# rockscho **GRADE 5**







# **CD TRACK LISTINGS**

Full Mixes I Alka Setzer

2 Sidewinder

3 All Funked Up

4 D&A

5 Bust Up

6 X-Blues III

7 Tuning Notes

Backing Tracks 8 Alka Setzer

9 Sidewinder

10 All Funked Up

II D&A

12 Bust Up

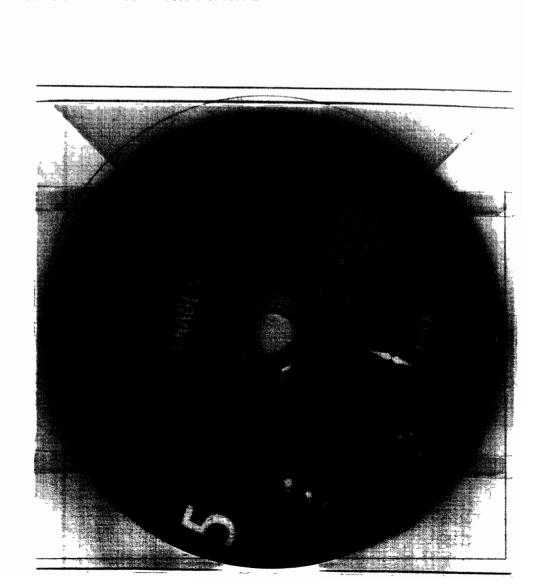
13 X-Blues III

Tech Exercises 14 Riff

Improvisation &

Interpretation 15 Backing Track

Ear Tests 16 Test 1 & Test 2





# Better Guitar With... Rockschool

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#### Welcome To Guitar Grade 5

Welcome to the Rockschool Guitar Grade 5 pack. The book and CD contain everything needed to play guitar in this grade. In the book you will find the exam scores in both standard guitar notation and TAB. The accompanying CD has full stereo mixes of each tune, backing tracks to play along with for practice, tuning notes and spoken two bar count-ins to each piece. Handy tips on playing the pieces and the marking schemes can be found in the Guru's Guide on page 22. If you have any queries about this or any other Rockschool exam, please call us on **0845 460 4747**, email us at *info@rockschool.co.uk* or visit our website *www.rockschool.co.uk*. Good luck!

#### Level 2 Requirements for Grades 4 & 5

The nine Rockschool grades are divided into four levels. These levels correspond to the levels of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Further details about the NQF can be found at www.qca.org.uk/NQF. Details of all Rockschool's accredited qualifications can be found at www.qca.org.uk/openquals.

Guitar Grade 5 is part of Level 2. This Level is for those of you who are confident in all the key skills on guitar and who are stepping up to more advanced skills and stylistic expression.

**Grade 4:** in this grade you use a range of physical and expressive techniques with confidence, damping and the use of double stops and adjacent strings, legato and staccato, slides, fretting hand and whammy bar vibrato, hammer ons and pull offs, and accents, and you are experimenting with a range of dynamics from very quiet (**pp**) to very loud (**ff**). In this grade you are continuing to develop your ability to play with stylistic authority.

**Grade 5:** you will be confident in a range of physical and expressive techniques. You will be able to demonstrate your abilities across a number of styles and have control over tone and sound adjustments to suit the playing style of your choice.

#### **Guitar Exams at Grade 5**

There are three types of exam that can be taken using this pack: a Grade Exam, a Performance Certificate and a Band Exam.

#### Guitar Grade 5 Exam: this is for players who want to develop performance and technical skills

Players wishing to enter for a Guitar Grade 5 exam need to prepare **three** pieces of which **one** may be a free choice piece chosen from outside the printed repertoire. In addition you must prepare the technical exercises in the book, undertake either a sight reading test or an improvisation & interpretation test, take an ear test and answer general musicianship questions. Samples of these tests are printed in the book along with audio examples on the CD.

#### Guitar Grade 5 Performance Certificate: this is for players who want to focus on performing in a range of styles

To enter for your Guitar Grade 5 Performance Certificate you play pieces only. You can choose any **five** of the six tunes printed in this book, or you can choose to bring in up to **two** free choice pieces as long as they meet the standards set out by Rockschool. Free choice piece checklists for all grades can be found on the Rockschool website: www.rockschool.co.uk.

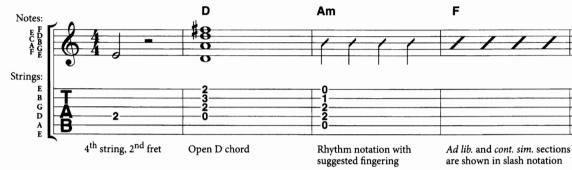
#### Level 2 Band Exam in Guitar, Bass and Drums: this is for players who want to play in a band

The Level 2 band exam is for all of you who would like to play the repertoire at Grade 5 as a three piece band, consisting of guitar, bass and drums. You play together in the exam, using the parts printed in the Grade 5 Guitar, Bass and Drum books. Like the Guitar Grade 5 Performance Certificate, you play any **five** of the six printed tunes, or you can include up to **two** free choice pieces as long as they meet the standards set out by Rockschool. If you take this exam you will be marked as a unit with each player expected to contribute equally to the overall performance of each piece played.

# **Guitar Notation Explained**

THE MUSICAL STAVE shows pitches and rhythms and is divided by lines into bars. Pitches are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet.

TABLATURE graphically represents the guitar fingerboard. Each horizontal line represents a string, and each number represents a fret.



# **Definitions For Special Guitar Notation**

**HAMMER ON:** Pick the lower note, then sound the higher note by fretting it without picking.



**PULL OFF:** Pick the higher note then sound the lower note by lifting the finger without picking.



**SLIDE:** Pick the first note, then slide to the next with the same finger.



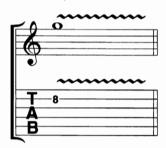
STRING BENDS: Pick the first note then bend (or release the bend) to the pitch indicated in brackets.



GLISSANDO: A small slide off of a note toward the end of its rhythmic duration. Do not slide 'into' the following note – subsequent notes should be repicked.



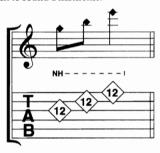
VIBRATO: Vibrate the note by bending and releasing the string smoothly and continuously.



TRILL: Rapidly alternate between the two bracketed notes by hammering on and pulling off.



**NATURAL HARMONICS:** Lightly touch the string above the indicated fret then pick to sound a harmonic.



PINCHED HARMONICS: Bring the thumb of the picking hand into contact with the string immediately after the pick.



PICK HAND TAP: Strike the indicated note with a finger from the picking hand. Usually followed by a pull off.



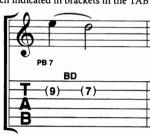
**FRET HAND TAP:** As pick hand tap, but use fretting hand. Usually followed by a pull off or hammer on.



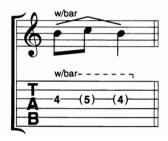
**QUARTER TONE BEND:** Pick the note indicated and bend the string up by a quarter tone.



PRE-BENDS: Before picking the note, bend the string from the fret indicated between the staves, to the equivalent pitch indicated in brackets in the TAB



WHAMMY BAR BEND: Use the whammy bar to bend notes to the pitches indicated in brackets in the TAB



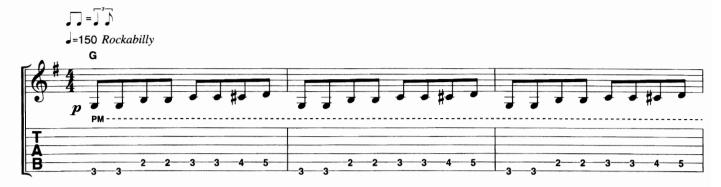
D.%. al Coda



- Go back to the sign (%), then play until the bar marked *To Coda* ⊕ then skip to the section marked ⊕ *Coda*.
- Go back to the beginning of the song and play until the bar marked *Fine* (end).
- Repeat bars between signs.
- When a repeated section has different endings, play the first ending only the first time and the second ending only the second time.

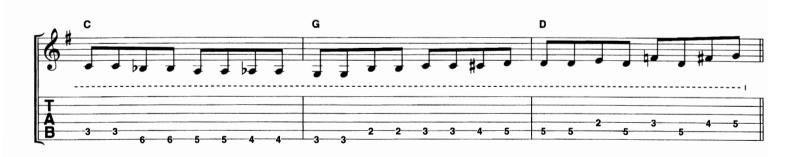


## **Simon Troup**













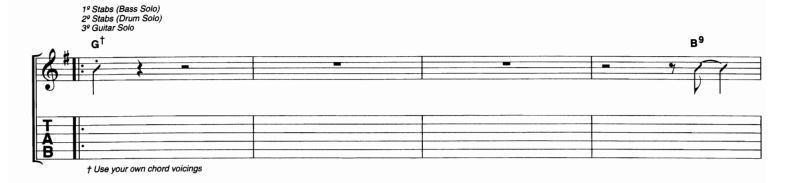




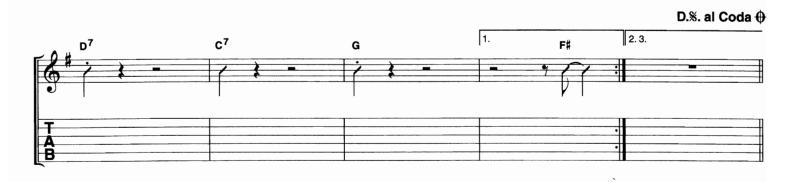








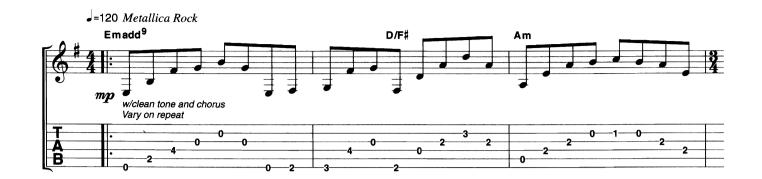


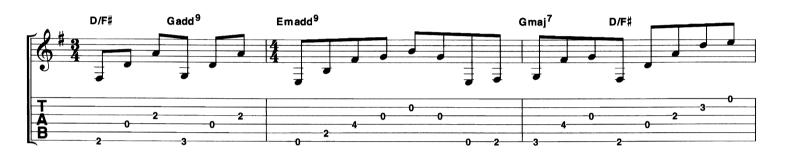


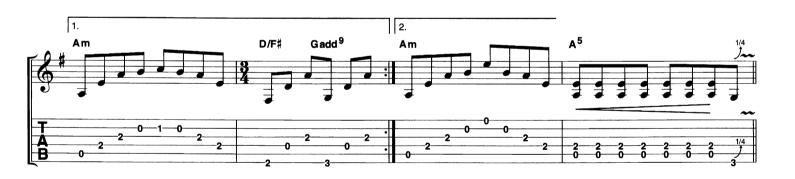


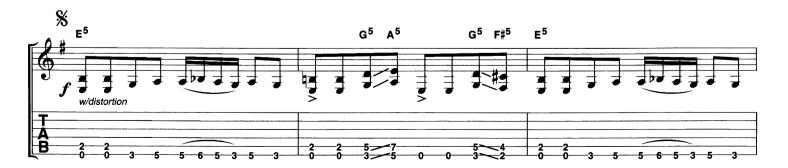


#### **Hussein Boon**

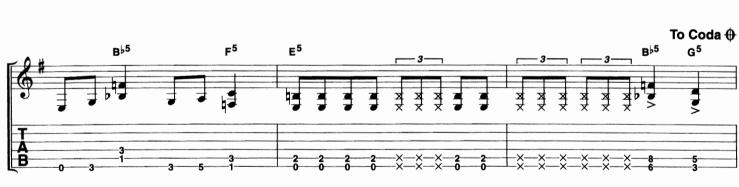


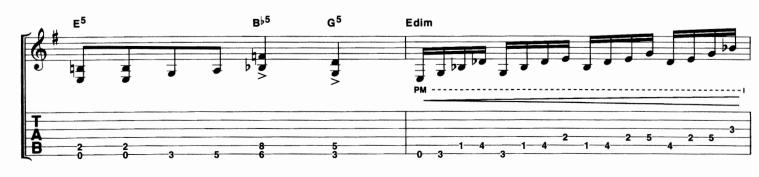


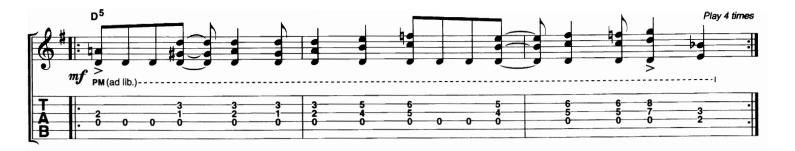


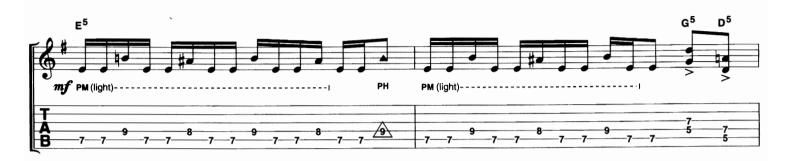




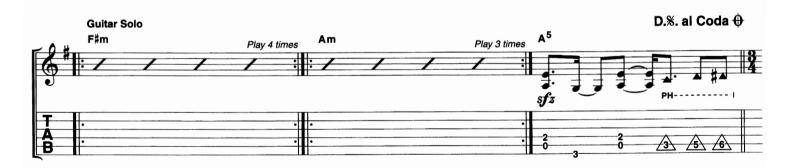


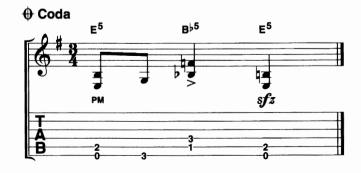






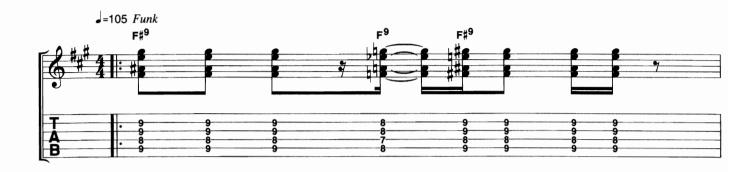






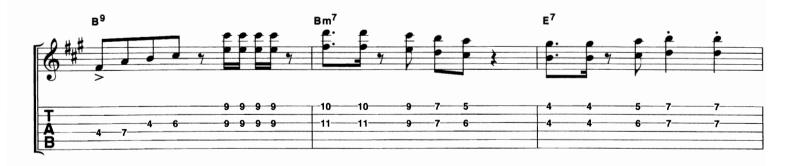


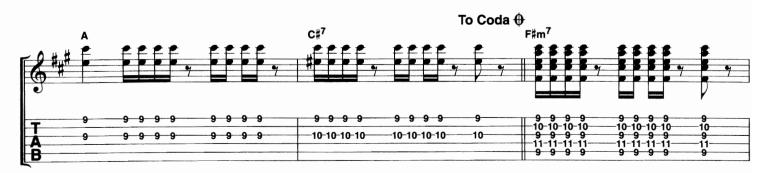
# Jason Woolley







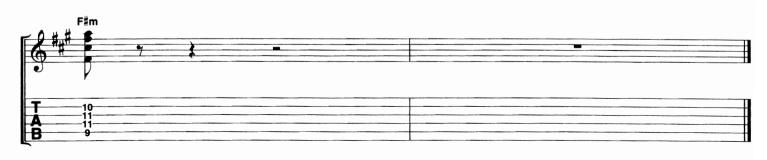




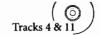




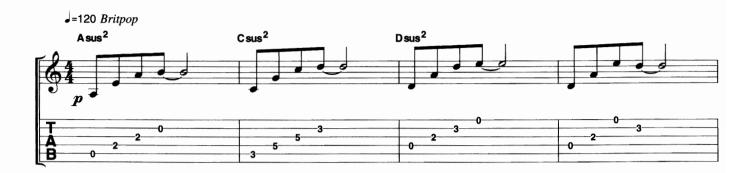


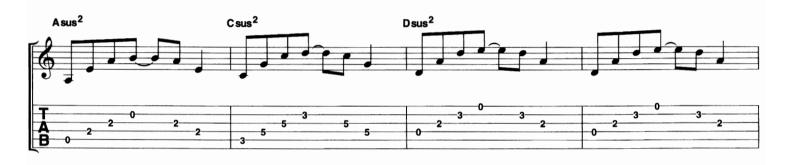


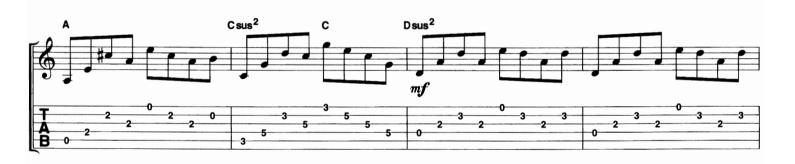
Guitar Grade 5

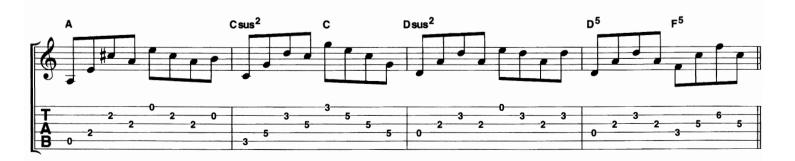


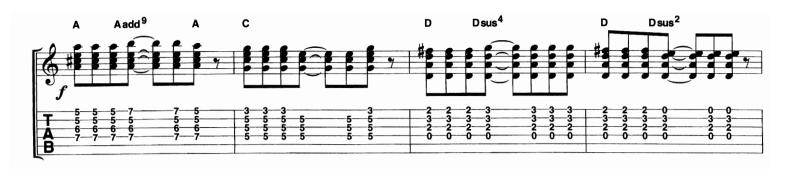
#### Noam Lederman

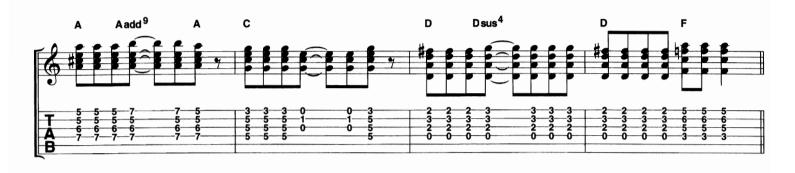


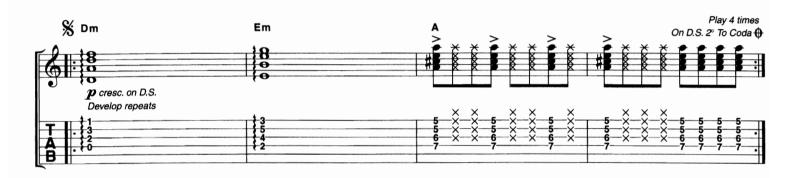


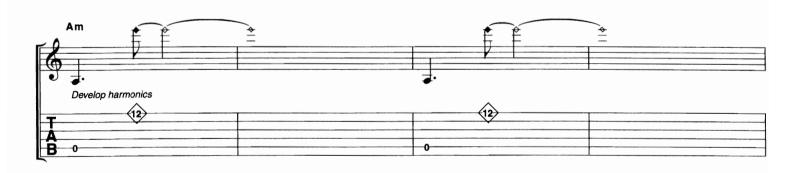




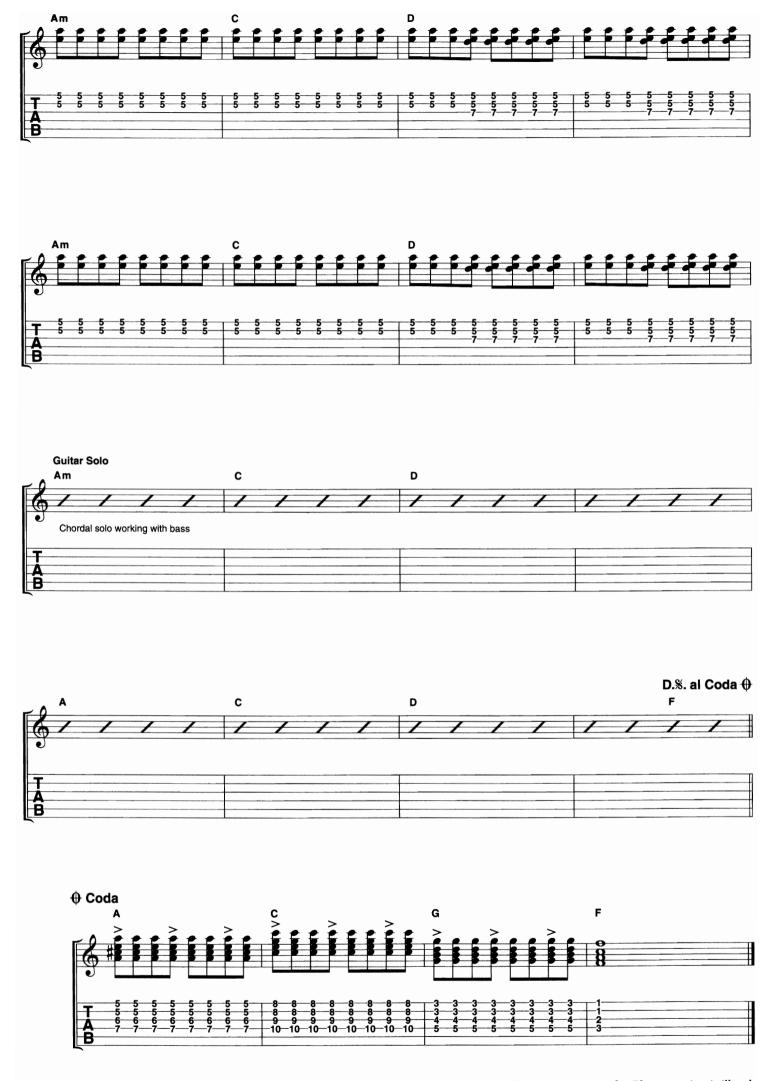






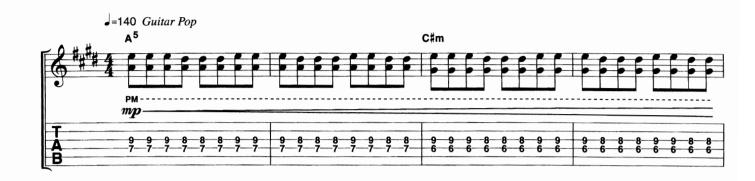


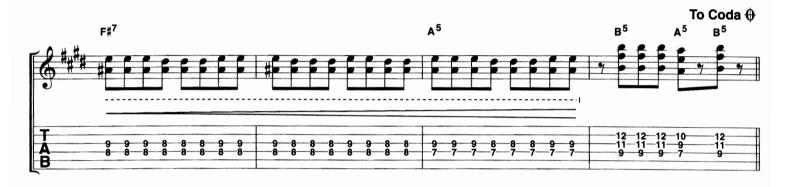


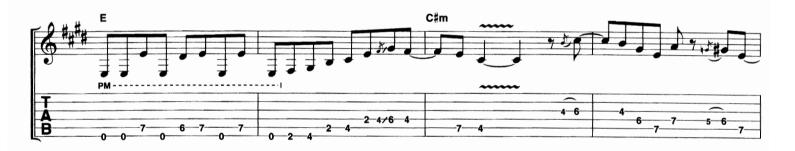


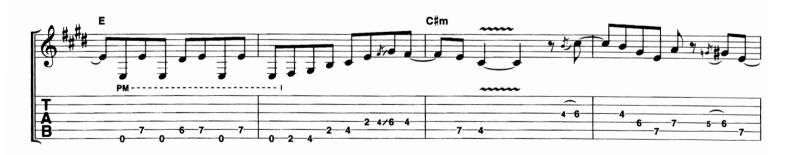


# Simon Troup & Joe Bennett



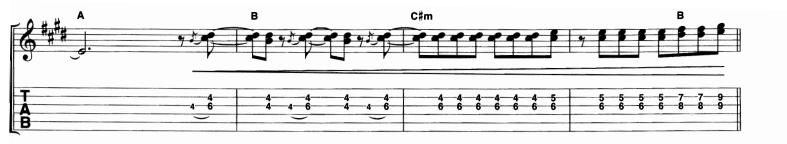


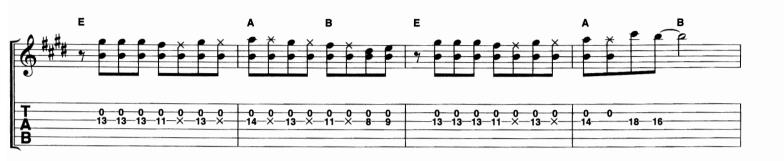


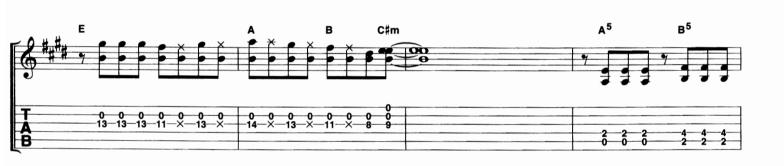


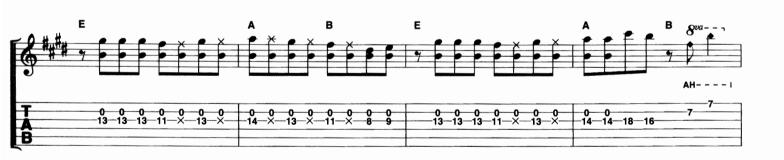


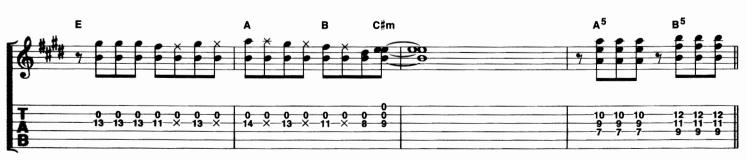
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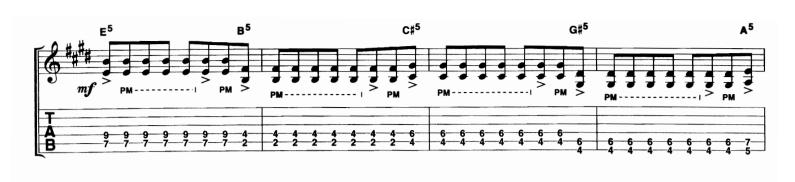


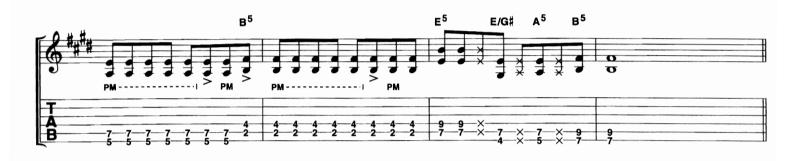


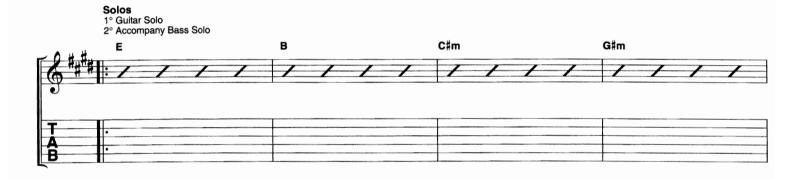


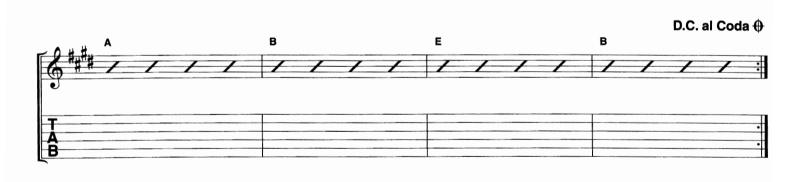


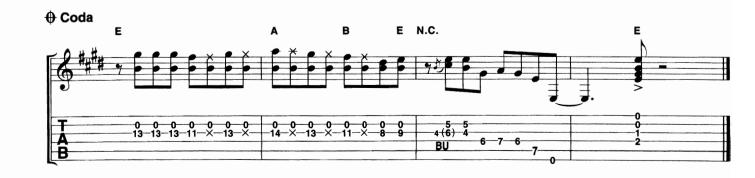






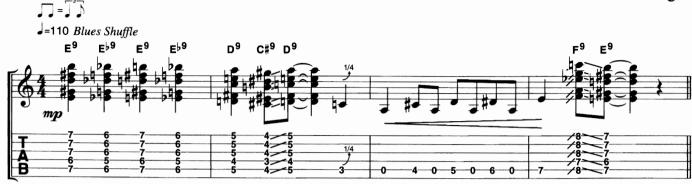








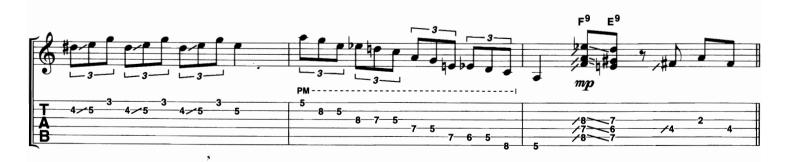














Guitar Grade 5





## **Technical Exercises**



In this section, the examiner will ask you to play a selection of exercises drawn from each of the three groups shown below. Groups A and B contain examples of the kinds of scales and arpeggios you can use when playing the pieces. Group C contains a selection of chords commonly used in the pieces. In Group D you will be asked to prepare the riff exercise and play it to the CD backing track. You do not need to memorise the exercises (and can use the book in the exam) but the examiner will be looking for the speed of your response. The examiner will also give credit for the level of your musicality.

Group A should be prepared in the following keys: chromatically from G-B, root 6th string. Group B should be prepared in the following keys: chromatically from C-E, root 5th string. Groups A, B & C should be played at = 100. The examiner will give you this tempo in the exam.

#### **Group A: Scales**

1. Minor pentatonic scales. The examiner will ask for two consecutive positions. G minor pentatonic scale (position 1) shown: root 6th string.



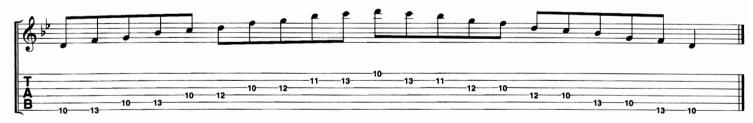
2. G minor pentatonic scale (position 2) shown: root 6th string.



3. G minor pentatonic scale (position 3) shown: root 6th string.



4. G minor pentatonic scale (position 4) shown: root 6th string.



5. G minor pentatonic scale (position 5) shown: root 6th string.



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#### **Group B: Arpeggios**

1. Major arpeggios. C major arpeggio shown.



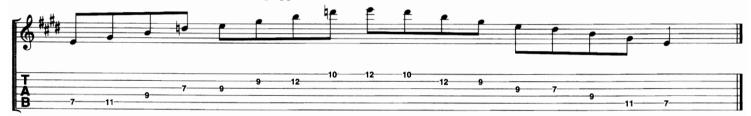
2. Minor arpeggios. C#minor arpeggio shown.



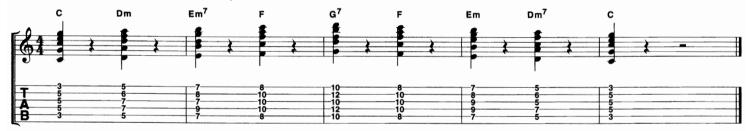
3. Minor <sup>7</sup> arpeggios. D minor <sup>7</sup> arpeggio shown.



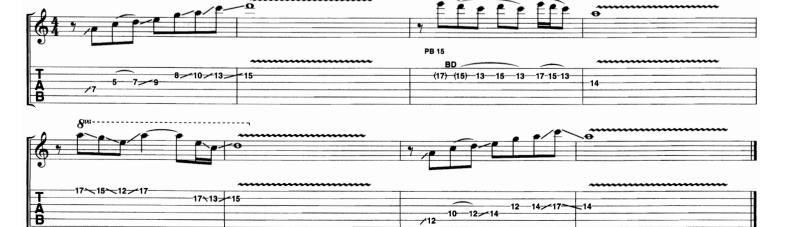
**4.** Dominant <sup>7</sup> arpeggios. E dominant <sup>7</sup> arpeggio shown.



Group C: Root 5th Chords - Play as a continuous exercise



**Group D: Legato Study** – In the exam you will play the following riff to the CD backing track. The tempo is  $\frac{1}{2} = 80$ .



# Sight Reading

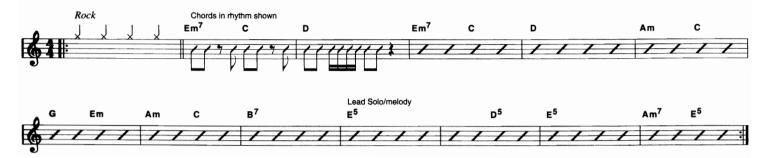
In this section you have a choice between **either** a sight reading test **or** an improvisation & interpretation test (see facing page). Printed below is the type of sight reading test you are likely to encounter in the exam. At this level there is an element of improvisation. This is in the form of a two bar ending. The piece will be composed in the style of blues, rock, funk or jazz and will have chord symbols throughout. The test is eight bars long. The improvised ending will use chord patterns that have been used in the sight reading part of the test. The examiner will allow you 90 seconds to prepare it and will set the tempo for you on a metronome. The tempo is  $\sqrt{\phantom{a}} = 80$ .



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# Improvisation & Interpretation

**Printed below** is an example of the type of improvisation & interpretation test you are likely to encounter in the exam. At this level there is also a small element of sight reading. This takes the form of a two bar chord rhythm at the beginning of the test. You will be asked to play the chords in the given rhythm and continue an improvised line using chords and melody where indicated to a backing track lasting twelve bars in the style of blues, rock, funk or jazz played by the examiner on CD. You will be allowed 30 seconds to prepare. You will then be allowed to practise through one playing of the test on the CD before playing it a second time for the exam. This test is continuous with a one bar count in at the beginning and after the practice session. The tempo is  $\frac{1}{2} = 90$ .





There are two ear tests in this grade. The examiner will play each test to you twice on CD. You will find one example of each type of test you will be given in the exam printed below.

#### **Test 1: Melodic Recall**

You will be asked to play back on your guitar a melody of not more than four bars composed from either the G, A or B minor pentatonic scales. The test may include hammer ons, string bends, pull offs, vibrato and slides. You will be given the tonic note and told the starting note and you will hear the test twice with a drum backing. There will then be a short break for you to practise the test and then the test will recommence. You will play the melody with the drum backing. This test is continuous. The tempo is  $\frac{1}{2} = 80$ .



#### Test 2: Chord and Rhythm Recall

You will be asked to play back the four bar rhythmic chord progression on your guitar. You will be told the tonic chord and hear the rhythmic chord progression played twice with a drum backing. There will then be a short break for you to practise the test and then the test will recommence and you will play the rhythmic chord progression to the drum backing. This test is continuous. The tempo is  $\int = 80$ .



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# **General Musicianship Questions**

You will be asked five General Musicianship Questions at the end of the exam. The examiner will ask questions based on pieces you have played in the exam. Some of the theoretical topics can be found in the Technical Exercises.

#### **Topics:**

- i) Music theory
- ii) Knowledge of your instrument

The music theory questions will cover the recognition of the following at this grade:

Note pitches

Note values

Rests

Time Signatures Key Signatures

D.S. and D.C. al Coda

Ral. and Rit.

Dynamic markings (p, mp, mf, f) and ff

Repeat markings

Accents, staccato and vibrato Hammer on and pull off

Cresc. and dim. Fermata (pause)

Knowledge of the construction of the following chord types:

Major

Major <sup>7</sup>

Dominant 7

Minor

Minor <sup>7</sup>

The instrument knowledge questions will cover the following topics at this grade:

Plugging into the amplifier and the guitar

Volume and tone adjustments on the guitar

Volume and tone adjustments on the amplifier

Knowledge of two open string tuning methods not involving a tuning device

Knowledge of parts of the guitar:

Fretboard, neck, body, tuning pegs, nut, pickups, bridge, pickup selectors, scratchplate and jack socket

Knowledge of main guitar makes.

Knowledge of main pickup types.

Questions on all these topics will be based on pieces played by you in the exam. Tips on how to approach this part of the exam can be found in the Rockschool Companion Guide and on the Rockschool website: www.rockschool.co.uk.

#### The Guru's Guide To Guitar Grade 5

This section contains some handy hints compiled by Rockschool's Guitar Guru to help you get the most out of the performance pieces. Do feel free to adapt the tunes to suit your playing style. Remember, these tunes are your chance to show your musical imagination and personality.

The TAB fingerings are suggestions only. Feel free to use different neck positions as they suit you. Please also note that any solos featured in the full mixes are not meant to be indicative of the standard required for the grade.

#### **Guitar Grade 5 Tunes**

Rockschool tunes help you play the hit tunes you enjoy. The pieces have been written by top pop and rock composers and players according to style specifications drawn up by Rockschool.

The tunes printed here fall into two categories. The first category can be called the 'contemporary mainstream' and features current styles in today's charts. The second category of pieces consists of 'roots styles', those classic grooves and genres which influence every generation of performers.

#### CD full mix track 1, backing track 8: Alka Setzer

Brian Setzer fronted The Stray Cats, a rock 'n' roll revival band that had its heyday in the late 70s and early 80s. This track has all the staples of the rockabilly style that the Cats made their own. Setzer was no mean guitarist (have a listen to the blistering solos on 'Double Talking Baby'). The opening part is not easy to play: double picked, muted eighth notes that should be both even, clearly articulated and played in such a way as to propel the piece forward. The ending is also tricky and features a trademark Setzer closing riff.

Composer: Simon Troup.

#### CD full mix track 2, backing track 9: Sidewinder

Metallica are one of the most influential metal bands of the 90s and this piece is an homage to them. The opening is clear-toned and only medium loud. This is just the prelude for a complete change in mood and tone. An effects rack will be needed to make the smooth transition to the heavy overdrive. The solo section showcases some of the trademark metal flourishes: the slides and vibrato. Watch for the changes in time signature and the triplet effects.

Composer: Hussein Boon.

#### CD full mix track 3, backing track 10: All Funked Up

This is a piece of driving 80s funk that begins with some closely articulated chord work. Indeed chords are the feature of this piece: they should be evenly picked but with power and urgency. The solo on the CD gives some ideas but you may wish to experiment either with a chord or a single note solo. The tone should be bright but without too much treble and each note should ring out clearly.

Composer: Jason Woolley.

#### CD full mix track 4, backing track 11: D & A

This modern guitar rock piece is reminiscent in many ways of bands such as Muse but also harks back to 80s bands such as Simple Minds. The emphasis is on driving chord work after a quiet, arpeggiated, clear-toned opening section. This piece builds strongly towards the dynamic climax in the solo and uses some overdrive and reverb which you can accentuate with plenty of vibrato. The climactic section uses a great deal of echo for the final grand effect.

Composer: Noam Lederman.

#### CD full mix track 5, backing track 12: Bust Up

This song is written in a modern pop punk style similar to Green Day at one end of the scale and Avril Lavigne at the other. This is another chord work out which will test your ability to play the dynamic contrasts. The passages marked loud call for a freer approach, while the more muted 5 chords in the middle section should be muted and played half loud as if there was a singer present. There is a solo section in which you can let rip for eight bars.

Composers: Simon Troup & Joe Bennett.

#### CD full mix track 6, backing track 13: X-Blues III

This piece first saw the light of day in our original 1993-98 syllabus as a Grade 3 piece. This has been updated by popular demand to Grade 5 by increasing the tempo and adding in a whole range of blues flourishes. The guitar part requires accuracy and control and plenty of fretting hand vibrato. The solo section gives you an opportunity to develop some blues using the scale ideas contained in the Technical Exercises. A piece to be played with a sense of fun and exuberance.

Composer: Deirdre Cartwright.

#### CD Musicians:

Guitars: Keith Airey; Deirdre Cartwright; Hussein Boon

Bass: Henry Thomas; Jason Woolley

**Drums**: Noam Lederman; Peter Huntington **Keyboards** and programming: Alastair Gavin

#### **Guitar Grade 5 Marking Schemes**

The table below shows the marking scheme for the Guitar Grade 5 exam.

ELEMENT	PASS	MERIT	DISTINCTION
Piece 1	13 out of 20	15 out of 20	17+ out of 20
Piece 2	13 out of 20	15 out of 20	17+ out of 20
Piece 3	13 out of 20	15 out of 20	17+ out of 20
Technical Exercises	11 out of 15	12-13 out of 15	14+ out of 15
Either Sight Reading or Improvisation & Interpretation	6 out of 10	7–8 out of 10	9+ out of 10
Ear Tests	6 out of 10	7–8 out of 10	9+ out of 10
General Musicianship Questions	3 out of 5	4 out of 5	5 out of 5
Total Marks	Pass: 65%+	Merit: 75%+	Distinction: 85%+

The table below shows the markings scheme for the Guitar Grade 5 Performance Certificate and the Level 2 Band Exam.

ELEMENT	PASS	MERIT	DISTINCTION
Piece 1	14 out of 20	16 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Piece 2	14 out of 20	16 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Piece 3	14 out of 20	16 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Piece 4	14 out of 20	16 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Piece 5	14 out of 20	16 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Total Marks	Pass: 70%+	Merit: 80%+	Distinction: 90%+

# **Entering Rockschool Exams**

Entering a Rockschool exam is easy. Please read through these instructions carefully before filling in the exam entry form. Information on current exam fees can be obtained from Rockschool by ringing 0845 460 4747 or by logging on to our website www.rockschool.co.uk.

- You should enter for your exam when you feel ready.
- You can enter for any one of three examination periods. These are shown below with their closing dates.

PERIOD DURATION		CLOSING DATE	
Period A	1st February to 15th March	1st December	
Period B	1st May to 31st July	1st April	
Period C	23rd October to 15th December	1st October	

#### These dates will apply from 1st September 2006 until further notice

- Please complete the form giving the information required. Please fill in the type and level of exam, the instrument, along with the period and year. Finally, fill in the fee box with the appropriate amount. You can obtain up to date information on all Rockschool exam fees from the website: www.rockschool.co.uk. You should send this form with a cheque or postal order (payable to Rockschool Ltd) to the address shown on the order form. Please also indicate on the form whether or not you would like to receive notification via email.
- Applications received after the expiry of the closing date may be accepted subject to the payment of an additional fee.
- When you enter an exam you will receive from Rockschool an acknowledgement letter or email containing a copy of our exam regulations.
- Rockschool will allocate your entry to a centre and you will receive notification of the exam, showing a date, location and time as well as advice of what to bring to the centre. We endeavour to give you four weeks' notice of your exam.
- You should inform Rockschool of any cancellations or alterations to the schedule as soon as you can as it is usually not possible to transfer entries from one centre, or one period, to another without the payment of an additional fee.
- Please bring your music book and CD to the exam. You may not use photocopied music, nor the music used by someone else in another exam. The examiner will sign each book during each examination. You may be barred from taking an exam if you use someone else's music.
- You should aim to arrive for your Grade 5 exam fifteen minutes before the time stated on the schedule.
- Each Grade 5 exam is scheduled to last for 25 minutes. You can use a small proportion of this time to tune up and get ready.
- Two to three weeks after the exam you will receive a copy of the examiner's mark sheet. Every successful player will receive a Rockschool certificate of achievement.



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# **GRADE 5**

**Rockschool** is about playing the styles of music you enjoy. Our specially written tunes develop the key skills, styles and techniques you need to help you achieve your musical goals and aspirations.



This **Rockschool Guitar** series is valid from September 2006 and includes new backing tracks for the technical exercises, improvisation & interpretation and ear tests included after detailed consultations with users all around the country.



The **Rockschool** packs have standard notation and TAB plus great sounding CDs featuring top musicians. We also encourage everyone to be creative with our **Rockschool** tunes — so feel free to improvise and adapt them to suit your playing style and musical approach.



This pack contains the tunes from **Grade 5** in **Level 2**. This is for those of you who are confident in all the key skills on guitar and who are stepping up to more advanced skills and stylistic expression. To help you progress, read our **Guru's Guide** where you will find hints on playing each tune. There is also a description of the playing achievements you will need to aim for at **Level 2** (Grades 4 & 5), so you can have an overview of your progress at a glance. A **Companion Guide** for **Guitar** is also available.

Our **Rockschool** grades are accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). When you take one of our **Rockschool** exams you will have a qualification and measure of your achievement that is recognised around the world. It shows you can play your music when it really counts.

We know you will achieve great results from playing Guitar with Rockschool.

# **Enjoy!**

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www.rockschool.co.uk

