

THE GUITAR

A QUICK GUIDE

All you need to know about this amazing instrument

ELECTRIC GUITAR & AMPLIFIER

If you want to play electric guitar you should first plug it into an amplifier (amp). You could play the guitar 'unplugged', but it would be too quiet to hear properly. Here are all the parts of the guitar and amp that you need to know about...

PICKUPS

The pickups have magnets inside that sense the strings' vibrations. These smart devices then turn the vibrations into a signal that can be amplified (made loud) by an amplifier.

BRIDGE

The strings are fixed at the body end of the guitar by the bridge. There are two main types: hard-tail and tremolo. A hard-tail bridge keeps the strings fixed against the body, whereas a tremolo bridge lets you raise and lower the pitch of the strings with a tremolo bar.

JACK PLUG

Plug a cable in here then plug the other end into your amp.

FRET BOARD

This is the area on the front of the neck where you place your fingertips.

TONE CONTROLS

Turn these clockwise (from 0 to 10) to increase the brightness of your guitar's sound.

VOLUME CONTROL

Turn this clockwise (from 0 to 10) to increase the volume of your guitar.

STRINGS

The guitar's sound starts here. When you pluck a string it vibrates, making a note. How high or low the note sounds (its pitch) depends on where you press down on the string.

TUNING PEGS

Turn these to get your strings in tune. The best way to tune your guitar is with an electronic tuner, or if you don't have one of these you could ask your teacher for some help.

FRET MARKERS

You can use these to quickly work out which fret is which. The following frets are usually marked: 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 12th, 15th, 17th, 19th and 21st.

FRETS

Frets divide each string into separate notes.

NECK

The strings are stretched across the length of the neck, which is shaped so you can place your fingers and thumb around it and then play notes.

STRAP PINS

Attach a strap to these and you will be able to stand up while playing your guitar.

ACOUSTIC GUITAR

Unlike the electric guitar, the acoustic guitar sounds loud enough on its own, so you shouldn't need an amp. These are the bits you should know about...

1 LARGE BODY

Acoustic guitars have bigger bodies than electric guitars. The body is hollow rather than made of one solid piece of wood. This makes the sound much louder.

2 SOUNDHOLE

This hole on the top of the body



works a bit like a loudspeaker. It sends the sound – amplified by the acoustic guitar's large hollow body – out of the body and into the air where it can be heard.

TONE CONTROLS

These are usually 'bass', 'middle' and 'treble'. Adding more bass makes your guitar sound warmer and fatter. Treble is the opposite: it makes your guitar sound bright and sparkly. Middle is between bass and treble. It's hard to describe tone in words, so make sure you play with all of these controls and hear for yourself once you're plugged into your amp!

VOLUME & GAIN

Use the volume knob (sometimes labelled 'master') to increase the overall volume. Some amps will have a second control marked 'gain'. Turning this up will add a crunchy sound to your guitar's tone.



ROCK

'ROCK CITY'

♩=90 *Rock*
N.C.

The first system of music for 'Rock City' consists of a treble clef staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. Below the staff is a three-line tablature (T, A, B) with fret numbers 2, 0, 2, 0, 3, 0, 0, 3, 0, 2, 0, 0.

The second system of music continues the melody from the first system. The tablature below the staff shows fret numbers 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 0, 2.

[5]

The third system of music features a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It includes four measures of chords: A⁵, D⁵, A⁵, and E⁵. The tablature below the staff shows fret numbers 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0.

[9]

The fourth system of music continues the melody from the third system. The tablature below the staff shows fret numbers 2, 0, 2, 0, 3, 0, 0, 3, 0, 2, 0.

[13]

INDIE

'PARKA LIFE'

♩ = 100 Indie

G C

TAB

G D G C

TAB

[5]

G D C G

TAB

[9]

C G

TAB

[13]