Teachers! Keep These Points In Mind:

• The prevalent model for teaching music notation (as of 2019) for guitar was first published before the time of Chuck Berry and Elvis Presley.

• Most exercises in this book are NOT known melodies, and this is for a very good reason: guitar players will always revert to their "ear" when reading a familar melody, i.e. Aura Lee, Volga Boatman, Jingle Bells, etc.

• Be cognizant and diligent on the importance of identifying notes on the staff quickly, and I MEAN QUICKLY. Demand your students to call those notes out until they don't have to or "cannot."

• Do not "baby" your students! Challenge them; push them; and demand excellence, with a nurturing approach.

• Do not go on to the next chapter or concept until they have an appropriate grasp of the present and/or previous chapters/concepts.

• At the end of the book, there is an appendix containing chord diagrams for those chords - a bit more complex or unusual.

JB's Modern Notation For Guitar
BOOK ONE

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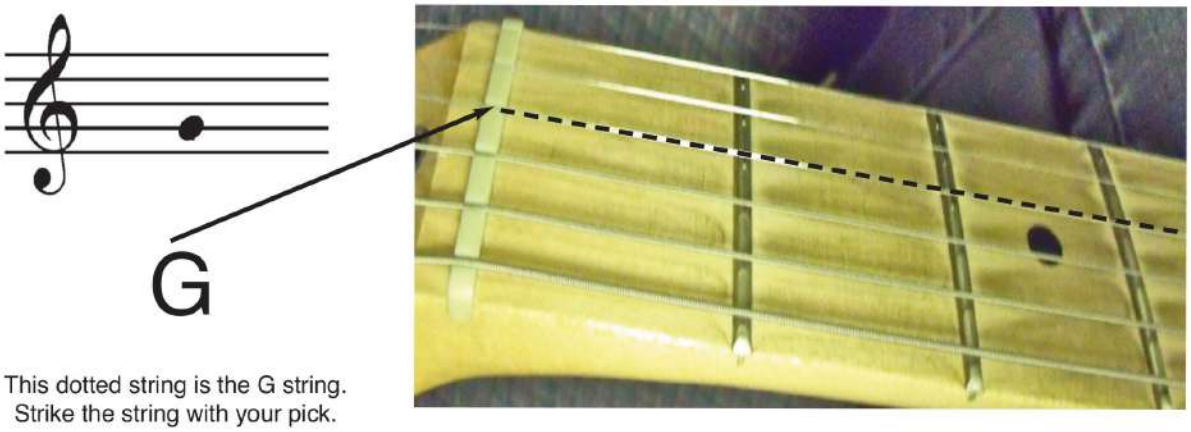


This dotted string is the G string.
Strike the string with your pick.

These following items are <u>very important</u>:

• Link the name of the note with the notational note.

• For now, call out all notes as you play them.

• Fix the position of both hands, especially the right.

• **For the right-hand**, position the heal of the hand on or near the bridge of your guitar. YES, do it!

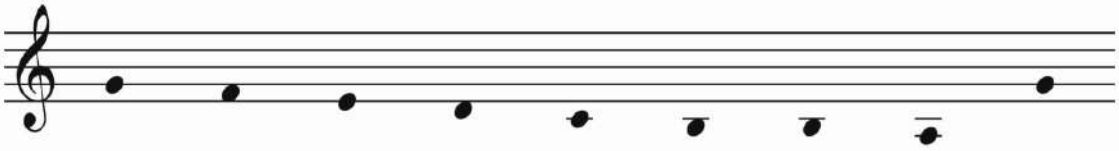
• Please refer to the opening of *Chapter Three*, pages 18-19, for a more clear view of right-hand positioning.

• **For the left-hand**, use different fingers for different notes on the same string (as illustrated in the photos on the previous two pages).

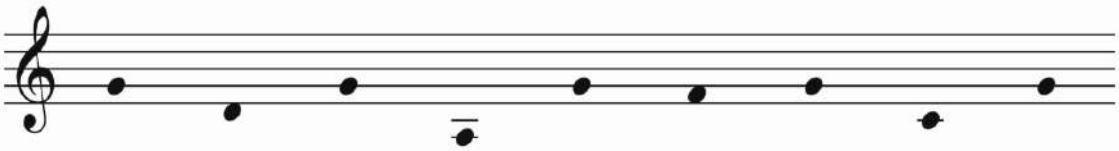
• Try your best to not look at your guitar.

• Keep your eyes on the paper, not your guitar!

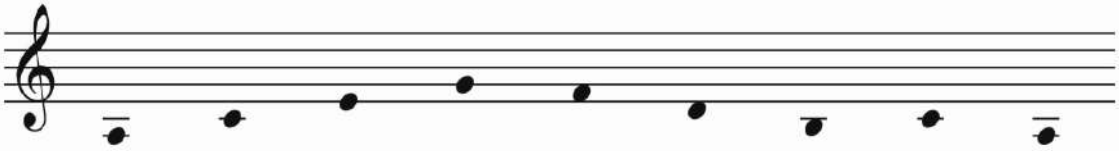
19. A New Note! G (Open G-String)



20. Guess What?

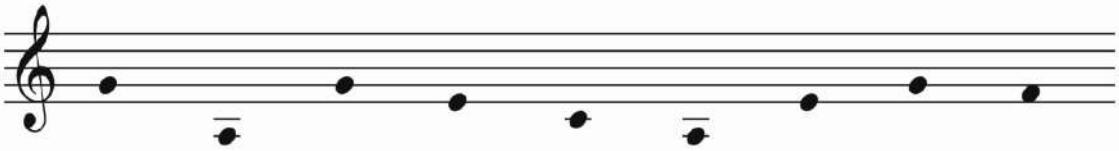


21. CALL THE NOTES OUT AS YOU PLAY THEM

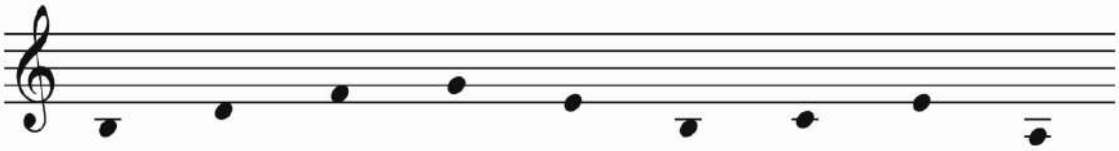


22.

23. Ummm...



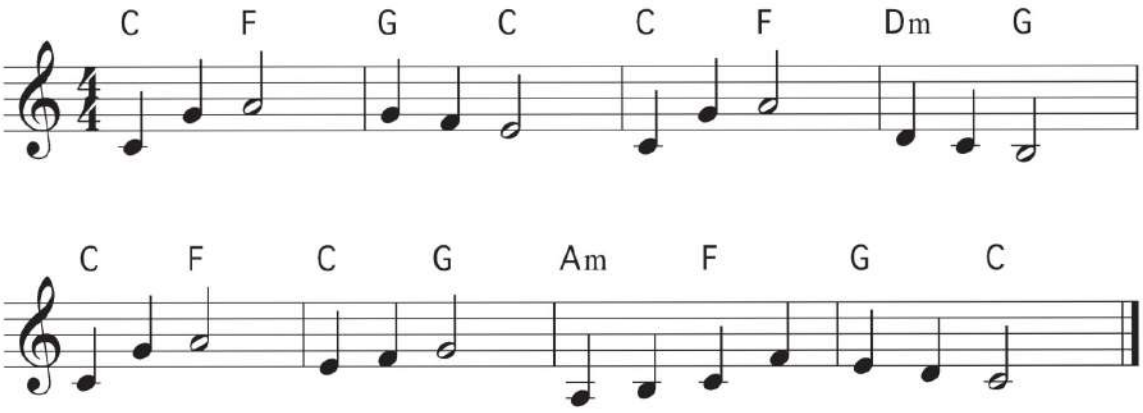
24. Call The Notes Out!



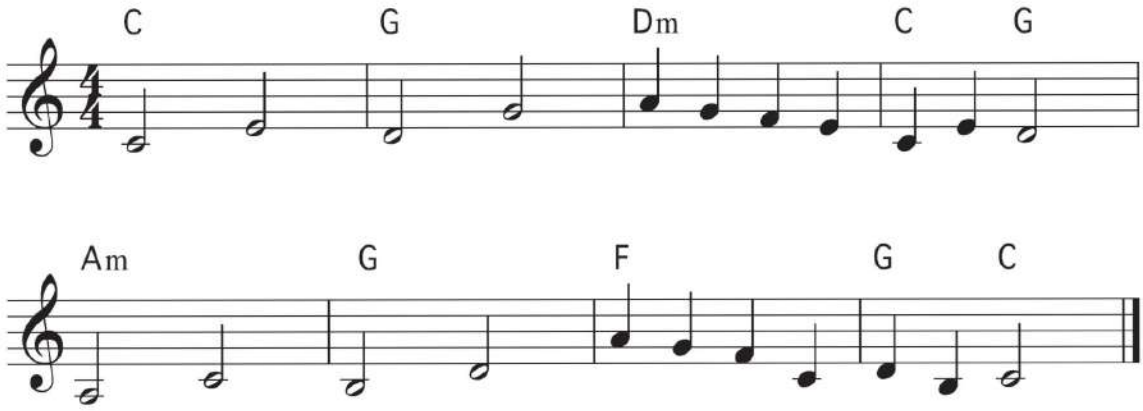
25.

AND REMEMBER! **Try not to look at your guitar as you play!**
Use different fingers for notes on the same string. Note that the player in the photos is using her middle finger for notes on the second fret, her ring finger for notes on the third fret, and coming up, her index finger for notes on the first fret.

5. Whatchamacallit

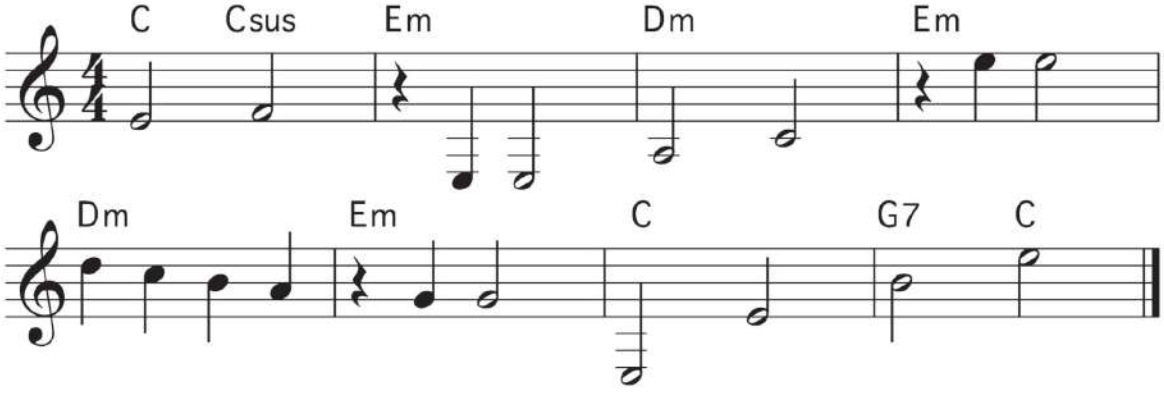


6. Whatever... Call The Notes Out!

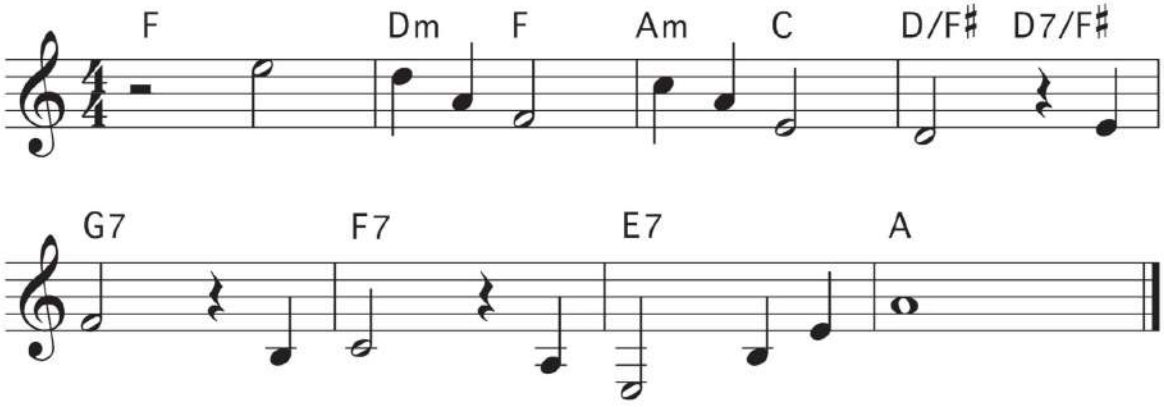


If you must look at your guitar, look at your left hand (fretting hand), not both! (Only for now.)

6. EEEEEEEE!

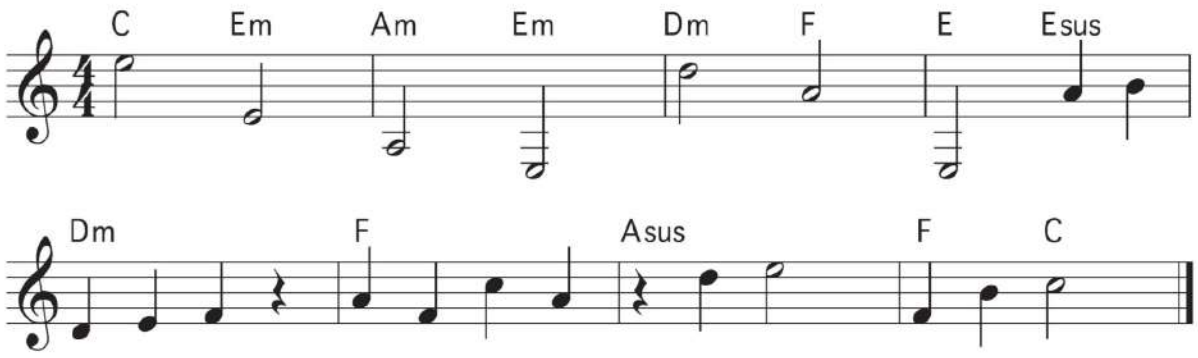


7. You Know It...

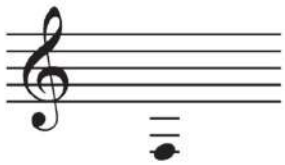


ANOTHER REMINDER: Don't look at your guitar so much. Remember to position your hands so that you do not have to look at your guitar. And, I probably will remind you again...maybe.

8. Call the Notes Out As You Play!



More New Notes !



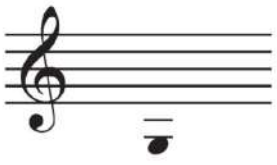
F

With your first (index) finger, fret the low E string behind the 1st fret, then strike the string with your pick.

I am going to give you a heads-up about what is coming up: **EIGHTH NOTES**. With eighth notes, the steepness of the learning curve increases. Up to now, the reader has only dealt with quarter, half, and whole notes. With eighth notes and eighth rests, the complexity becomes much greater.

MY RECOMMENDATION: *Increase the tempo of all previous and current exercises*. Make sure you are very comfortable with all exercises in chapters one through seven. Do not go on to chapter eight until you are playing all previous chapters' exercises at a relatively quick pace (at least 140 beats per minute).

Definitely, review these pages: 21, 25, 29, 33, and 34. Get those tempos up! oh yeah... AND NO MISTAKES!



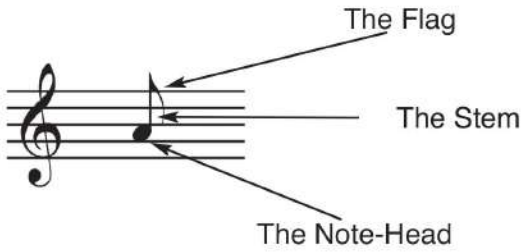
G

With your **third (ring) finger**, fret the low E string behind the 3rd fret, then strike the string with your pick.

chapter eight

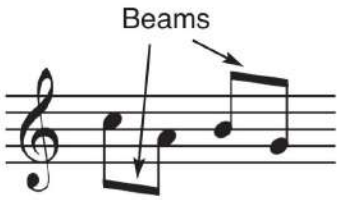
Eighth Notes and Rests

Check out the diagram below. This is the same diagram from chapter two. The singular ***eighth note*** has all three parts of a note: head, stem, and flag. The head is always filled-in for an eight note.

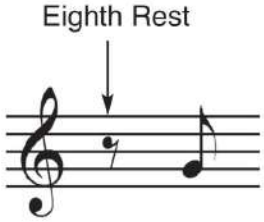


READ ALL TEXT!

When eighth notes are grouped together, they are grouped with beams, as shown in the diagram below.



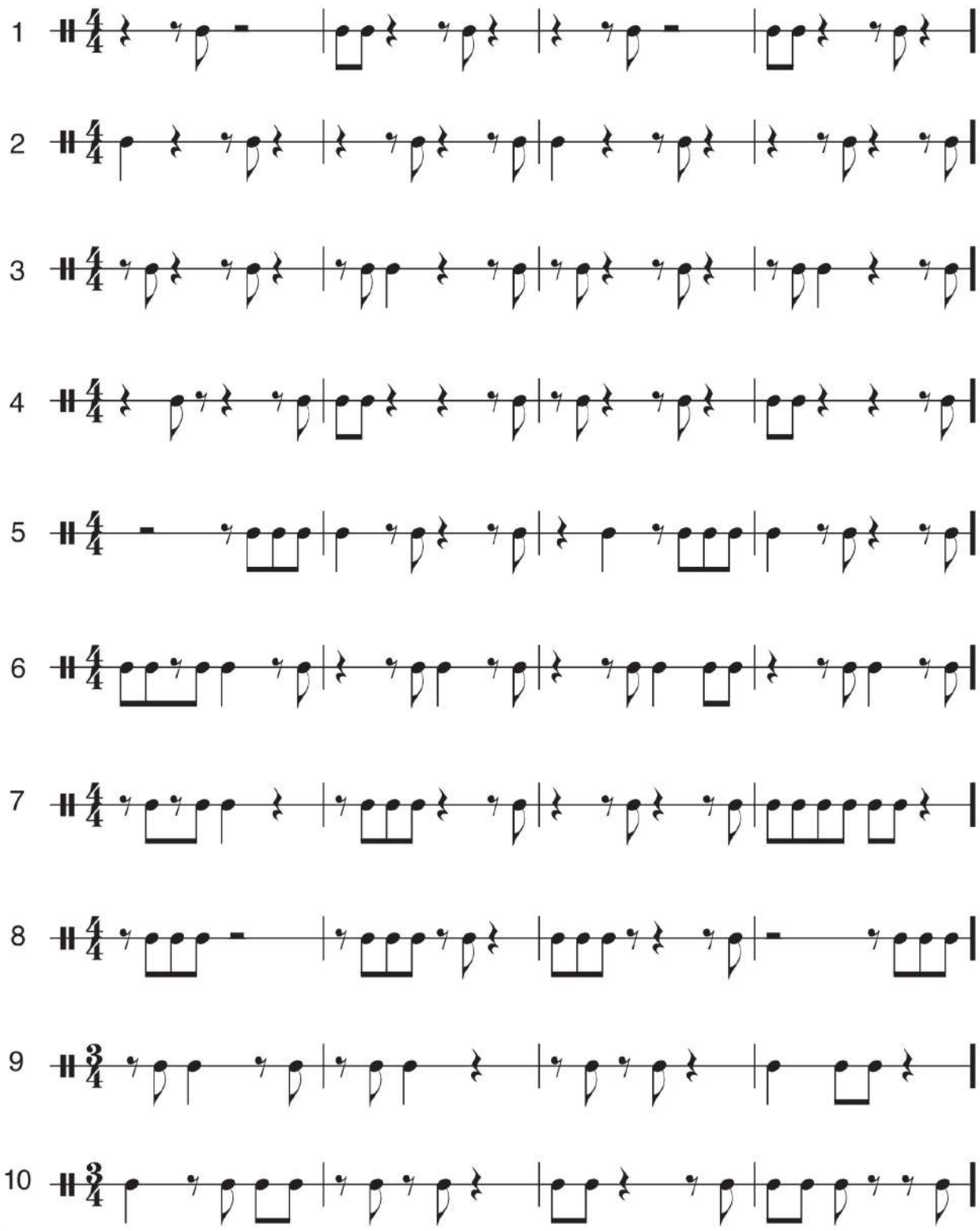
The relative value of the eight note will <u>always</u> be half-as-much as a quarter note. Therefore, if a quarter is worth one beat, the eighth note will be worth half of a beat. In 4/4 or 3/4 time signatures, eighth notes can be played on either the down-beat or the up-beat (half-way through the beat).



And like wise, if the eighth note is worth half of a beat, the ***eighth rest*** is also worth a half of a beat.

Be proficient at these rhythm patterns before going on to the next exercises.

Eighth Note Rhythm Exercises; clap or use any note or chord to play exercises



chapter nine

Sharps & Flats

*Sharp*s and *flat*s are also called *accidentals*. The term, accidental, is used because a note can be temporarily either raised or lowered by a half step. When a note is raised a half step, it is considered sharp. When a note is lowered a half step, it is considered flat.

Sharp (♯ - looks like a pound sign): Sharps raise notes by a half-step

Flat (♭- looks like a fancy b): Flats lower notes by a half-step

READ ALL TEXT!

Did you read the previous section on the Time Circle Concept?

Sorry, this is not a social-media feed.

The following diagrams display two versions of the musical alphabet. Therefore, the empty area between notes A and B is now either A♯ or B♭.

Musical Alphabet with Sharp Notes:

A - A♯ - B - C - C♯ - D - D♯ - E - F - F♯ - G - G♯ - (A)

Musical Alphabet with Flat Notes:

A - B♭ - B - C - D♭ - D - E♭ - E - F - G♭ - G - A♭ - (A)

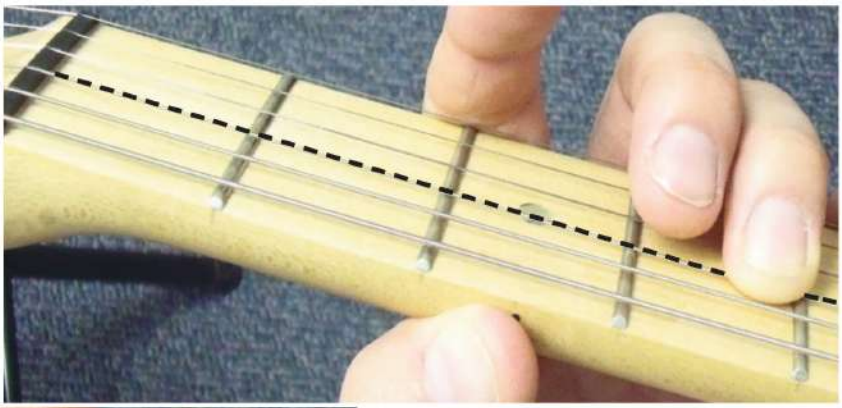
Notice for every sharp or flat note there is a synonymous note name.

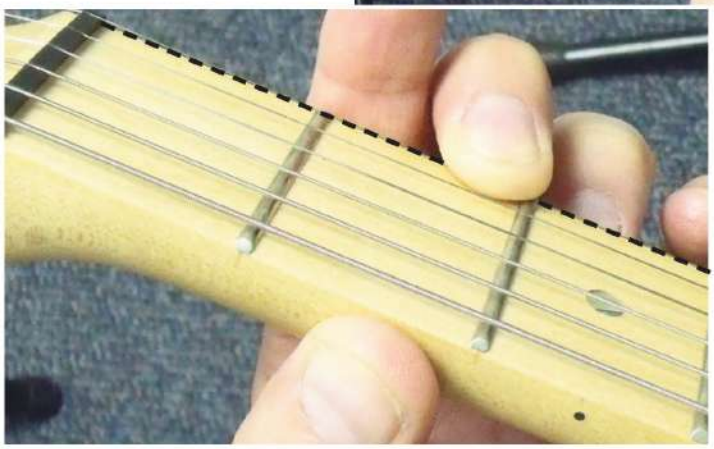
A - **A♯** - B
A - **B♭** - B

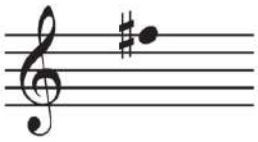
These notes are *enharmonic tones*: notes that are the same pitch but have different names. Whether you use a sharp or a flat depends upon *key signatures*. Key signatures will be touched on page 51.

Four New Notes

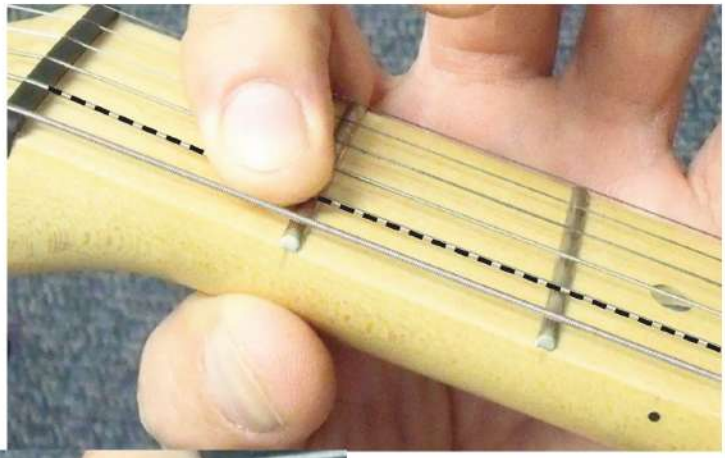
F♯

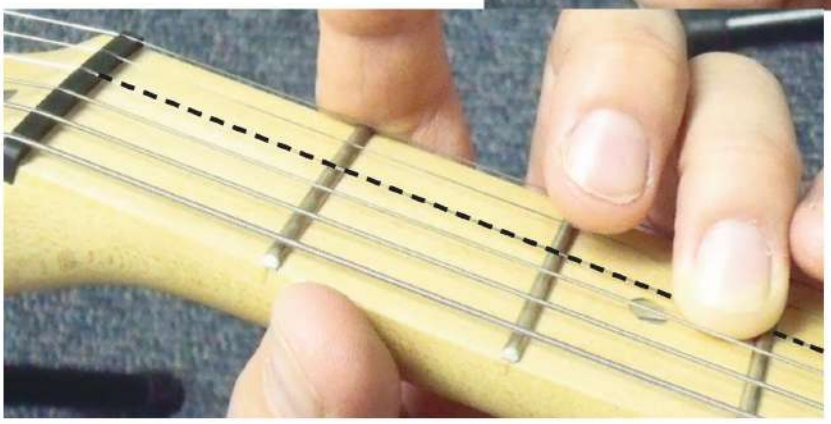


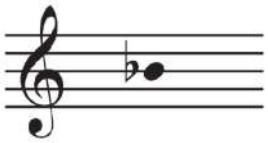




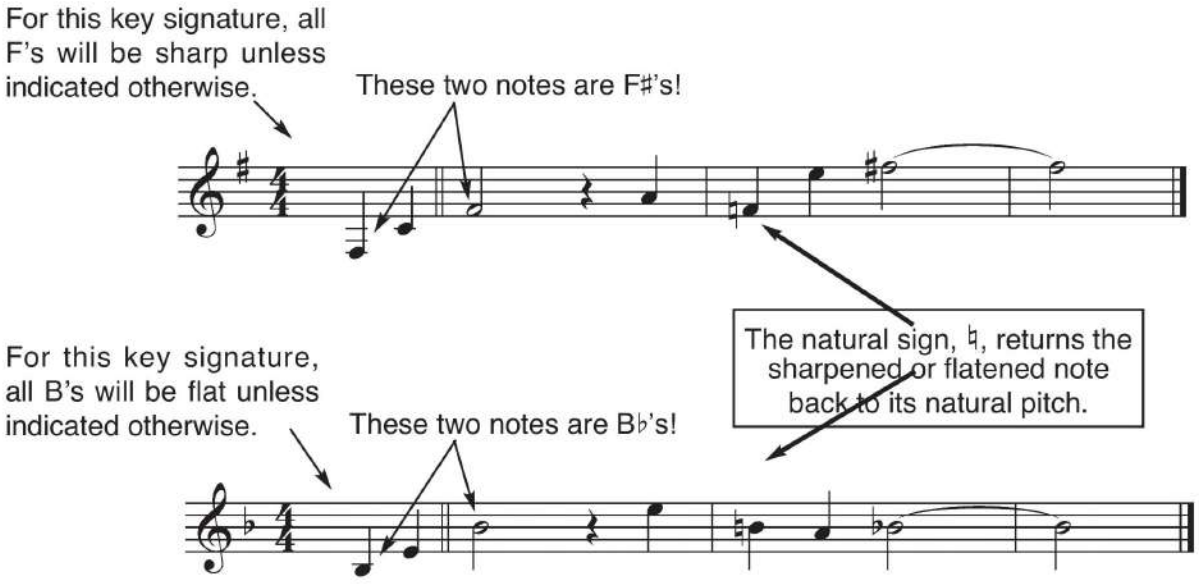
B♭



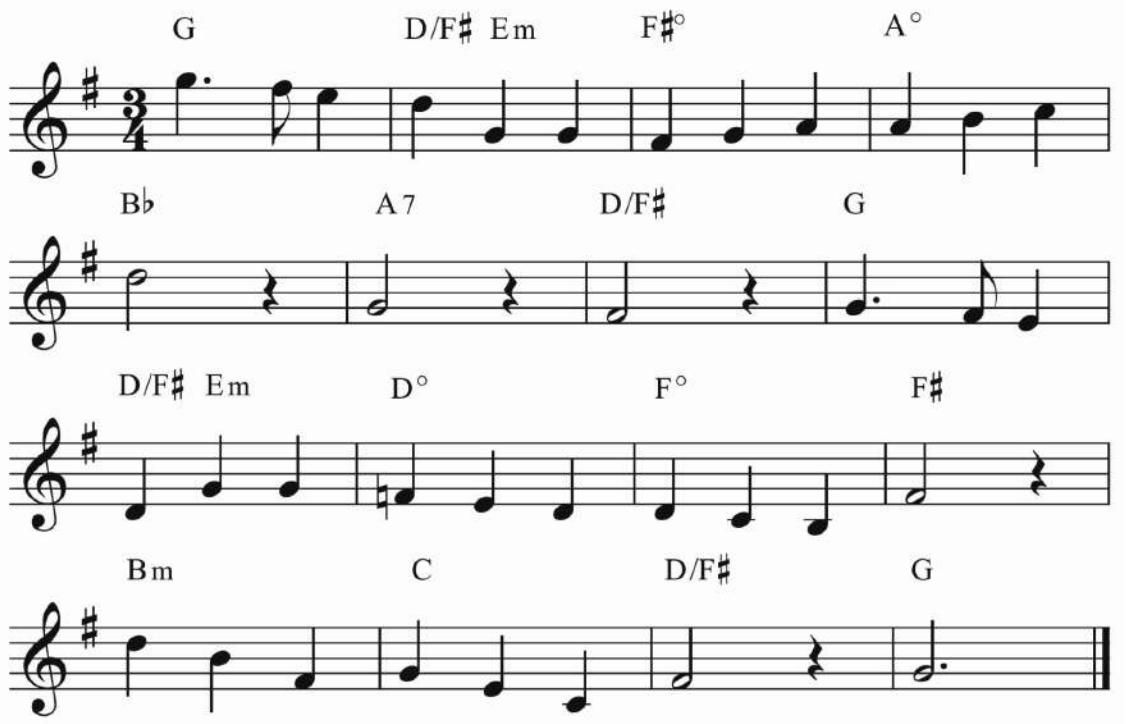




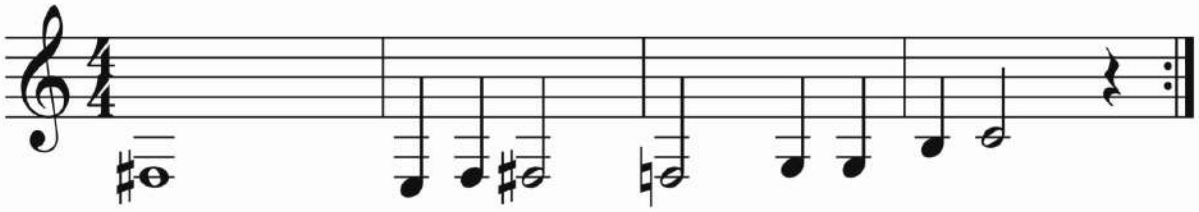
Key signatures are very important to music notation. Key signatures designate certain notes throughout the entire piece as either sharp or flat, unless otherwise indicated.



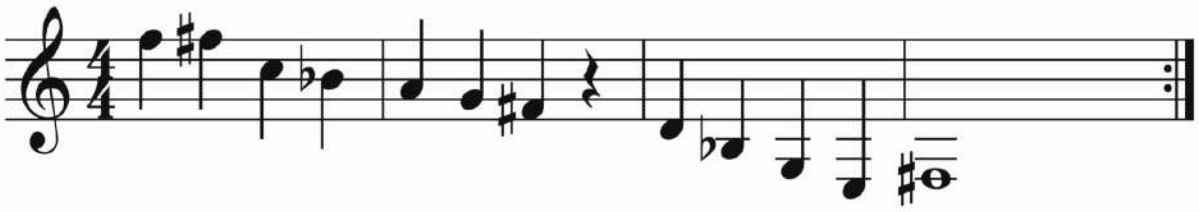
11. Key Signature For The First Time



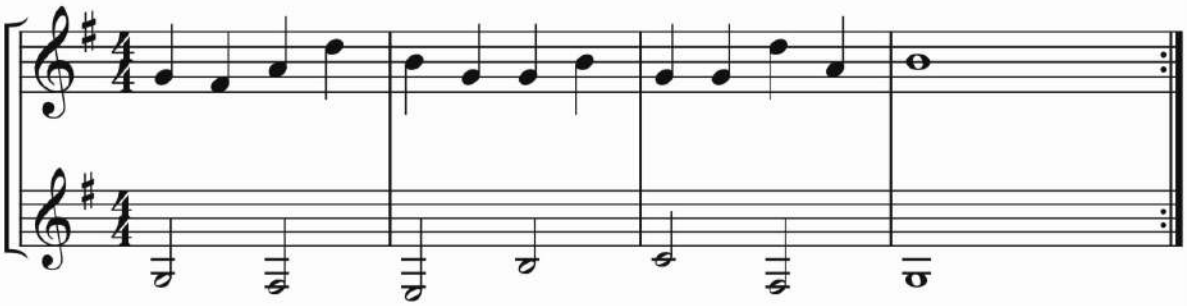
1. More On The Low F Sharp



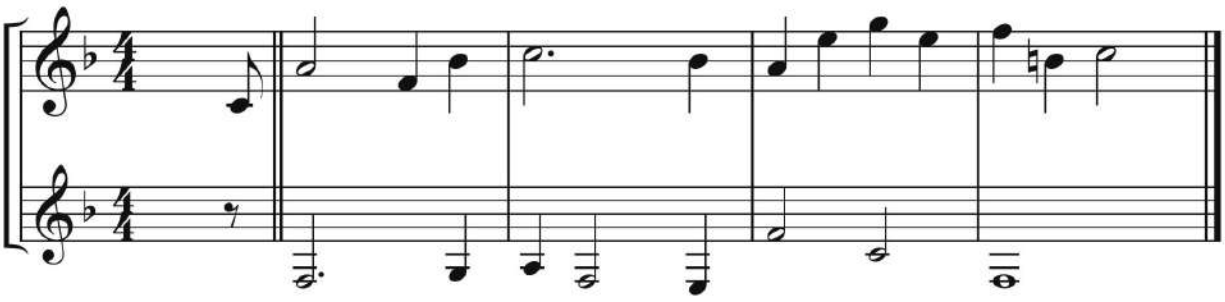
2. Oh Yeah... Call The Notes Out!



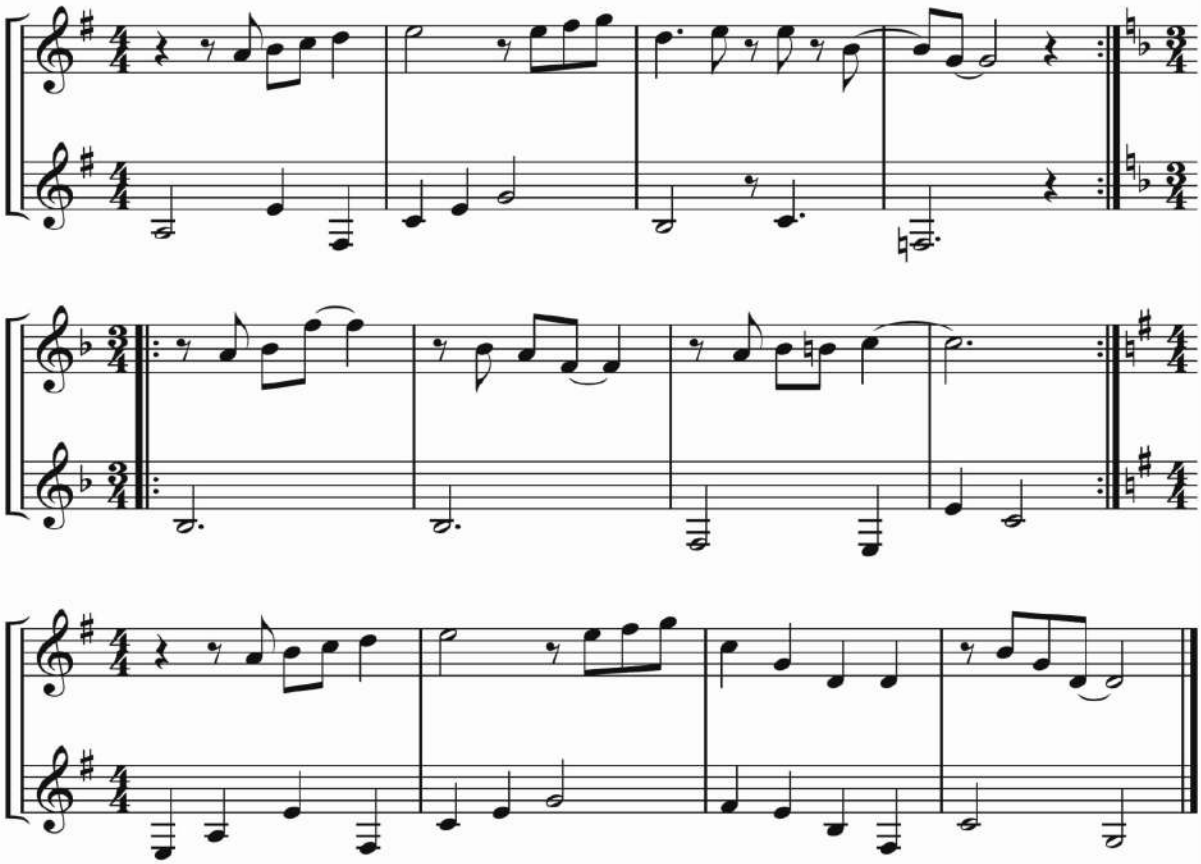
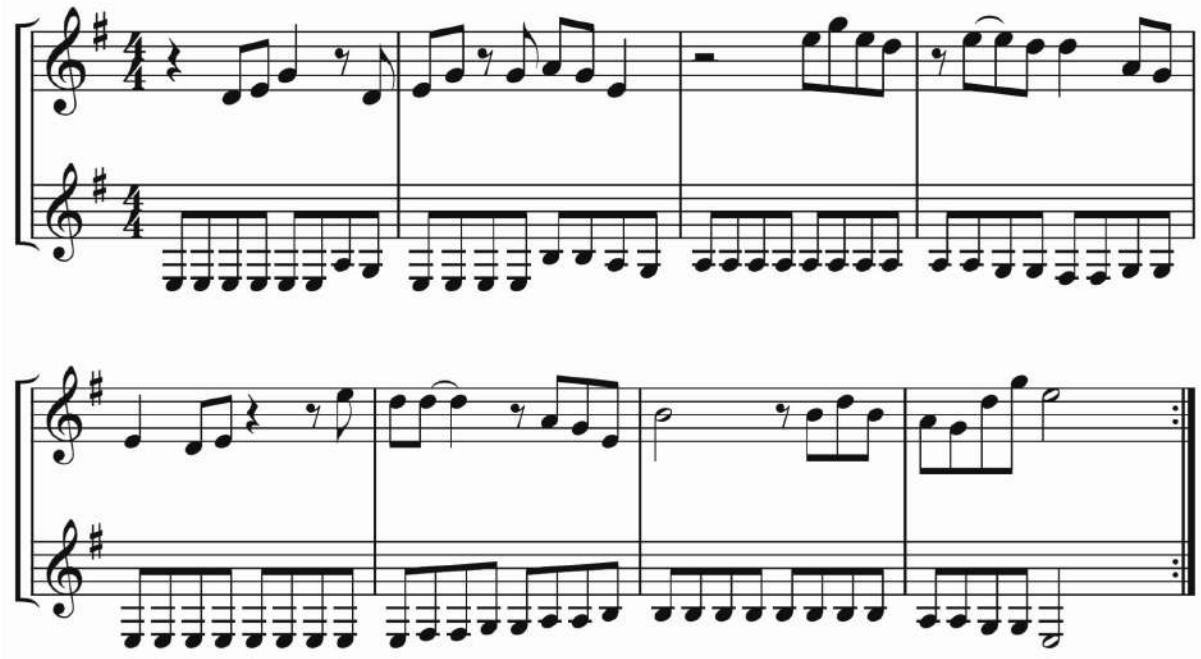
3. The First Duet



4. The Second Duet!



7. Second To Last Duet



8. E Minor Blues Thingy