

Chapter 5

Map of Notes on the Guitar

About the Map

Within just a few minutes a beginning piano student can learn to find any note by name on the piano. For the guitarist that same skill can take many years to learn.

The guitar has a more elusive design, but that should not obstruct the useful knowledge of where notes are on the fretboard.

After centuries of evolution, the guitar we use today has six strings, with four of the adjacent string pairs tuned four notes apart, and one string pair tuned three notes apart. Each string is divided by frets, so that one string can play nineteen (or more) different notes. This design makes finding notes on the guitar somewhat complicated, and can be an obstacle to novice guitarists.

It is no wonder that guitarists tend to shy away from music notation. Even so, the benefits of learning to read music on the guitar are so great that the effort is one of the best investments of time any guitarist can make.

The *Map of Notes on the Guitar* graphically shows everything a guitarist needs in order to connect music notation to where the notes are to be played on the guitar.

It graphically associates and translates music and fretboard notations so that any natural note within the first twelve frets may be easily found.

Once the underlying concept of how the guitar is organized to play notes is mastered, it is a small and easy step to extend fretboard knowledge to include all notes on all frets, including chromatic notes and the highest regions of the fretboard.

It will save a lot of time if you make a photocopy of the main map page and place it nearby the music you are working on. The map can be used with any music.

How to use the Map of Guitar Notes

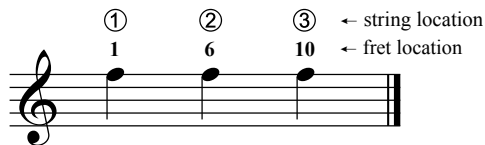
How the Map Works

1. The Map is divided into six sections, one for each string on the guitar. Each section has an upper and lower part.
2. The upper part of each section has standard music notation for all the natural notes on the string up until the 12th fret.
 - a. Above each note is the letter name of the note.
 - b. Next to each note is a number, from 0 to 12, which tells which fret the note is played in. (The "O" means play the open string to sound that note.)
3. Beneath the staff notation is a fretboard diagram which is lined up beneath the notes shown on the staff. There is a black dot with a letter name of the note that is played in that fret location. It is always the same as the note shown in the staff above.

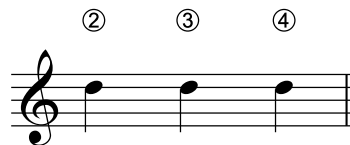
A Few Exercises Using the Map to Find Notes

1. Play a natural scale ascending and descending on each open string, using the map on page 16 as a guide. Visualize and name the note as you play, observing the fret location of each note.
2. Study the examples below of the note F, and the note D, and use the map to find and verify the primary and secondary locations of these notes. Afterwards, choose various notes and repeat the process until you can readily navigate the map to find any note you wish.

This note F can be found on several strings:



Use the map to find the note D on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th strings:



Best Use of the Map of Guitar Notes

Keep in mind that once you have focused your *intention* to learn the notes on the guitar you will have created a potent force for success. Although the learning does not come with the speed of a fast food item through a take-out window, the knowledge and mastery of music notation acts to enhance every aspect of your music making on the guitar.

Map of Notes on the First 12 Frets of the Guitar

1st String:

Musical notation for the 1st string showing notes E (0), F (1), G (3), A (5), B (7), C (8), D (10), and E (12). The fretboard diagram below shows the notes F, G, A, B, C, D, and E on the first string across frets 1 to 12.

2nd String:

Musical notation for the 2nd string showing notes B (0), C (1), D (3), E (5), F (6), G (8), A (10), and B (12). The fretboard diagram below shows the notes C, D, E, F, G, A, and B on the second string across frets 1 to 12.

3rd String:

Musical notation for the 3rd string showing notes G (0), A (2), B (4), C (5), D (7), E (9), F (10), and G (12). The fretboard diagram below shows the notes A, B, C, D, E, F, and G on the third string across frets 1 to 12.

4th String:

Musical notation for the 4th string showing notes D (0), E (2), F (3), G (5), A (7), B (9), C (10), and D (12). The fretboard diagram below shows the notes E, F, G, A, B, C, and D on the fourth string across frets 1 to 12.

5th String:

Musical notation for the 5th string showing notes A (0), B (2), C (3), D (5), E (7), F (8), G (10), and A (12). The fretboard diagram below shows the notes B, C, D, E, F, G, and A on the fifth string across frets 1 to 12.

6th String:

Musical notation for the 6th string showing notes E (0), F (1), G (3), A (5), B (7), C (8), D (10), and E (12). The fretboard diagram below shows the notes F, G, A, B, C, D, and E on the sixth string across frets 1 to 12.