



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.

1st Step:

You will need to understand and memorise the strings on your guitar or bass. A quick reminder:

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

2nd Step:

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

A tab will always show the strings in that order.

3rd 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!

```

G|-----
D|-----
A|-----2-2-
E|-2-2-----

```

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

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

```

e| 7-7-7
B| 9-9-9
G| 8-8-8
D|-----
A|-----
E|-----

```

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.