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Rock House

LEARN GUITAR

The Method For a New Generation

1

The Rock House Method

By John McCarthy

"For over 30 years my method has brought guitar learning success to millions of musicians around the world. My method has proven itself to work, now you can prove it to yourself."

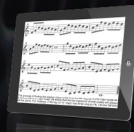
John McCarthy

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Presents

Learn Guitar 1

The Method for a New Generation

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Quick Start Video

Download this free video from our On Demand System at RockHouseSchool.com. It will help guide you through the important first steps of getting started with your guitar.

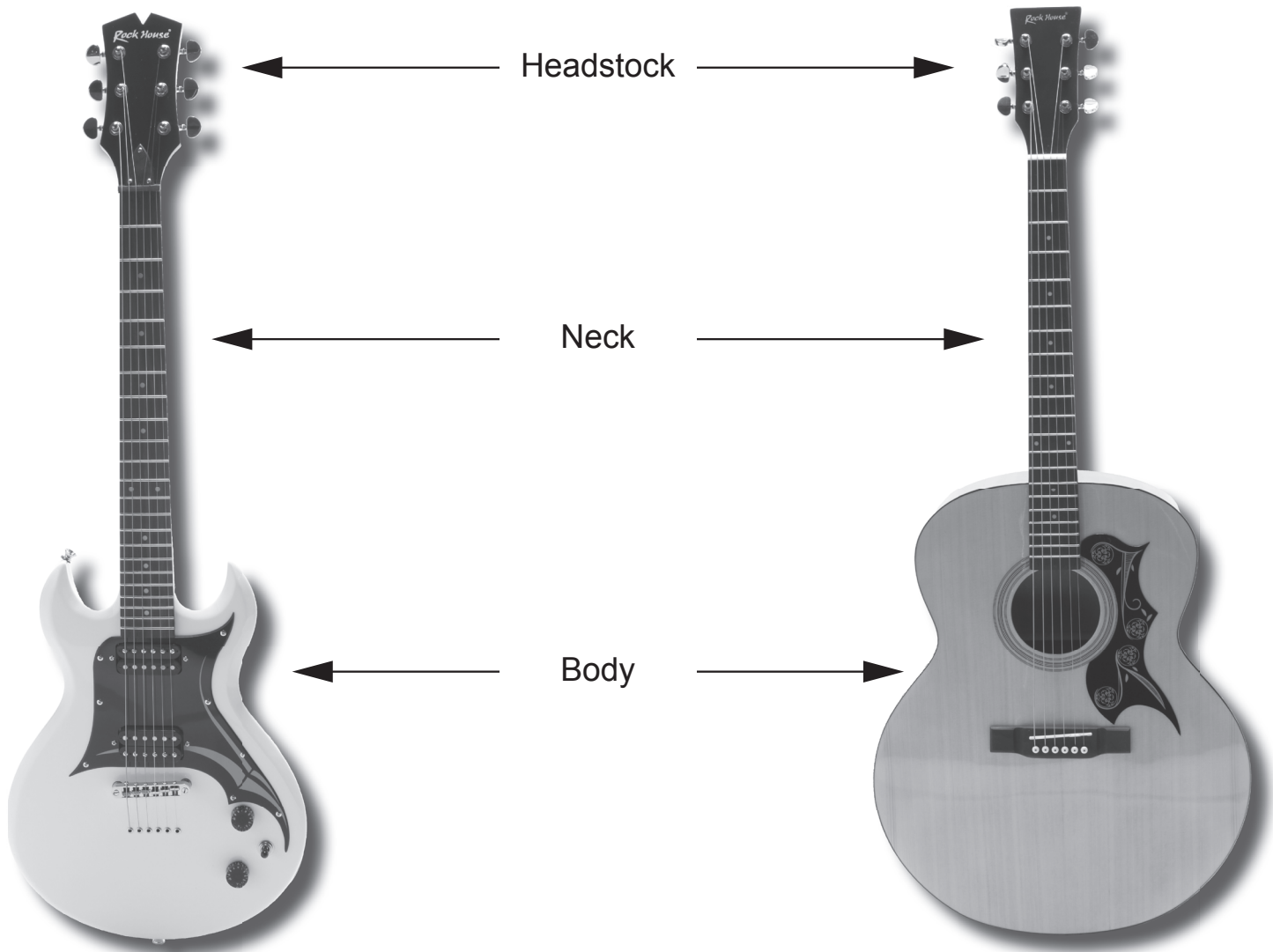
Parts of the Guitar



The lessons in this book can be played on either acoustic or electric guitars. Acoustic and electric guitars have the same number of strings and are tuned the same way. Electric guitars need to be plugged into an amplifier to be heard. All guitars are made up of three main sections: the body, the neck and the headstock.

Electric Guitar

Acoustic Guitar

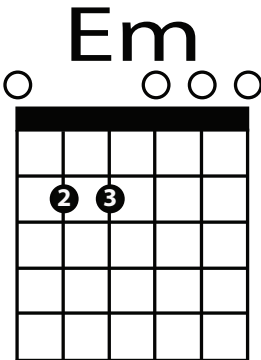
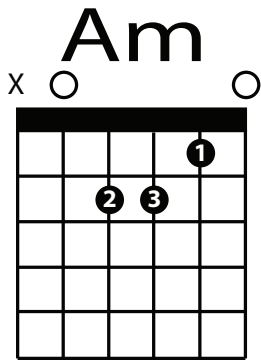


Minor Chords



CHORD PROFESSOR

Minor chords have a sad sound while major chords have a happy sound. Minor chords are presented in this book with a capital letter, which refers to the letter name of the chord, followed by a lowercase “m” indicating that it is a minor chord. Remember to keep your thumb firmly anchored against the back of the neck.



Major & Minor Sounds



You will learn major and minor chords in this book. Major chords have a happy or bright sound. Minor chords have a sad or melancholy sound. If someone was writing a song about the happiest day of their life they would use major chords. But if they were writing a song about a friend moving away they would surely use minor chords.

Minor Pentatonic Scale

1st Position Key of "A"



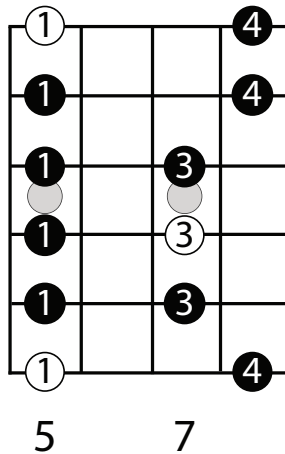
SCALE PROFESSOR

Minor pentatonic scales are the most widely used scales in rock and blues music. It is a five note scale that repeats after five scale degrees back in a circle type fashion. The notes included in the A minor pentatonic scale are A-C-D-E-G. Notice that the A notes (or root notes) are in white.

Scales are your alphabet for creating leads and melodies. Just like you learned your alphabet in school and then expanded into words, sentences and complete stories you will learn scales for guitar then expand to melodies, leads and complete songs. Practice this scale with a metronome using whole, half and quarter note timing.

Finger Pattern

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 4 |
| 1 | 4 |
| 1 | 3 |
| 1 | 3 |
| 1 | 3 |
| 1 | 3 |
| 1 | 4 |



A great way to learn scales is to memorize the finger pattern (the fingers used on each string). The finger pattern for the 1st position scale is:

1 - 4, 1 - 3, 1 - 3, 1 - 3, 1 - 4, 1 - 4

Diagram of the 1st position A minor pentatonic scale on a guitar fretboard. The strings are labeled T (Treble), A (A), and B (Bass) on the left. The frets are numbered 5, 7, and 8. The scale is shown in two directions: ascending and descending. Fingerings are indicated by circled numbers below the notes.

Ascending: 5 8 | 5 8 | 8 5 | 8 5 | 7 5 | 7 5 | 7 5 | 8 5

Descending: 8 5 | 8 5 | 7 5 | 7 5 | 7 5 | 8 5

Fingerings: 1 4 | 1 3 | 1 3 | 1 3 | 1 4 | 1 4 | 4 1 | 4 1 | 3 1 | 3 1 | 3 1 | 3 1 | 4 1



MUSIC ASSIGNMENT

After you can play this scale easily forwards and backwards, play this over the Blues in A progression and see how the notes really fit together perfectly. Start to think of this scale as a creative tool not just a group of notes forming a scale. You can even create your own melody within the confines of the scale notes by mixing the order and listening for interesting combinations.



Song Riff

This is a picked song riff. Hold down the fingers for each group of four eighth notes and let the notes ring together. The last four notes are a riff that brings you back to the beginning to repeat.

TAB

4/4

0 7 5 7 | 0 5 4 5 | 0 3 2 3 | 2 3 2 3

Finger: 3 1 3 2 1 2 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

Count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

□ √ □ √ □ √ □ √ □ √ □ √ □ √



Combining Major & Minor Chords

Blue Velvet

The strum pattern for this rhythm is: down, down, down-up-down-up. Play this strumming pattern once for each chord. There will be common fingers held down from chord to chord that will make the transitions easier. Keep your hand, arm and shoulder loose and relaxed at all times. Never tense or tighten up your strumming arm. Once you can play this chord progression smoothly, changing from chord to chord, use the backing track and play along with the bass and drums.

Am **C** **Em** **G**

Am C Em G

4/4

Count: 1 (&) 2 (&) 3 & 4 & | 1 (&) 2 (&) 3 & 4 &

Strum: □ □ □ √ □ √ | □ □ □ √ □ √

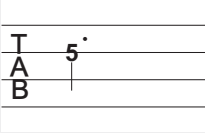
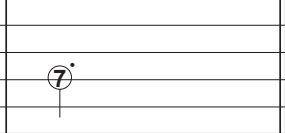
Em **G**

1 (&) 2 (&) 3 & 4 & | 1 (&) 2 (&) 3 & 4 &

□ □ □ √ □ √ | □ □ □ √ □ √

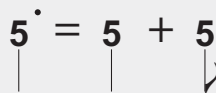
Dotted Notes

The dot after a note increases the duration of the note by half of its original value. If the basic note is a half note (2 beats), the dotted note is 3 beats or counts. A dotted quarter note would receive 1 ½ beats or counts. The Star Spangled Banner melody below will be using both dotted half and quarter notes.

| Dotted Quarter Note | Dotted Half Note |
|---|---|
|  |  |

Dotted Quarter Note

$5\dot{=} 5 + 5$



1 1/2 Beats

Dotted Half Note

$5\dot{=} 5 + 5$



3 Beats



The Star Spangled Banner

This great melody has been played by countless musicians. One of the most famous is the version that Jimi Hendrix played with heavy distortion and whammy bar tricks. Learn the basic melody and after you have this under your fingers, experiment and try to make your own version. Add some distortion to it or use techniques like hammer ons, pull offs and bends. Be creative!

C G Am E Am D⁷ G C G



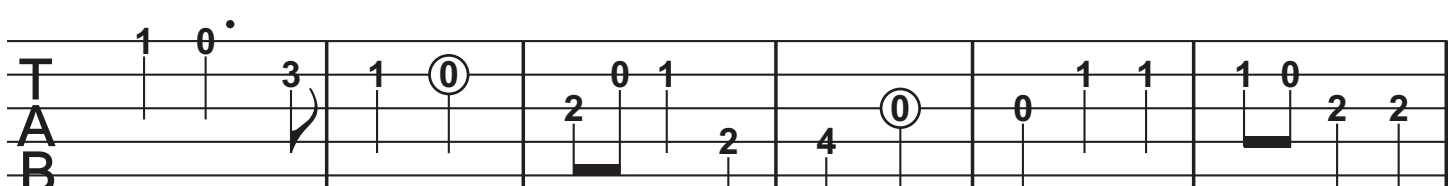
Finger: 2 3 2 1 3 1 2 4 3 1

F C G⁷



2 1 1 2 3 1 3 3 1 2 1 1

C G F C Am D⁷ G C F



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