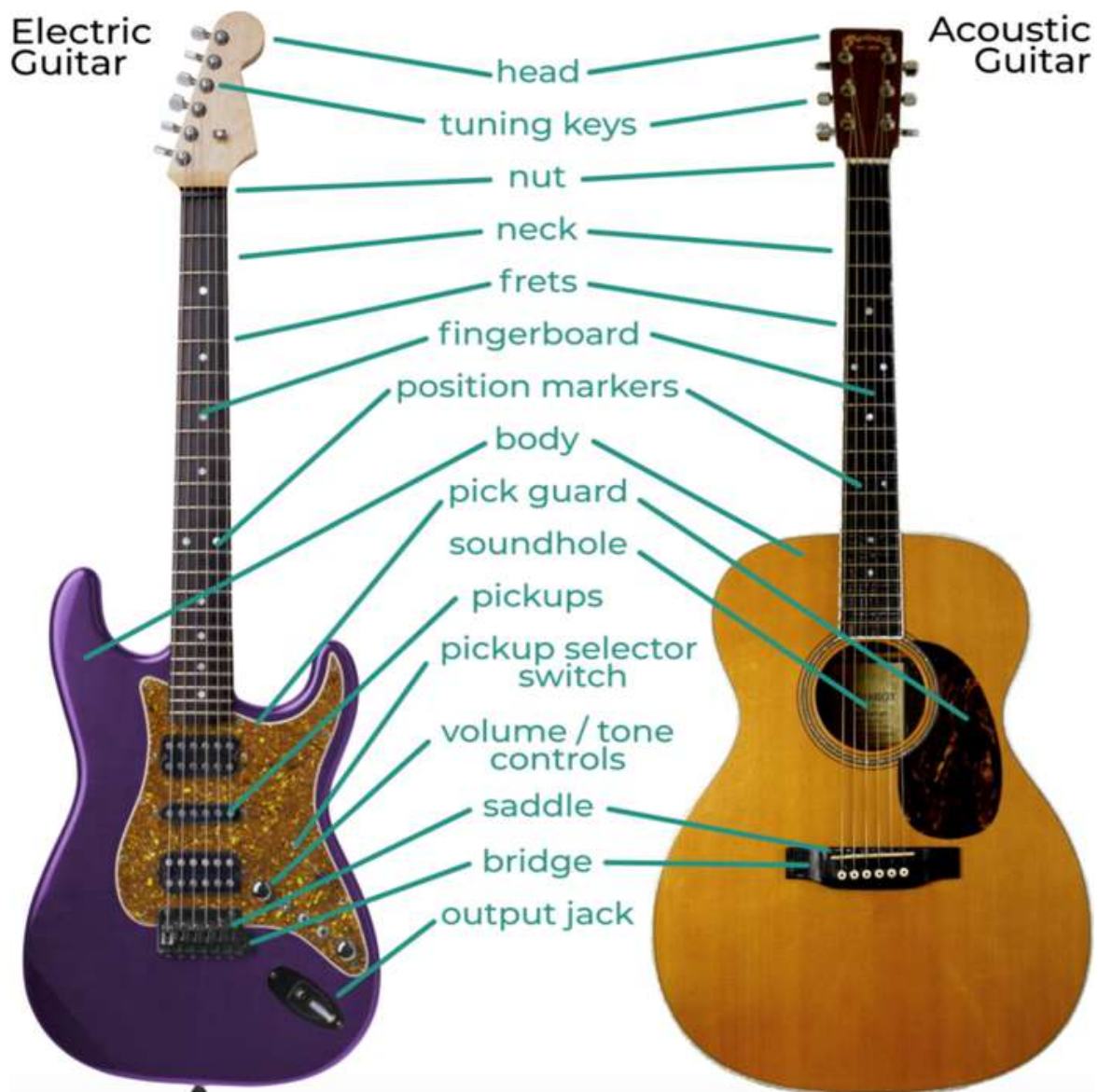


Introduction

Guitar part names



It is a good advice to start by knowing the names of the different parts of the instrument you are going to play with. At the very beginning, it is good enough to know at least the following vocabulary : the **head**, the **neck**, the **frets**, the **body** and the **bridge**. These are needed because you might encounter these words throughout the course. The rest of the vocabulary should come naturally with time.

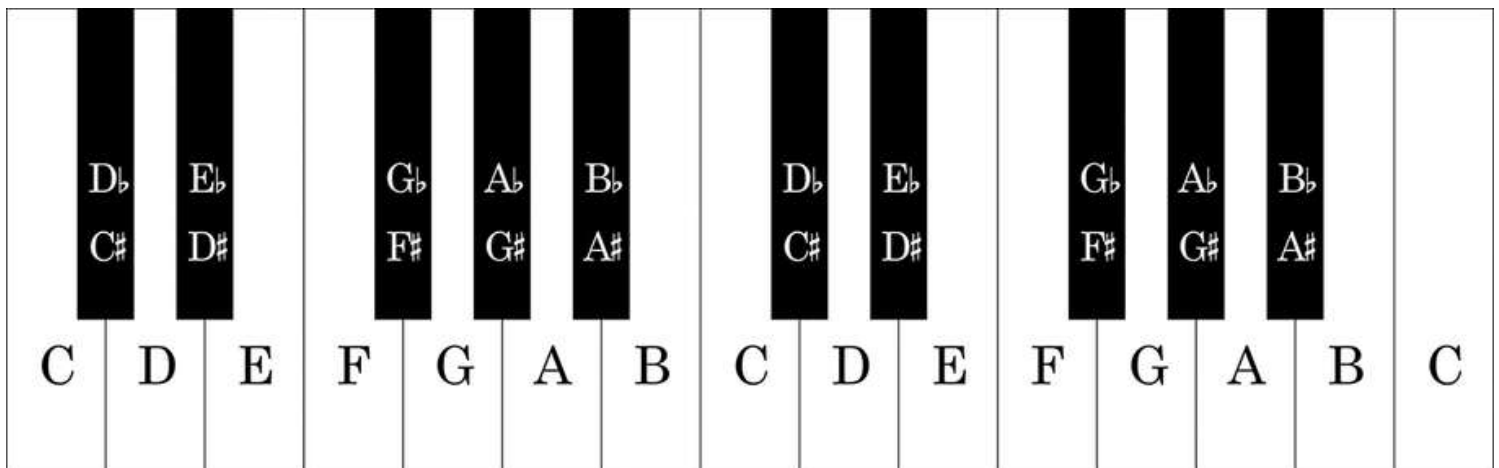
Basic Music Notations

Music alphabet : You need to have some basic knowledge about music in order to start the course. You need to know the music alphabet composed of only 7 notes : A, B, C, D, E, F and G. This is the English notation. In French it would be respectively La, Si, Do, Ré, Mi, Fa, Sol.

There are however **12 different notes** you can actually play : A, A[#]/B^b, B, C, C[#]/D^b, D, D[#]/E^b, E, F, F[#]/G^b, G, G[#]/A^b. Once you reach the thirteenth notes, this is the same note as the 1st but in a higher frequency : the 13th notes is called the **octave** of the 1st. This applies for all notes separated by 12 semitones apart.

The sign ^b next to a note is used to indicate that the actual note is shifted one semitone down (in the lower register). The sign [#] next to a note is the contrary, it is used to indicate that the actual note is shifted one semitone up (in the higher register). E^b would be called E **flat** and F[#] would be called F **sharp**.

See how all these information connect on a piano keyboard image. Take a few seconds to appreciate that G[#]/A^b are the same note : they are called **enharmonics**.



Basic intervals and tones : an interval is a distance between two notes.

- A half-step interval is one **semitone** (distance between F and F[#] or E and F for example).
- A whole step interval is two semitones (distance between G and A or E^b and F for example).
- Two half-steps make up a whole step also called one **tone**.

Useful tools

Tuner : In order to tune your guitar it is nice to have a tool to help you with that. Here is one free smartphone application I can recommend you : Guitar Tuna.



Metronome : this is the second tool you will need for your guitar exercises and for practicing in general. I can recommend this free smartphone application : PRO Metronome.



Advice for the future musician

- **Equipment** : ok I need to be really clear on this one. The equipment is not important. Work on your music skills and knowledge. Getting a better guitar or amp won't make you sound any better.
- **Notes should represent only 10% of your preoccupation.** The rhythm and the emotion you put into your playing will really make the difference. This does not mean that you should not learn chords, scales, modes etc... This means that you should always have in mind you need to explore the music theory spectrum. Miles Davis once said : "Anybody can play. The note is only 20%. The attitude of the motherfucker who plays it is 80%".
- **Playing fast** : ok let's be fair. We all want to play fast and impress our friends. However, there is no use to play fast and a lot of notes if that does not make any sense. Here a quick metaphor to understand why : Notes are like letters, in order to make phrases one has to play notes in an order that makes sense otherwise you say things that do not make any sense.
- **Play with others & Fear** : since music is a language, you need to play in group to speak with others in order to practice the language you are learning. It really is like practicing a new language like Spanish ! Do not be afraid to make wrong notes. So find a group of music, jam in bars that offer jam sessions etc...
- **Focus on your mind** : remember this, try to sing in your mind what you wish to play. As the master Guthrie Govan said : "You'll end up in a place where you caused that sound to happen." Playing scales in a nonsensical way is just like relying on the safeness of those scales. It will never feel like you chose those notes.
- **Discipline** : learning a new instrument requires discipline. You will need to learn a little bit every day or week. You need to set precise objectives with dedicated time for this otherwise nothing will happen. As the great Antoine de Saint-Exupéry once said : "A goal without a plan is just a wish".
- **Set boundaries** : you won't be able to learn everything about music and music theory. Focus on what you want to be better at. It can be anything such as Neo Soul, Jazz, Funk or more abstract like rhythm, Lydian mode etc...