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MUSIC NOTATION REVIEW



If you see something you don't understand in an example in this book, check the following two pages.

TABLATURE (TAB)

TAB (short for *tablature*) is the easiest way to read bass music, though it leaves out some information about rhythm and expression. Here's what you might see on some TAB.

The numbers tell you which fret to play on which string.

The horizontal lines are the strings. The top line is the 1st string (G). The bottom is the 4th string (E).

Quarter-step bend. $\frac{1}{4}$

Slide. SL

Hammer-on. Pull-off. H P

The numbers underneath the TAB indicate which finger plays the note. For example, the index finger is 1, and the ring finger is 3.

Parentheses remind you that a note is being held from a previous instance (see ties, page 7).

STANDARD MUSIC NOTATION

Standard music notation uses a *staff* of five horizontal lines to indicate *pitch* (the highness or lowness of a tone). Lower lines represent lower pitches. Notes are shown by oval *noteheads* placed on lines, or in spaces between lines. Below are the basic notes on the staff. Notes are named "A" through "G."

The F clef, or bass clef, indicates that the second line from the top is the note F. This is indicated by the dots above and below the line.

Notes can be on spaces or lines.

G A B C D E F G A

In this book, standard music notation is directly above the TAB staff.

These are picking symbols.
i = Strike with the index finger
m = Strike with the middle finger

The different note shapes indicate how long the notes last (see page 7).

Ledger lines let you see notes that are higher or lower than the staff.

Barlines show the music in groups of beats to make the rhythm easier to read. Each section is called a measure, or a bar (see page 7).

Standard music notation and TAB work well when paired together, giving a complete picture of the music.

ACCIDENTALS

Accidentals are symbols used to change the pitch of a note.

\sharp is a *sharp*. It raises a note one *half step* (one fret).

\flat is a *flat*. It lowers a note one half step.

A sharp or flat will last for the rest of the measure, unless a *natural* \natural is used to return the note to its original pitch.