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Acoustic Beginners

LEVEL 1 • Guitar Skills

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Essentials Part 4

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The Intro Riff

For the first time in your guitar learning thus far we are moving away from chords and into a bit of riff! Although this riff is based around E minor I would still class it as a riff as it's a repetitive, very specific part that we need to learn. The riff looks like this:
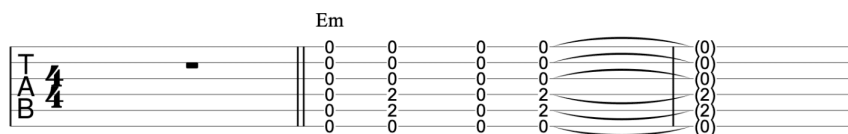
Now, if you've never seen or read TAB before, this is going to look like complete nonsense to you! So let's take a second to review how to read tab. Here is an extremely random looking tab, to help you understand the core elements:

bar lines

guitar strings

which fret
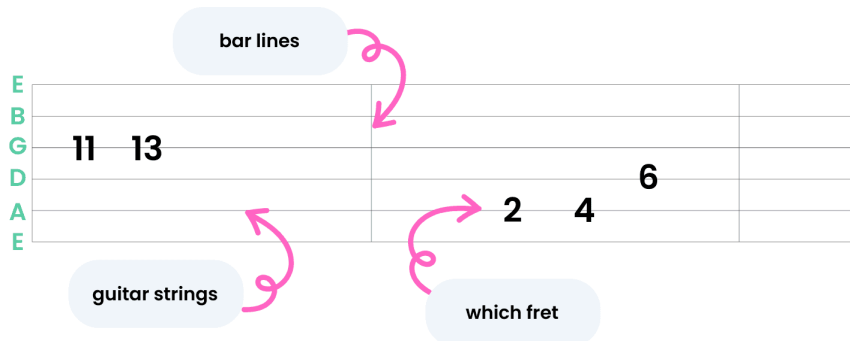
If this still feels completely foreign to you, then do check out this blog post as it will go into a little bit more detail!

Let's take a moment to break down the actual tab we are using in this track, as there are a few tricky elements here:

This is a bar of space before the track starts!

This is a tied note, meaning that the chord continues to ring out into the next bar!

When notes are stacked on top of each other, like this, you are looking at the tab version of a chord. All the 0's are saying all open strings, followed by the Em chord which is 2nd fret A and D strings, as shown on the tab!
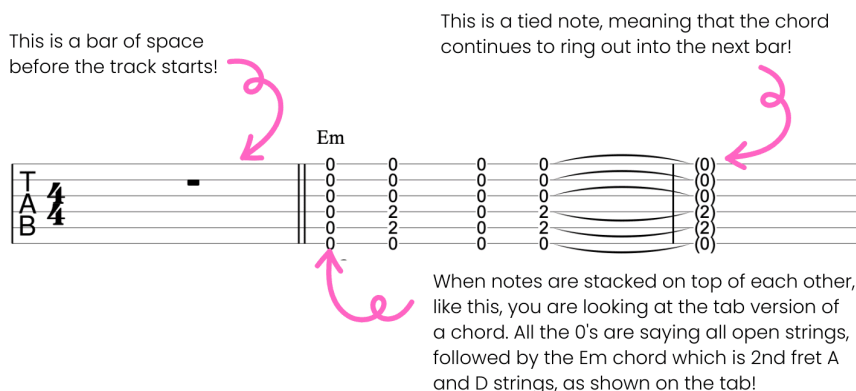
The riff is essentially an E minor chord that you take off and then put back on. In terms of rhythm pattern it looks as simple as shown below! Take your time getting this together and then get ready for the next lesson!
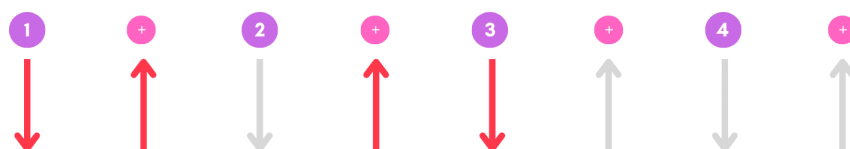
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