

# AN INTRODUCTION TO TAB & INTERVALS

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TAB (Tab) is read left to right. ----- represents the 6 strings on the guitar. Lay your guitar on your lap and you will notice that string 6 is closest to your body. Now take your guitar keeping it horizontal and turn it so the nut is still on the left and the strings are facing you. String 6 is on the bottom and string 1 is on top. It looks inverted/ upside down because it is. The opposite of the way we always see the strings in the playing position on our guitar. Now take a look at the Tab below. Please notice that string 6 is on the bottom and 1 is on the top. Are you able to visualize the inverted guitar and how it matches the Tab. It may take a few minutes to be able to imagine the guitar on your lap while looking at the Tab. But you *will* get it and then everything becomes so much easier for you to learn new songs and parts of songs.

Tab will show a dash (-), an open string (0) and / or the fret number (1, 2 etc.) to play on that string or strings.

No number on a string, a dash (-) means that string is omitted. A **Capital Letter above a Chord** (a Chord is more than 1 number vertically on 2 or more strings) = **Major Chord** strummed. If there is a “m” next to a **Capital Letter** = **minor Chord** strummed. The Letter shown above the chord is shown to help explain how a particular chord appears in Tab. A “7” is called a dominant 7 to distinguish it from a Major 7. A dominant “7” can be found in Major and minor chords. **1 fret number change on the same string is known as a Half Step**. It is found in many chord changes. **A 2 fret number change is a Whole Step**

	A	Am	Asus2	A7	Am7	C	C	Notes	Dm	D7	Dmaj7	D	Em7	Em	E	C	Cmaj7	C7	F	FMaj7
1	E--0--0--0-----0--0--0-----0--1--2--2-----2--0--0--0--0-----0--1-0----																			
2	B--2--1--0-----2--1--1-----1--3--1--2-----3--0--0--0--1-0-----1--1-1----																			
3	G--2--2--2-----0--0--0-----2--2--2-----2--0--1--0--0-0-----3--2-2----																			
4	D--2--2--2-----2--2--2--0-----0--0--0-----0--2--2--2--2-2-----2--3-3----																			
5	A--0--0--0-----0--0--3--3-----2--2--2--3-3-----3-----																			
6	E-----0--0--0-----																			

On **string 2** there is only one fret number change **2 to 1** to change the **A to the Am** chord. The **same string** only one fret number change **1 to 0** to change the **Am to the Asus2** chord. The **other 4 string numbers 1, 3, 4, 5 on those 3 chords stay the same from chord to chord**. This is a **Half Step change**.

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Page 2

To change an **A** to an **A7 (a dominant 7)** the fret number change happens on **string 3**, from fret **2 to 0** (Open). This is 2 half steps but is called a Whole Step when there is a 2 fret change. The **other 4 string numbers 1, 2, 4, 5 on those 2 chords stay the same. Remember this Major to (dominant) 7 rule of a Whole Step.**

Next is the C chord strummed and the C chord one note at a time. Are you able to see the difference of how this C chord is played on the guitar?

Now let's look at some D chords The key of D minor is “the saddest of all keys” according to Nigel Tufnel of Spinal Tap. The Dm chord (not the key) is next. Here the one fret number change happens on **string 1. Fret 1 to 2** changes **Dm to D Major**. A one fret change, a half step The other 3 string numbers stay the same. This only one fret number half step change is true for all changes of minor to Major and Major to minor guitar chords.

Then we look at **string 2**. There is only one fret (half step) number change **1 to 2** to change from the **D7 (a dominant 7 chord) to Dmaj7** (a half step rule for all 7 to Maj7 chord changes). And again on **string 2**, a one fret number change. Fret **2 to 3** changes the **Dmaj7 to the D (Major) chord**. This half step one fret number change rule is true for all chords that change from a Major7 to a Major chord. Seems easy enough to see it on the tab. It is important to know these half step rule changes. All other strings will stay the same after the chord changes.

Next: Em7, Em, E Major Chords. This time the string number to see the chord that changes **Em7 to Em** is on **string 4**, fret number **0 to 2**, a whole step. Then on **string 3** fret number **0 to 1** to change **Em to an E**. Remember the half step rule of minor to Major? All other strings will remain the same after each chord change.

C Major Chord. C Maj7 Chord. On **string 2** we change **fret 1 to 0** (open) a half step to change C to C Maj7. Remember the half step rule for this Major to Major 7 change?

C7 Chord. Remember the 7 is a dominant 7. The other numbers stay the same as a C chord.

F Major Chord. F Maj7 Chord. The half step rule again Major to Major7. String 1 fret **1 to 0**. Congratulations, you have completed the Introduction to Tab & Intervals! Intervals are the first step to learning Music Theory and Modes.

Page 2