

## How To Read Tab, for Beginners!

Congratulations! You're learning the guitar or bass with us, which is so exciting.

Here are a few pointers to get you started with reading tab.

A guitar has 6 strings and a bass usually has 4 strings, so please bear that in mind while reading this through.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Step:

You will need to understand and memorise the strings on your guitar or bass.

A quick reminder:

E (6<sup>th</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup>)
A (5<sup>th</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup>)
D (4<sup>th</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup>)
G (3<sup>rd</sup> / 1<sup>st</sup>)
B (2<sup>nd</sup>) (not on the bass)
E (1<sup>st</sup>) (not on the bass)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Step:

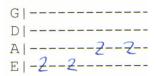
The horizontal lines on a tab represent the strings on your guitar/bass. The 1<sup>st</sup> string (thinnest) is always the line at the top of the tab, and the 6<sup>th</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> string (thickest) is always the line at the bottom.

A tab will always show the strings in that order.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Step:

The numbers shown on the lines represent the frets on the neck of the guitar/bass. Remember, you count from 1 right at the bottom of the neck (towards the headstock) all the way up.

Both guitar and bass tabs can be transferrable on either instrument, where strings allow!



So, this piece of bass tab means that you play the E string, twice on the  $2^{\rm nd}$  fret, and then the A string, twice also on the  $2^{\rm nd}$  fret.

If you see numbers stacked vertically, that means you play all those notes at the same time, which makes a chord.



E | ----

BI-1-9
This piece of guitar tab means that you play the E string, B string and G string using the 7th, 9th and 8th frets, all at the same time.