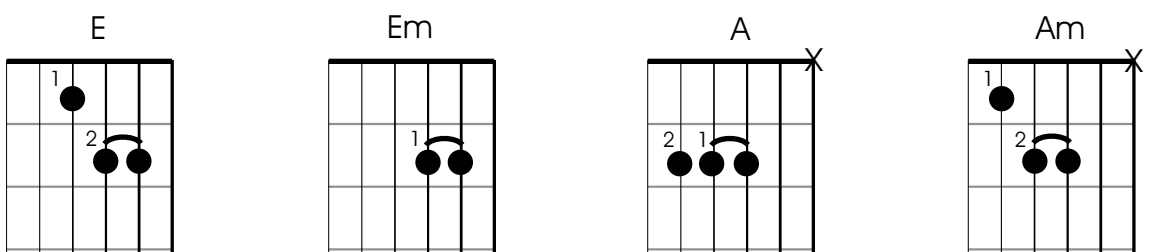


Now bring these 2 chords together to play this exercise.



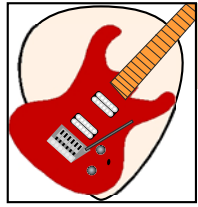
C - - - G - - - C - - - G - - - C - - - G - - - C - - - G - - -

NOTE; Other examples of where you can use alternate fingering in order to speed up chord changes. When doing this it is important to use common sense and not to change the fingering for the sake of it.

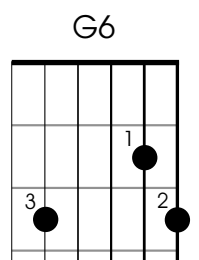
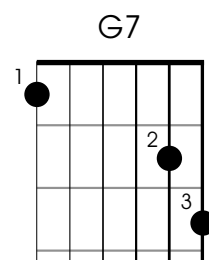
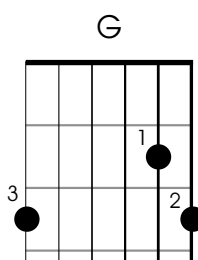
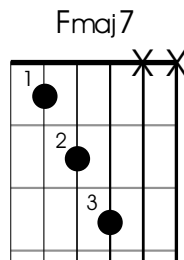
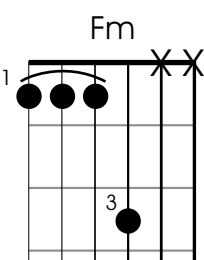
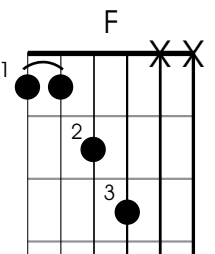
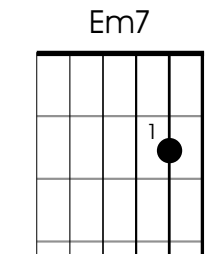
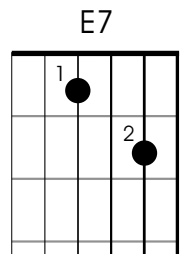
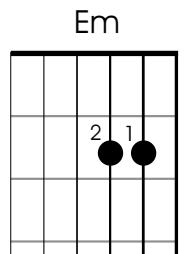
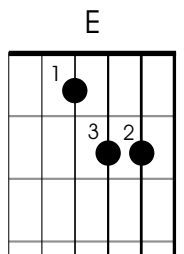
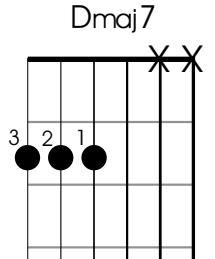
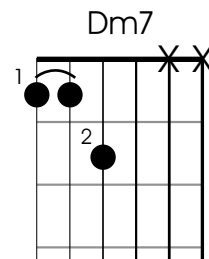
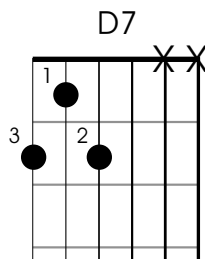
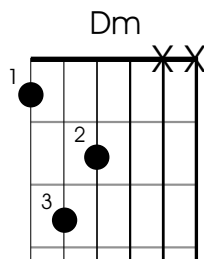
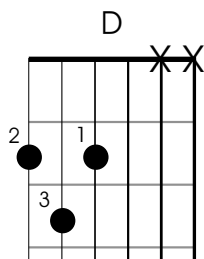
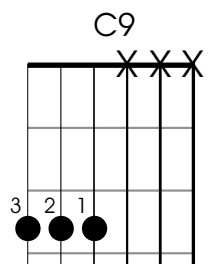
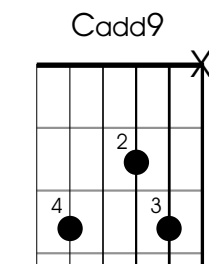
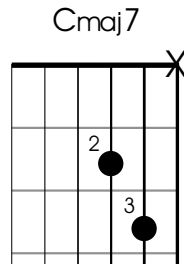
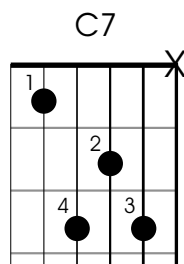
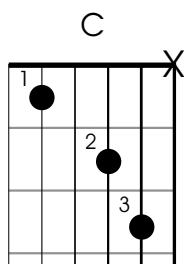
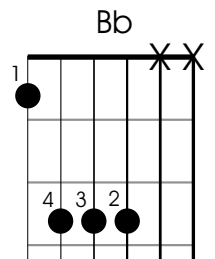
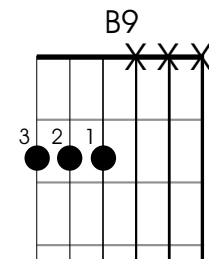
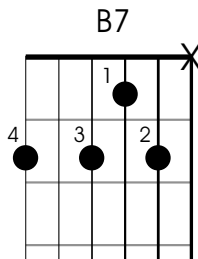
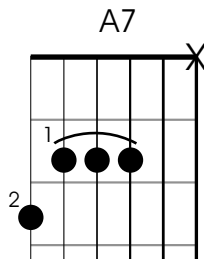
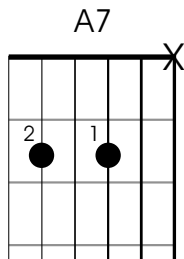
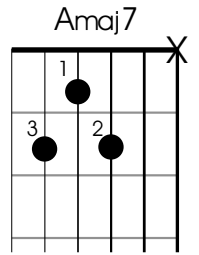
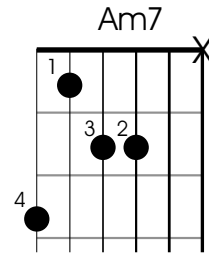
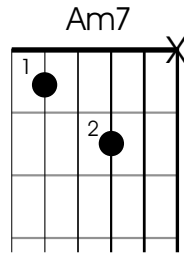
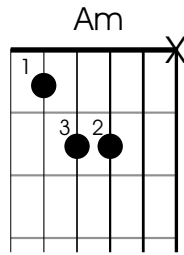
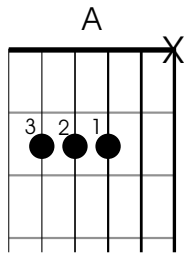
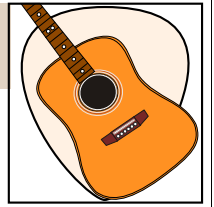


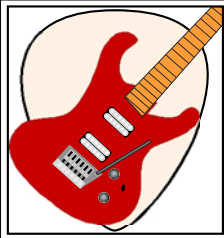
Tips

1. Look for pivot notes that can stay in position whilst you move the chord into place around them. These will also help you play the guitar without having to look down at your fingers as much as having a finger in place gives you an idea of where you are on the guitar.
2. Look for patterns of fingers that can be moved together to save time.
3. Don't worry about changing the recommended fingering for a chord in order to make the chord changes flow more smoothly.
4. If you're playing the chord as a broken chord, think about which note is to be played first and make sure you get that finger in place first. A good example of this would be finger picking where you might have to play the bass note first.
5. Practice with a metronome or backing track to help you get in time and stay in time.
6. Don't panic if you struggle speeding up your chord changes, they will come with practise and time. Remember to just take 2 or 3 chords and repeat the changes over and over, they will speed up with practise.

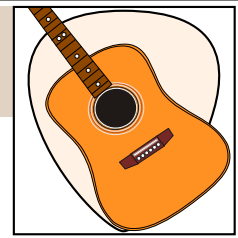


open chords





notes reading tab



Tablature (tab)

In the fingerstyle guitar course we will use tablature instead of regular music notation. Tablature or tab as it is called for short, is the most common form of notation for the guitar and whatever music you enjoy you can easily find tablature for that genre or group.

The staff consists of six lines, each line represents a string on your guitar. Remember the bottom string of your guitar is the bottom 'E' string (the thickest string) and therefore the bottom line of the tablature will be the bottom 'E' string. Tablature is the same for left and right handed guitarists.

E (top, thinnest)

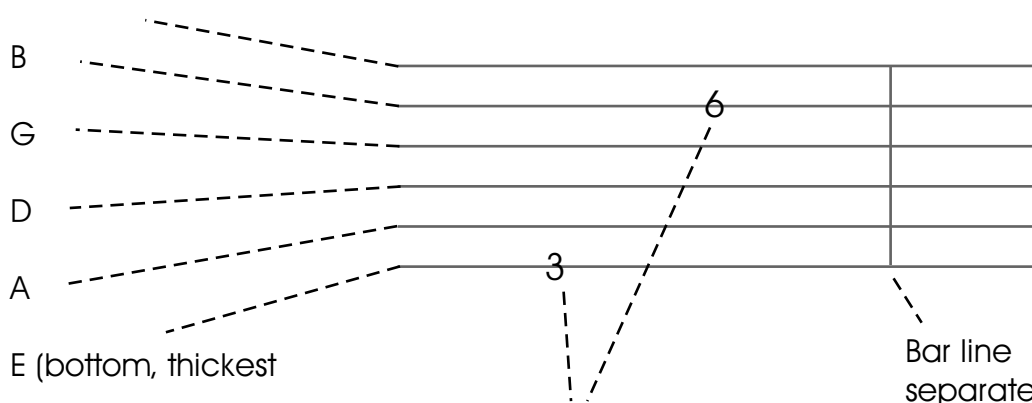
B

G

D

A

E (bottom, thickest)



The numbers on the strings represent the frets where you should place your fingers.

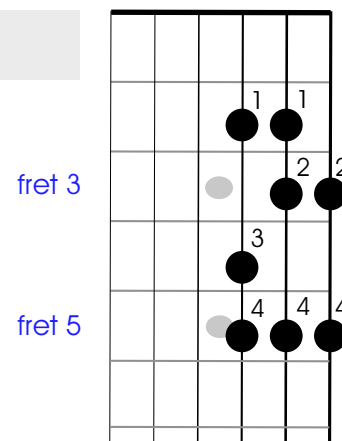
Bar line separates the bars or phrases.

example the 'G' major scale

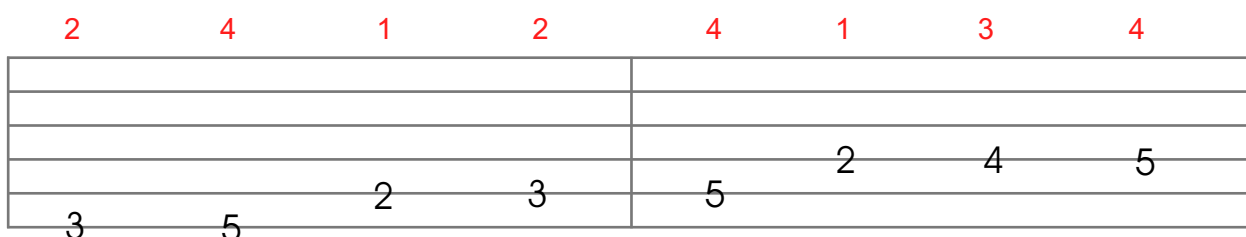
This is the first scale you learned in this course.

To the right is how the scale looks as you have learned it, as a scale map and below is how the scale looks in tablature or tab.

Note. The red numbers are the which finger to use, however these don't appear normally in tab.



'G' major scale in tab



exercise 4 Frera Jaqua

1 3 1 1 1 3 1 1 1 2 4 1 2 4

3	5	3	3	3	5	3	3	3	4	6	3	4	6

4 1 4 2 1 1 4 1 4 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

6	6	4	3	3	6	6	4	3	3	3	3	3	3

exercise 5 Pop goes the weasel

1 1 3 2 1 4 1 1 1 1 3 2 1 1

3	3	5	4	3	6	3	3	3	5	4	3	3

1 1 3 2 1 4 1 1 1 3 2 1 1

3	3	5	4	3	6	3	3	5	4	3	3

exercise 6 Finger exercise, to help strengthen your little finger.

1 2 3 4 3 2 1 2 3 4 3 2

3	4	5	6	5	4	3	4	5	6	5	4

1 2 3 4 3 2 1 2 3 4 3 2

3	4	5	6	5	4	3	4	5	6	5	4

Continue this exercise through all the strings.

