YourStrum.com   Online Guitar Lessons

Site Manual

- Where To Start
- How It Works
- Site Features
- Practice Tools
- Guitar Glossary

Note:
          We update this manual as the site grows. Please send your feedback to:

customerservice@yourstrum.com

Click Here To Set Up An Account!

Our mission is to make the learning process as FUN & EASY! as possible, while providing clear and professional instruction.

Members: Don't forget! If you get frustrated, you are not alone. Make use of our "Ask A Question" page at any time. WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

Where To Start?

The site is set up to accommodate any level of player.
So, this is where you have to ask yourself…..
"What level am I"?

Beginner:
      Just got my first guitar – Been playing for a short time, but haven't made any real progress – Know a few chords and maybe a song or two.

Intermediate:
      Know your basic chord shapes – Maybe a scale or two – Frequently learn songs – Familiar with guitar lingo and reading TAB's and Chord Charts – You can effortlessly move between common chord while keeping the rhythm. – Practice improvisation.

Advanced:
      Pretty quick with all of your open chord variations and Bar Chords – Have an understanding of scales and music theory as it applies to the guitar – Better than average "Guitar Geography" (finding your notes quickly on all portions of the neck)
Play songs that are considered "Advanced" & are able to memorize them in a reasonable amount of time.

Be Honest With Yourself! There is no shame in starting off easy & building up the difficulty. Once you've decided where you rank, find your section below.

Note: We currently have 11 categories of Lessons in our "Lesson Library"

* Chord Practice
* Picking Patterns & Strum Patterns
* Alternate Tunings
* Scales & Improvisation
* Songs to Learn
* Finger Coordination & Exercises
* Know Your Guitar
* Music Theory
* Note Reading
* Jam Tracks
* Beginners! Start Here

Each Category is progressive.
They start off with the simplest lessons and work their way up to more and more advanced techniques. After you view a lesson, it will have a "Y" to the right of it indicating that YES you have completed that lesson. This way you can track your progress and see where you left off.

Beginners:

It can be tough trying to do something completely new. We have put a lot of thought into making it a worry free experience!
We have an entire category called "Beginners! Start Here". This category will take you through a lot of the basics like:
*Parts of the guitar
*Using a Pick
*Finding Notes
*Simple Chords
*Finger Exercises and Warm Ups
And a lot more, all the way up into learning a few easy songs.

Once you finish that category you can move onto the rest of the "Lesson Library" & follow the directions for Intermediate Players.

Intermediate:

Intermediate definitely covers the majority of people. If you begin to use the following directions and come to find that some of the lessons are too hard, just backtrack a little bit to the beginner category. Many people who have played "A little bit" might be good at 1 thing, but completely new to another.

So, If you are "Intermediate":

The 11 categories we listed on the last page are set up to cover each individual area of playing the guitar. Instead of just having 1 long list of random lessons, you can work on each category until you become advanced in that area! When you get stuck on a lesson or with 1 category, you can switch to another. EX) Say you are in the "Picking Patterns & Strum Patterns" category. You work your way up until you are confident with that category, and feel like trying something new. So, you switch to the "Scales & Improvisation" category to work on some fun guitar solos! When you are ready to go back and work on your picking patterns and strum patterns again, your progress will still be saved so you can pick up right where you left off.

It is usually best to start at the beginning of each category and work progressively through each one, but there is nothing wrong with skipping around and trying out all different levels of difficulty.

Note:
It is a GREAT idea to get a folder for the printable TABs and diagrams attached to each lesson. This way you can have them right in front of you when you practice.

Advanced:

If you are an advanced player, you are going to love all of the things you can do on this site! You should be able stay at the top of your game with all of the coordination exercises, songs to learn, Jam Tracks, and "never ending" subjects like music theory. If you are truly "Advanced" you should be able to work your way up through the categories until you reach the most difficult sections. Practice your Improvisation over different drum and rhythm tracks, print off blank TAB paper and write your own songs, work on your timing with the metronome… The list goes on and on. The fact is, if you've made it this far then you have succeeded! But even "Advanced" players are lacking in certain areas. Our category system allows you to focus on the things you need the most.

If you stick with it, you can get to this level, and if you are too good at the guitar for any of these lessons…
GET AWAY FROM YOUR COMPUTER AND START A BAND OR SOMETHING!!!!!

How The Site Works?

Now you know where you're going to start. It's time to talk about the 2 most innovative parts of the system.

*Printable Resources

*Finger/Color Coordination

You may have noticed these while testing out the free videos section.

Note: YourStrum.com is the ONLY guitar site with a system like this. This is really what sets it apart from the other guys.

Printable Resources:

Printable resources are PDF files that are attached to nearly every video lesson. When you view a lesson, just look above the video screen. It will say in yellow text "Click here for the printable resource". Once you click on it, It will open up that PDF file. You can then print it off or save it to your computer. These resources are usually TABs, Chord Charts, Neck Diagrams, etc. (depending on what the lesson is over).
*Print or save the resource
*Watch the video (it takes you through the resource and how to play what it is describing)

Then, you can practice what you have learned with just the resource!! Put it in a notebook or your guitar case for practicing anytime. This is just like going to a private guitar lesson. You would go over something with the instructor, he/she would write it out and give it to you to take home and practice it that week.

So, you print it, watch the video, then…
You can get up from the computer and practice

Anywhere!

(What a breath of fresh air compared to looking at a screen for hours on end)

This is especially great for learning songs.
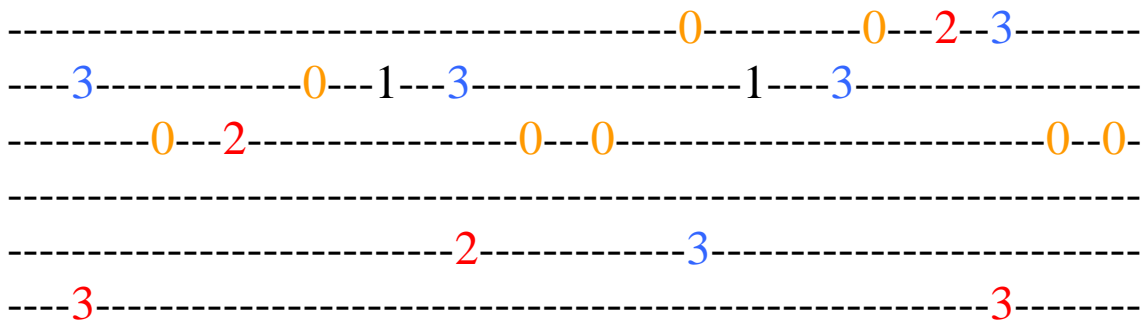
The Finger/Color Coordination System

Guitar TAB is great for those who cannot read standard notation. But, it has a major flaw. It does not tell you which finger to use!! We have completely solved that problem.

This will allow you to know which finger on the neck hand will be playing the note specified in the TAB.

Each finger is designated to a specific color.

1st finger	(index)	Black	●
2nd finger	(middle)	Red	●
3rd finger	(ring)	Blue	●
4th finger	(pinky)	Green	●
No finger	(open)	Orange	●

Example: "Minuet" in G

```
-----------------------------------------0---------0--2-3-------
---3------------0---1--3----------------1---3------------------
---------0--2----------------0--0-------------------------0--0-
--------------------------------------------------------------
----------------------------2-----------3--------------------
---3---------------------------------------------------3-------
```

No more guessing! Now you'll know your playing things the best possible way.

Other Site Features:

The "Chord Library" is a complete database of guitar chords listed in categories.

*Open Major Chords   *Add 6 Chords
*Open Minor Chords   *Diminished/Augmented
*Open Suspended 2 Chords *Slash Chords
*Open Suspended 4 Chords *Stack Blues/Jazz Chords
*Major 7 Chords   *Power Chords
*Dominant 7 Chords   *Bar Chords & Inversions
*Add 9 Chords

Find any chord and let it take you through exactly how to set it up! Also every chord video has a printable (and color coordinated) chord diagram to make it easier to remember and practice the chord.

Follow this link for a lesson example!
http://www.yourstrum.com/free_files/view/12

The Forum

The forum is set up as a member community. Ask questions and compare experiences with other people who are on the same "Guitar Mission" as you. If you have a have a question like "What kind of guitar should I buy" , post it on the forum and someone will surely lend you advice. This can be a great source of information.

The Playlist

The "Playlist" page is a growing list of popular guitar song lessons. This is a way for you to try out your new guitar skills! The lessons are over the techniques used in great guitar songs & come free with any membership. Each technique lesson is detailed and easy to follow. Unlike most instructional video sites, our song lessons also have free TAB attached. Watch the video a few times to get the techniques down, then print the TAB and practice until you master the tune!

> Note: These lessons are not performances of the songs that inspired them, and are not commercial reproduction, and they do not use copywrited recordings within the video. They are for instructional purposes only.

Jam Tracks

Once you learn a new scale or a song and want to practice with the "Band", Just open up the Jam-Tracks. We have a huge set of drum tracks with all different rhythms and timing, as well as rhythm guitar and drum tracks for soloing.

Practice Tools

Aside from all of the features mentioned above, you will have access to:

*A Guitar Tuner
*Metronome
*Blank Printouts
*1 on 1 email support from a guitar teacher! (Via the "Ask A Question" page (not on tools page)

Click here to check out the "Tools" Page!

Or here for the "Ask A Question" page
If you have any questions or comments use this page

The Blank printouts are great for teachers!

Print as many as you need:
    Blank TAB paper
    Blank Chord Charts
    Blank LARGE VIEW TAB
    Blank guitar neck and TAB

If you have other ideas for tools that would be useful on our site please let us know!! If you would like to set up a free account CLICK HERE!

Guitar Glossary