



# Tool Kit

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Introduction to Rock & Pop

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Guitar

Keyboard

Bass

Drums

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# Guitar skills

The guitar can be the focal point in any rock and pop band and contributes a lot to the sound of the genre. It can be powerful and fill a lot of space with its sound.

## Open Strings



'Open strings' describes your 6 strings when played by themselves, without pressing down anywhere on the fretboard.

From thickest to thinnest, open strings are E, A, D, G, B and E. Knowing these will help you navigate your guitar quicker and easier.

# Guitar Tab

Guitar tab is a great way of writing or reading music that directly relates to the guitar strings and fretboard. It is built up of 6 lines which represent your 6 open strings. Numbers are plotted on each string to indicate which fret you need to press down before playing the string. It can be useful when learning a lead part or a riff built up of single notes.

The diagram shows a guitar tab with six horizontal lines representing the strings, labeled E, B, G, D, A, and E from top to bottom. The tab includes the following fret numbers and callouts:

- Low E string (bottom line):** A '3' is placed on the line. A callout box points to it with the text: "Press down on 3rd fret on the low E string".
- A string (second line from bottom):** A '2' is placed on the line. A callout box points to it with the text: "Press down on 2nd fret on the A string".
- D string (third line from bottom):** A '4' is placed on the line. A callout box points to it with the text: "Press down on 4th fret on the D string".
- G string (fourth line from bottom):** A '0' is placed on the line. A callout box points to it with the text: "Play the G string open. 0 means open."

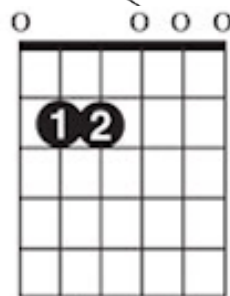
Other fret numbers visible on the tab include a '0' on the D string, a '2' on the D string, a '3' on the A string, and a '0' on the G string. The B and low E strings have no fret numbers. The letters **T** and **A** are placed on the B and G strings respectively, likely indicating a barre or a specific note.



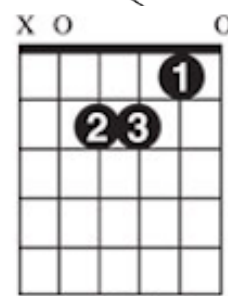
# Guitar Chords

Guitar is commonly used to play chords. This can be a huge part of your band's sound and can also be used to accompany your own vocals. Learning chords can be tricky at first but practice and patience is key. Below is some explanation of some of the more common guitar chords, especially ones you will need to play songs in this book.

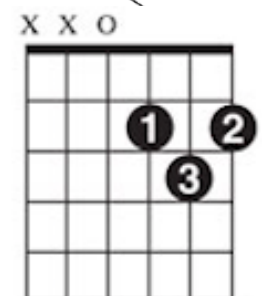
## E minor



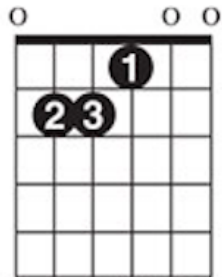
## A minor



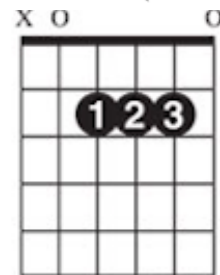
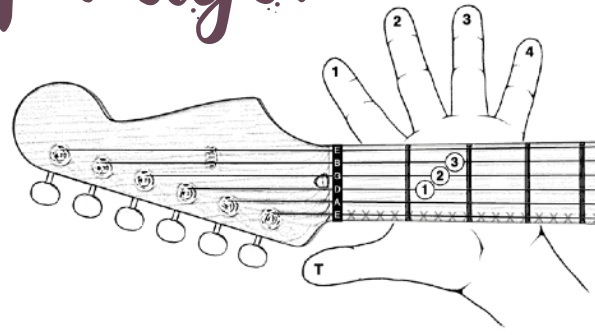
## D major



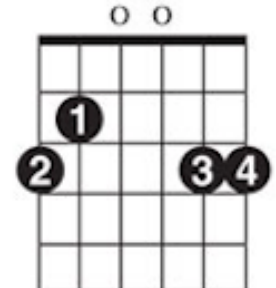
# E major



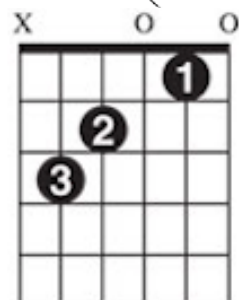
# A major



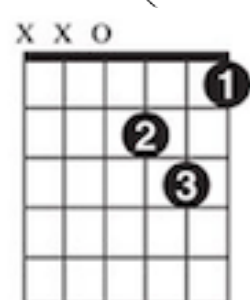
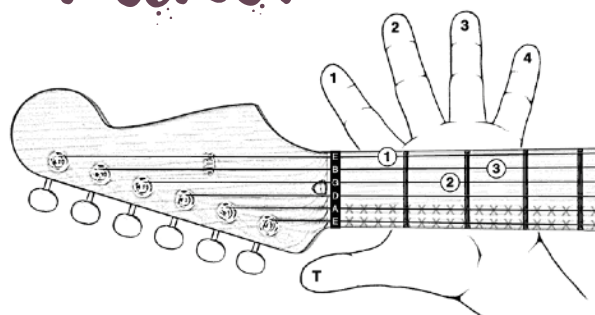
# G major



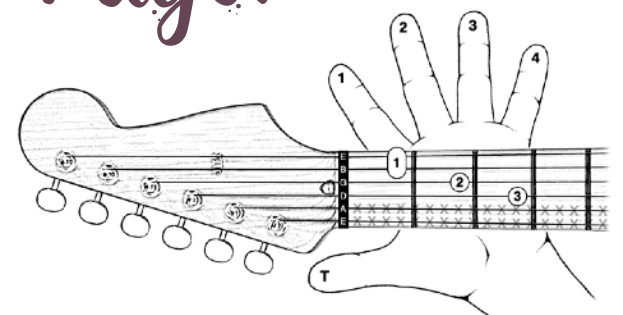
# C major



# D minor



# F major

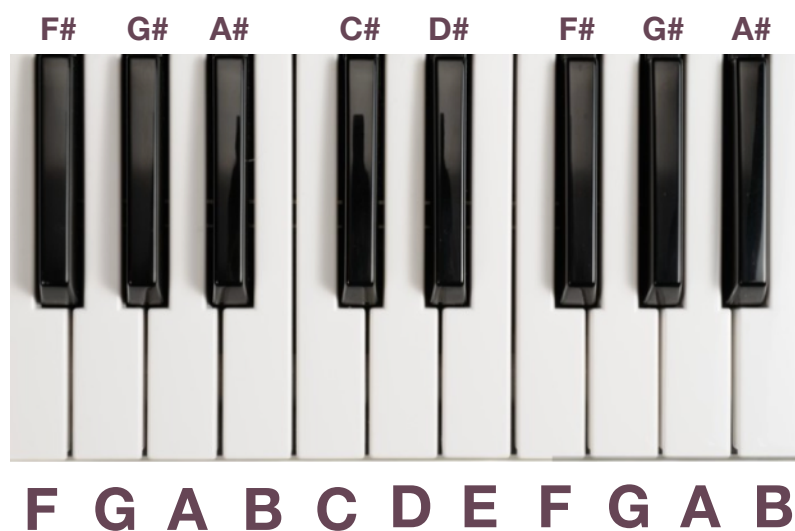


# Keyboard skills

Keyboard or piano is a great instrument for chords and melody as well as accompanying the vocalist. Below are essential skills to get you playing in your band and with other musicians. Or simply to accompany your own voice. Lets begin.

## Note Learning

A really crucial part of playing keyboard is knowing the names of the notes. As you may know they work alphabetically from A to G and then repeat. Although it still helps lots to know each note rather than counting through alphabetically.





# Keyboard Chords

The keyboard is commonly used to play chords. A chord is a group of notes played together. This can be a huge part of your band's sound and can also be used to accompany your own vocals.

Notice the first note is also the name of the chord. This is the root note. Try to play this note with your thumb.

*C major*



*D major*



*E major*



*C minor*



*D minor*



*E minor*





*F major*



*G major*



*A major*



*F minor*



*G minor*



*A minor*



# Bass skills

Arguably the coolest instrument, the bass guitar provides a low frequency sound and adds a lot of power to the sound of your band. To play the songs in this book you will need to know instruments open strings and some of the fretboard. Below is some vital information. Lets get started.

## Open Strings

'Open strings' describes your 4 strings when played by themselves, without pressing down anywhere on the fretboard.

From thickest to thinnest, open strings are E, A, D and G. When you see these notes in your songs you can choose to use open strings to play them.

The bass has a lot of power! Remember to control the ringing of your bass strings. Try to only let 1 string ring at a time.



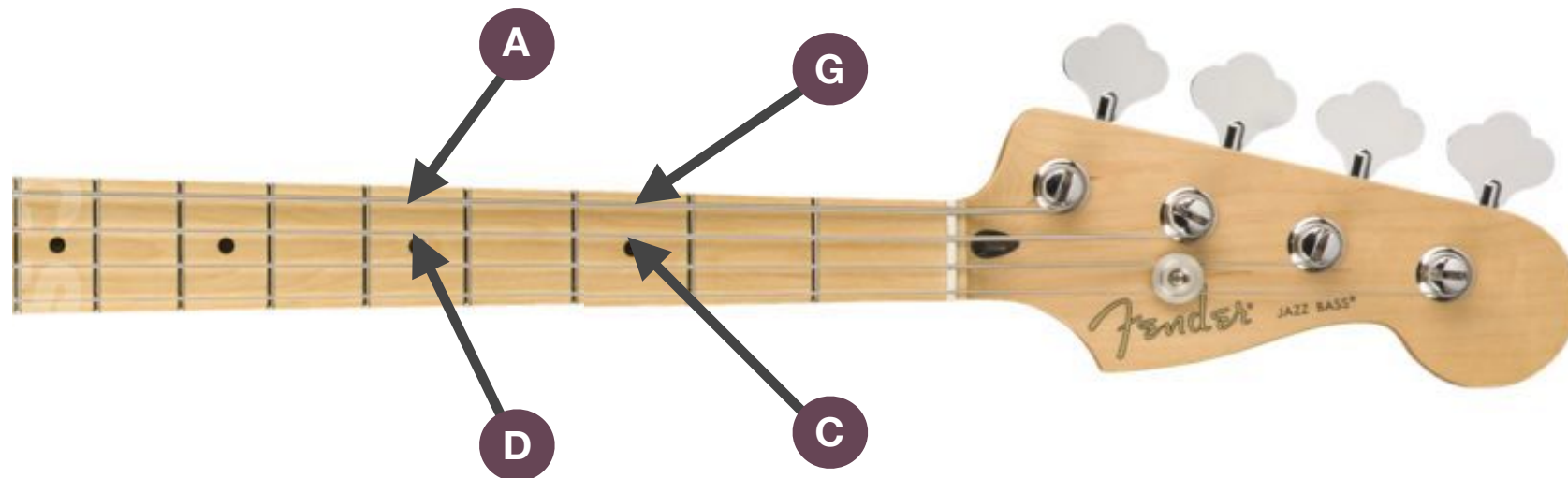


# Bass Guitar Fretboard

The notes you need to find live on the fretboard. The fretboard is divided up into frets and strings. Pressing down on different frets and playing certain strings will give us different notes. Press firmly to get a clear sound but don't play the string too hard!

By pressing fret 3 on the E string we get a G.  
By Pressing fret 5 on the E string we get an A.

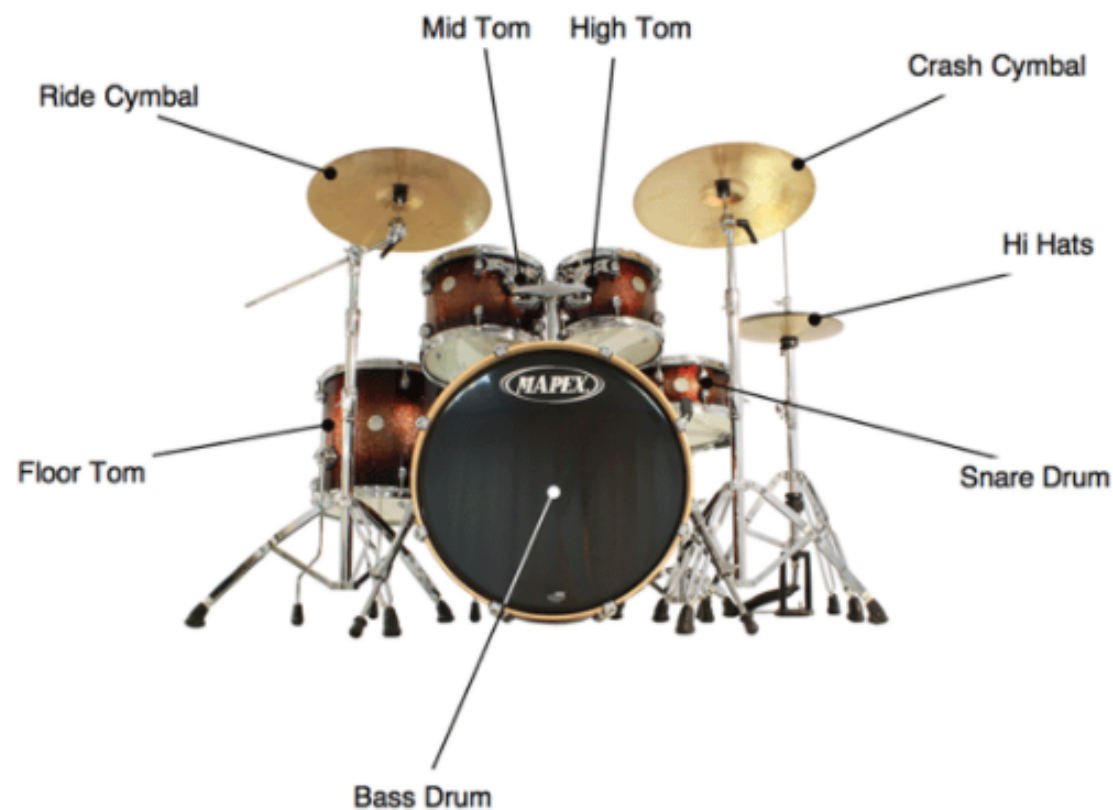
By pressing fret 3 on the A string we get a C.  
By pressing fret 5 on the A string we get a D.



# Drumkit skills

The success of a good band can definitely rely on the drummer. Your instrument is different to the rest and you have a lot of responsibility. Once you've mastered your basic patterns and co-ordination your job is to hold the timing of the entire band. Counting and listening are essential to keeping time, not only for yourself but for all the musicians in your group. Lets go.

## Instruments & Sounds

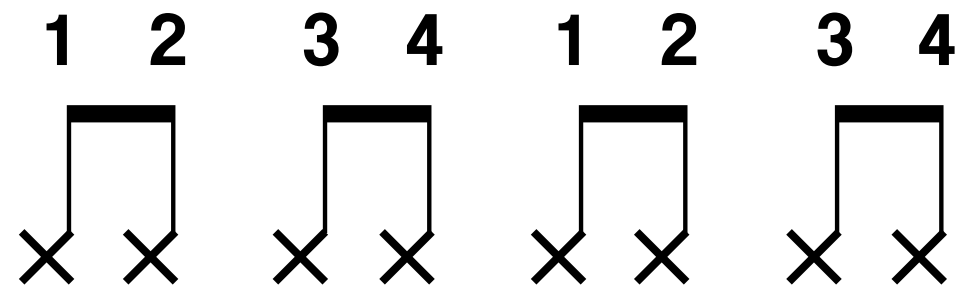




# Drumkit Patterns Explained..

Understanding basic notation of drum kit patterns can help internalise what you're doing on the kit. A basic rock and pop pattern is built up as follows..

The Hi hat plays this. 8 hits.  
Use your stronger hand.  
For now it can be counted  
as 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4



The snare drum plays on  
the 3rd hi hat. Use your  
weaker hand. (Your sticks  
may crossover!)



The bass drum with your  
stronger foot plays on the  
1st of every 4 hi hats.



# Rock & Pop Patterns

Once you have got to grips with the basic pattern your next step is to add or move the bass drum or snare drum hits around the hi hat pattern.

Below are a selection of drum kit patterns that can be used throughout the selection of songs.

The image displays ten musical staves, each representing a drum kit pattern for a specific beat in a 4/4 time signature. The patterns are arranged in two columns: BEAT 1 through BEAT 5 on the left, and BEAT 6 through BEAT 10 on the right. Each staff begins with a 4/4 time signature and a repeat sign. The notation uses 'x' for hi-hat hits, 'f' for snare hits, and '7' for bass drum hits. The patterns are as follows:

- BEAT 1:** Snare hit on beat 1, hi-hat on beats 1, 2, 3, 4.
- BEAT 2:** Snare hit on beat 2, hi-hat on beats 1, 2, 3, 4.
- BEAT 3:** Snare hit on beat 3, hi-hat on beats 1, 2, 3, 4.
- BEAT 4:** Snare hit on beat 4, hi-hat on beats 1, 2, 3, 4.
- BEAT 5:** Snare hit on beat 5, hi-hat on beats 1, 2, 3, 4.
- BEAT 6:** Snare hit on beat 6, hi-hat on beats 1, 2, 3, 4.
- BEAT 7:** Snare hit on beat 7, hi-hat on beats 1, 2, 3, 4.
- BEAT 8:** Snare hit on beat 8, hi-hat on beats 1, 2, 3, 4.
- BEAT 9:** Snare hit on beat 9, hi-hat on beats 1, 2, 3, 4.
- BEAT 10:** Snare hit on beat 10, hi-hat on beats 1, 2, 3, 4.