

How to Play Hot Cross Buns on Guitar

This process requires a working, tuned guitar of any kind. These instructions will use an acoustic guitar for the examples.

Preparation: Learn the Parts of a Guitar

This tutorial focuses on the beginner level song Hot Cross Buns, and is therefore for beginner level players. With that said, it is expected that the user understands at least these sections of a guitar in order to understand the tutorial: strings (1-6), fretboard, frets, and body. This tutorial will continue with the assumption that the user has a basic understanding of these parts.

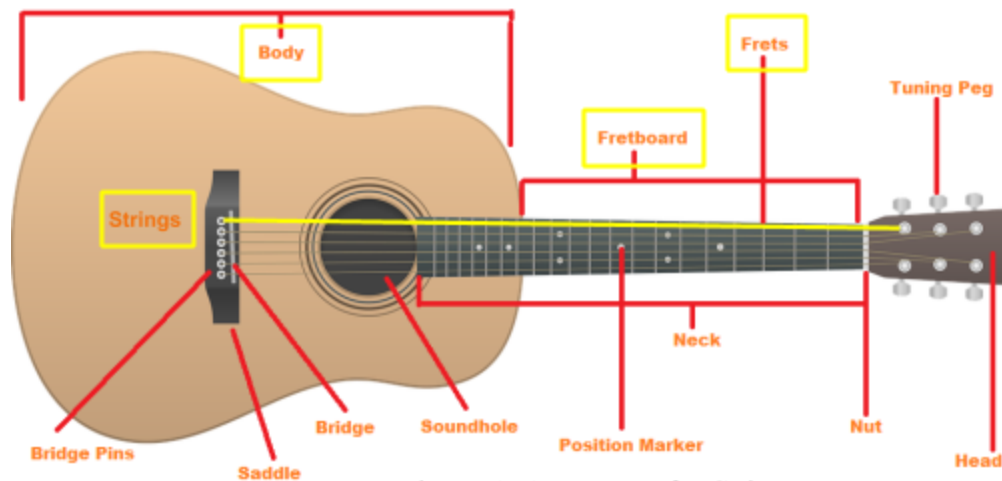


Figure 1: Anatomy of a Guitar

Step 1: Learn How to Prepare a Note

To prepare a note, use a fingertip on a first hand to press a string onto the fretboard. Ensure the string is pressed down firmly, in the center of a fret for the clearest sound. Take care to only touch the string with the finger pressing it down, lest the sound be dampened.



Figure 2: Guitar String

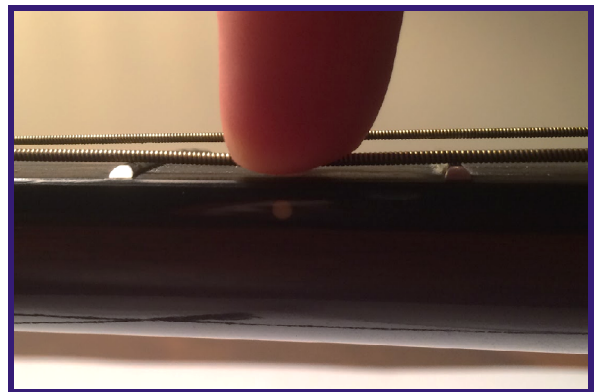


Figure 3: Pressing Down a String

Step 2: Learn to Play the B Note

Press the thickest (6) string down on the seventh (7) fret. Again, ensure this string is only being touched by the finger pressing it down. Using a second hand, position a finger or pick over the body of the guitar, touching the sixth (6) string. Pluck or strum the string to produce a clear, resonating sound.



Figure 4: Where to Strum



Figure 5: Location of a B Note

Step 3: Learn to Play the A Note

Press the thickest (6) string down on the fifth (5) fret. This should be just above where it was placed to play a B. Using a second hand, pluck or strum the sixth (6) string the same way as above. This should produce a similar sound, only lower pitched than a B.



Figure 6: Location of an A Note

Step 4: Learn to Play the G Note

Press the thickest (6) string down on the third (3) fret. This should be just above where it was placed to play an A. Using a second hand, pluck or strum the sixth (6) string the same way as above. This sound should be lower pitched than both the A and B.



Figure 7: Location of a G Note

Step 5: Play the First Half of Hot Cross Buns

The first half of the song is made of these following notes, in order:

B A G : B A G

Using the skills acquired above, play first B, then A, then G, repeating the process again to complete the first two measures of the four measure song.

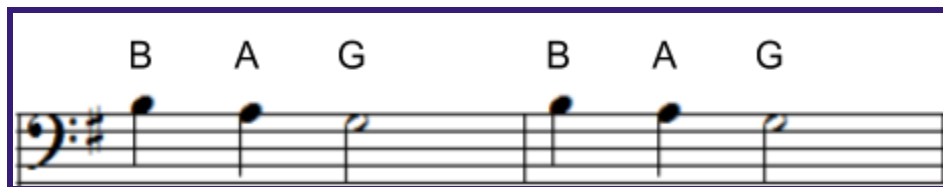


Figure 8: First Half of Hot Cross Buns

Step 6: Play the Second Half of Hot Cross Buns

The second half of the song consists of the below notes, in order:

G G G G A A A A : B A G

Just as learned, play four G notes in a row. Then, play four A notes in a row. Finally, finish the song by playing the pattern B, then A, then G once again.



Figure 9: Second Half of Hot Cross Buns

Congratulations:

You have successfully played hot cross buns. Make sure to reference the pictures if anything is confusing or hard to understand. If any notes sounded dull or cut off, revisit step 1, and ensure nothing unintentionally comes into contact with the string being played.