

Guitar Tabs For Beginners: 20 Easy Songs That Sound Great

Guitar tabs for beginners need to be easy and fun. In this free lesson you'll learn some iconic riffs and licks. Let's crank it up!



This free guitar lesson includes:

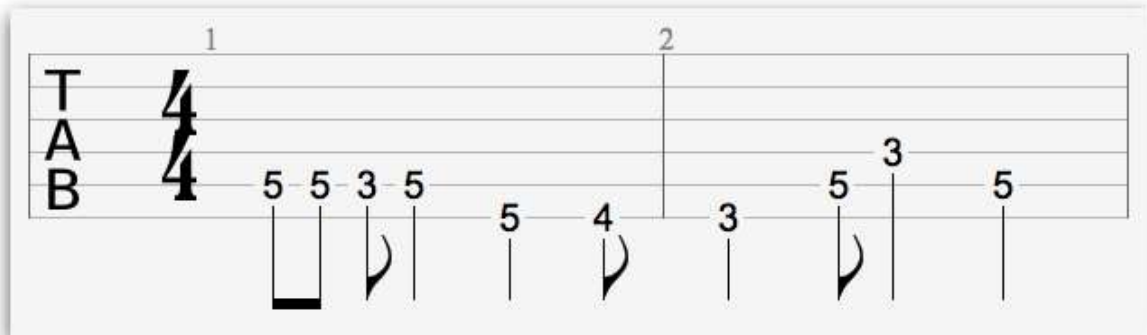
- 20 iconic guitar riffs which sound great and are easy to play
- 20 videos to help you master each tab
- These tabs cover a wide variety of genres and will help you develop your lead guitar skills

Guitar tabs for beginners – ‘Sunshine Of Your Love’ by Cream

This is one of the very best guitar tabs for beginners. A big fat iconic riff that’s easy to play. Turn up your amp and channel Clapton in ‘67!

Let’s listen to the riff before we look at the tab:

The part we’re going to focus on is the intro riff:



Watch Jack explain how to play this riff in this video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_7yK7m1wCcg

Tab notes

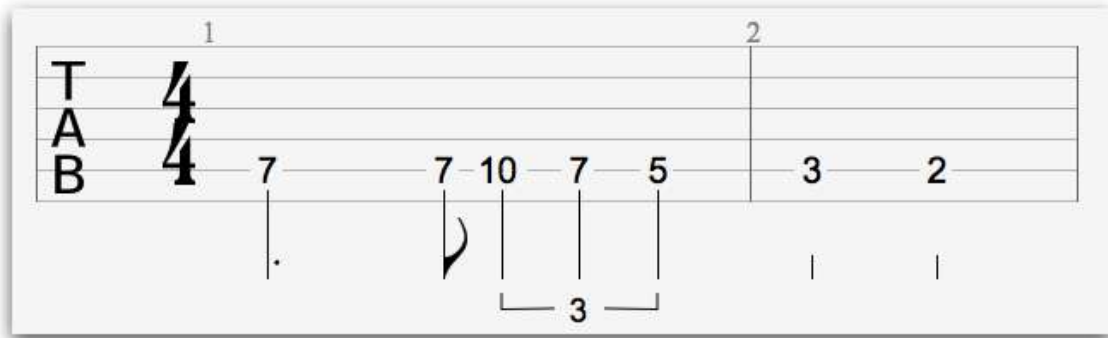
- Practice it SLOWLY. Get it right. Gradually increase the speed. **Practicing slowly and correctly is the best way to build muscle memory.** (This is so important I thought I’d repeat it!)
- Pay attention to the bit when you cross strings.
- Make sure you take each part of the riff really slow.

Guitar tabs for beginners – ‘Seven Nation Army’ by The White Stripes

Here’s another awesome riff from a great rock band. (They made a lot of noise considering there was only two of them!)

This is one of my favourite guitar tabs for beginners because it sounds great and it’s all played on one string.

The riff we’re going to be focusing on is the main riff at the start. Here’s the tab:



In this video I explain a bit more about each part of the riff:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UO4-S8KRkSg>

Notes on how to play this guitar tab

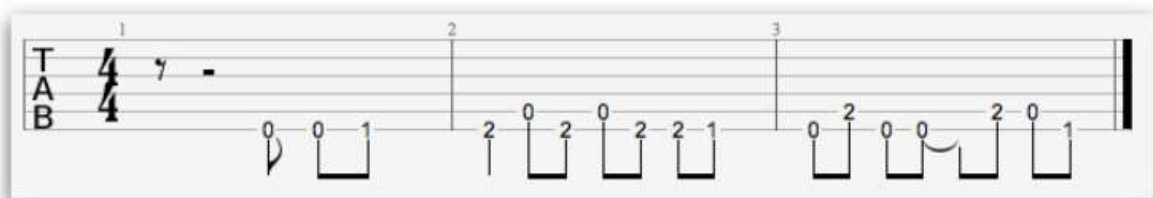
The tricky part of this riff is deciding which fingers you need to use, I tend to use my 1st finger on the 7th fret to start with, then stretch up to the tenth with my pinky, after this I use just my first finger on the rest of the riff.

However, if you're a total guitar newbie you can certainly play it with just one finger. Try both and see what feels best for you!

Guitar tabs for beginners – 'Come As You Are' by Nirvana

Guitar tabs for beginners don't get much moodier than this. The main riff in this song is so cool.

Here's the tab for the iconic riff:



Check out this video to see Jack explain how to play it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e00TWhHUoWk>

Notes on how to play this guitar tab

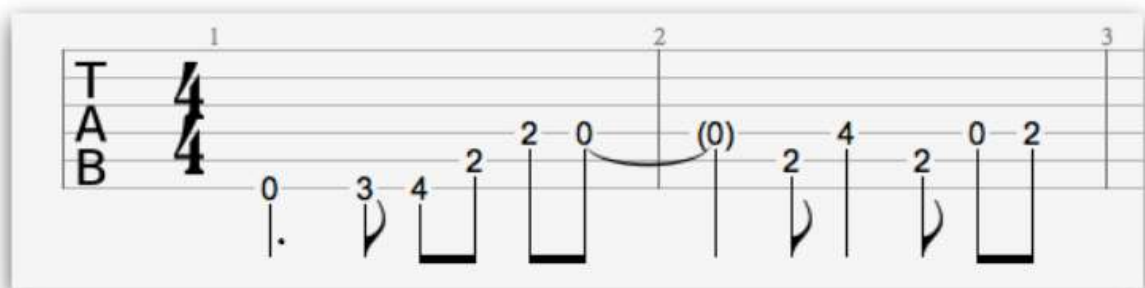
- The tricky aspect of this riff is playing the 2nd fret then going to the open A string. Consider practicing just that part as it will increase your fluidity.

With any riff, it's always really important to practice the parts you are struggling with, even though it may seem difficult you simply need to build the muscle memory.

Guitar tabs for beginners – 'Day Tripper' by The Beatles

Another one of my favourite guitar tabs for beginners, this one has a truly awesome riff. Dial up the gain on your amp and hear how wild it sounds. So cool.

This riff is quite similar to 'Beat It' by Michael Jackson and it uses the same scale and some open strings.



Watch this video to see Jack explain how to play this riff:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2ALzd-kzSo>

Notes on how to play this guitar tab

As always: Practice it SLOWLY. Get it right. Gradually increase the speed. **Practicing slowly and correctly is the best way to build muscle memory.**

There are two elements to this riff which can be tricky:

1. The first part is going between each string, your accuracy needs to be on point. When you first learn this riff, play SLOWLY.
2. Secondly, when the riff goes from the 2nd fret on the A string to the 4th fret on the D string, this can be a bit of stretch, so make sure you take your time and relax with it.

You may need to move your wrist forwards or backwards to make this riff comfy. Make sure your forearm is free to move. (Not resting on your thigh or tucked into your torso. Remember, we play chords with our whole left arm, not just the fingers on our left hand.)

Guitar tabs for beginners – ‘Wonderful Tonight’ by Eric Clapton

This is a gorgeous riff.... Takes me back to when I first started to learn guitar.

This riff uses a few different lead techniques which makes it great for developing beginner guitarists.

This is one of the more difficult guitar tabs for beginners because the bends require control, but it’s a fantastic learning exercise so stick with it:

The image displays a guitar tablature for the song 'Wonderful Tonight' by Eric Clapton. It is written for a standard guitar (S-Gt) in 4/4 time. The tablature is organized into three systems, each with a treble (T), acoustic (A), and bass (B) staff. The first system (measures 1-4) shows a sequence of notes: 10, 8, 10, (10), 10, 8, 9, (9), 10, 8, 10, 10. The second system (measures 5-8) shows: 10, 8, 10, (10), 10, 8, 9, (9), 10, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15. The third system (measure 9) shows a single note at the 15th fret. Bending instructions are indicated by 'full' with an upward arrow above the notes at measures 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8. The notes in parentheses (10) and (9) indicate natural harmonics.

Here’s a video that will walk you through it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppUzgEM2RZw>

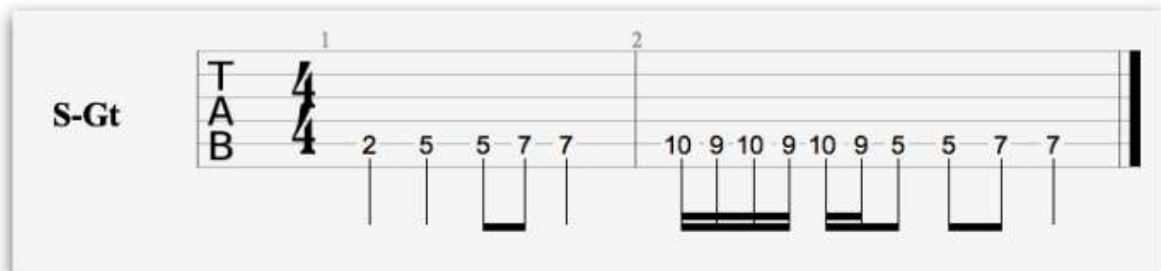
The tricky part with this riff, is getting the bending right. Make sure you TARGET the notes you want to hit when you’re bending up the strings. Concentrate and LISTEN to ensure they’re in tune.

You can learn a lot more about lead guitar techniques in our guide: [How To Play Lead Guitar: The Ultimate Guide](#)

Guitar tabs for beginners – ‘Iron Man’ by Black Sabbath

The next riff helped shape the start the metal genre. If you’re ready to rock this is the riff for you.

The riff we’re going to be focusing on is the main intro riff (after the weird robot stuff). It kicks in around 0.28. Here’s the tab:



Jack explains the riff in more detail in this video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1G_7gSTI0c

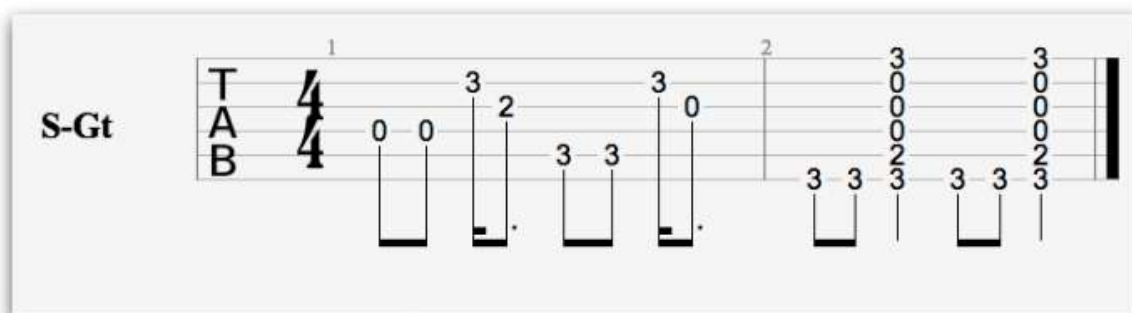
Notes on this tab

This can be pretty tricky once you get to the 10th and 9th fret. Those changes are quick! This is great practice for developing your picking speed.

Guitar tabs for beginners – ‘Sweet Home Alabama’ by Lynyrd Skynyrd

This is a classic rock song, but this video is worth a watch purely for the OTT bass player at 0.46. I love it!

This is one of the weirder guitar tabs for beginners because there are multiple guitars on the ‘official’ recording. We’re going to look at the easiest part of the intro riff:



Here's some more guidance from Jack:

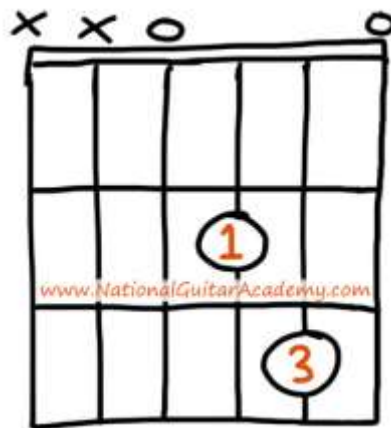
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yhjYpxpBDo>

Notes on this tab

This is one of the trickier guitar tabs for beginners because you need to know the chords before you attempt the lead work. Get these chords down, just strum them in time and THEN add in the fills.

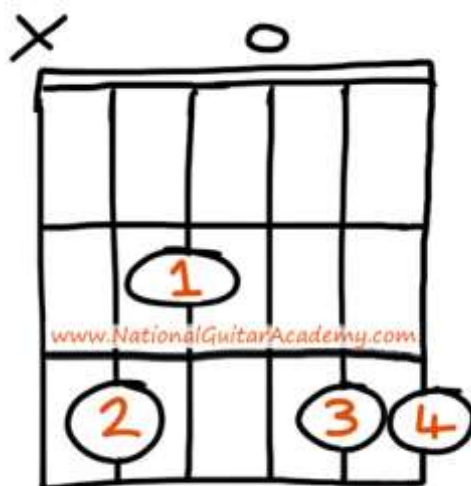
If you don't understand the chord diagrams below read this lesson: [How To Read Guitar Chordboxes](#)

Dsus2



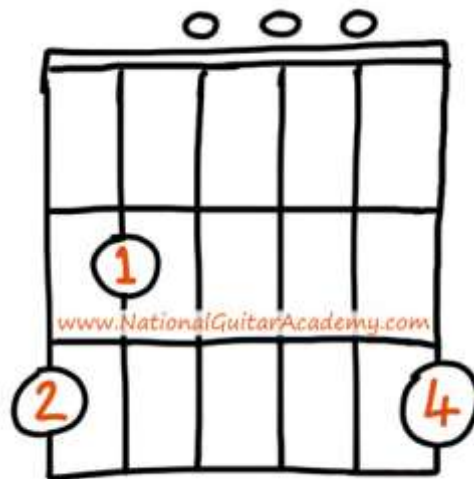
Learn more easy ways to play D in this lesson: [3 Easy Ways to Play the D Chord on Guitar](#)

Cadd9



Check out this article to learn lots of easy ways to play C: [Easy Ways To Play The C Guitar Chord](#)

G Major



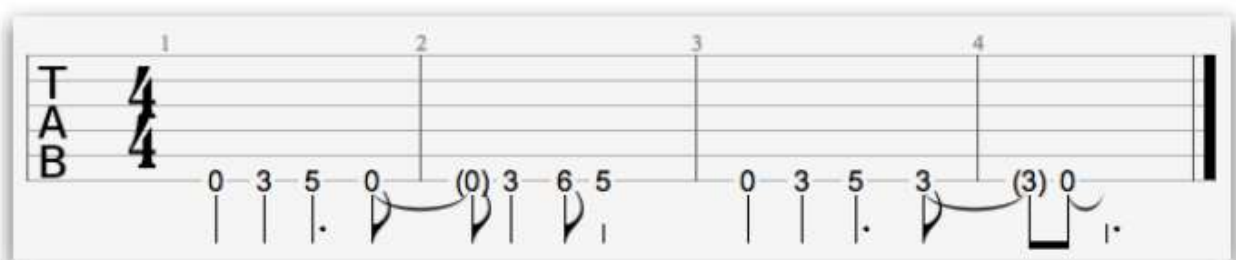
G might be best guitar chord of all. So we've created a whole article talking about easy ways to voice it: [4 Easy Ways To Play The G Chord On Guitar](#)

It's vital we have these chords down as they underpin this entire song.

Guitar tabs for beginners – 'Smoke On The Water' by Deep Purple

This riff is pure rock n roll and nice and EASY, which is why it's one of the very best guitar tabs for beginners. Let's take a listen to the song:

This riff is super simple and is only played on one string:



This riff is pretty easy but Jack explains it further in this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HkII4HuffA>

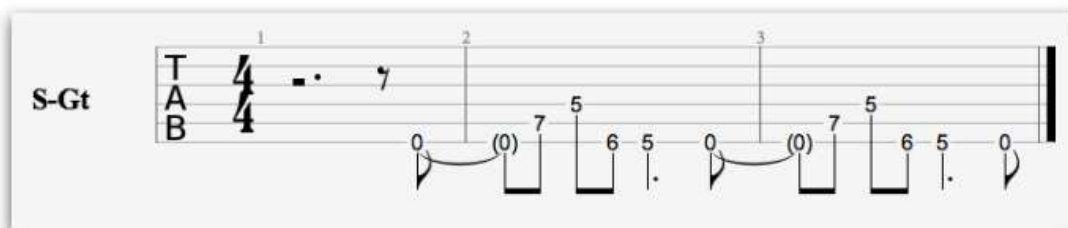
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Guitar tabs for beginners – ‘Enter Sandman’ by Metallica

Metal riffs are some of the very best guitar tabs for beginners. This one is another classic. (I remember learning this riff in my bedroom and rocking out to it for hours!)

We’re going to be focusing on the intro riff:



Tab notes

Watch out for those changes between strings and as always make sure you take it SLOW. Jack explains the riff in a bit more detail here:

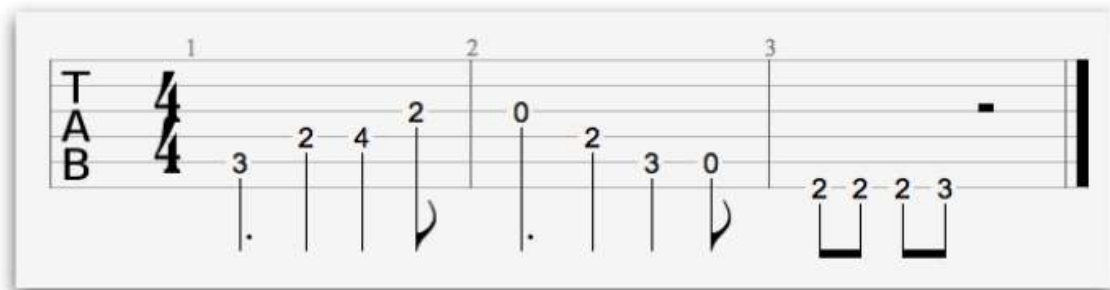
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwGfUAmqFtE>

Guitar tabs for beginners – ‘The Simpsons Theme Tune’

What? We’re learning the Simpsons theme tune? That isn’t a guitar riff!

When you’re learning guitar tabs for beginners all that matters is that you have fun and develop your finger dexterity. And the Simpsons Theme fits the bill. Check it out:

We’re only going to be focus on the first part of this, so let’s take a look at the tab:



Notes on this tab

The hardest part is going to be stretching from the 2nd fret on the D string up to the 4th fret, that can be a bit of a stretch. Make sure you get that part down and you’ll be on a good footing.

Watch Jack’s video for more guidance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6GX9MSHZIM>

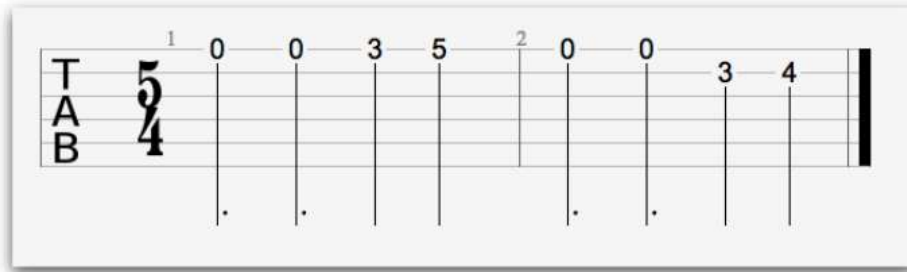
Guitar tabs for beginners – ‘Mission Impossible’ Theme Tune

Another great theme tune and one of the coolest guitar tabs for beginners. (You can pretend to be your favourite spy while you play this for extra flavour!)

One important thing to mention when learning theme tunes is that they’re a great way of finding and playing music which **isn’t** presented on guitar in its original form. Remember, music doesn’t have to be limited to just one instrument, you can translate it to any other instrument. (If you hear something which is played on strings or a saxophone, you can play it on guitar too.)

Here’s the tab:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPi2L_kTEPQ



Tab notes

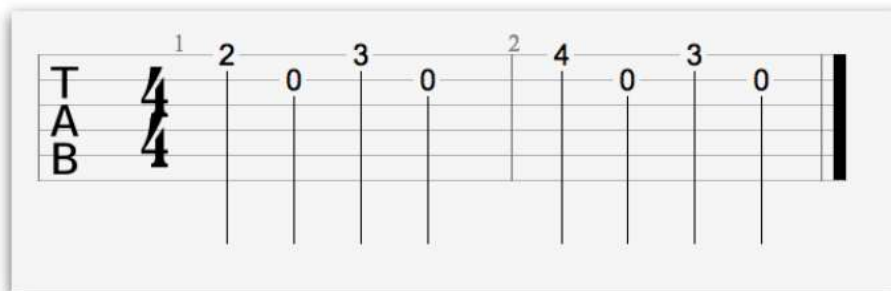
This riff is super-simple to play, just watch that last string change to the B String. Check out this video where Jack explains this riff in more detail:

Guitar tabs for beginners – James Bond Theme

Forget about guitar tabs for beginners, let's just pretend we're spies and keep this theme going!

We're now going to look at the James Bond Theme tune. Another great riff, which sounds brilliant on guitar. Let's take a listen.

We're going to be focusing on the very first part of the riff. Let's take a look at the tab:



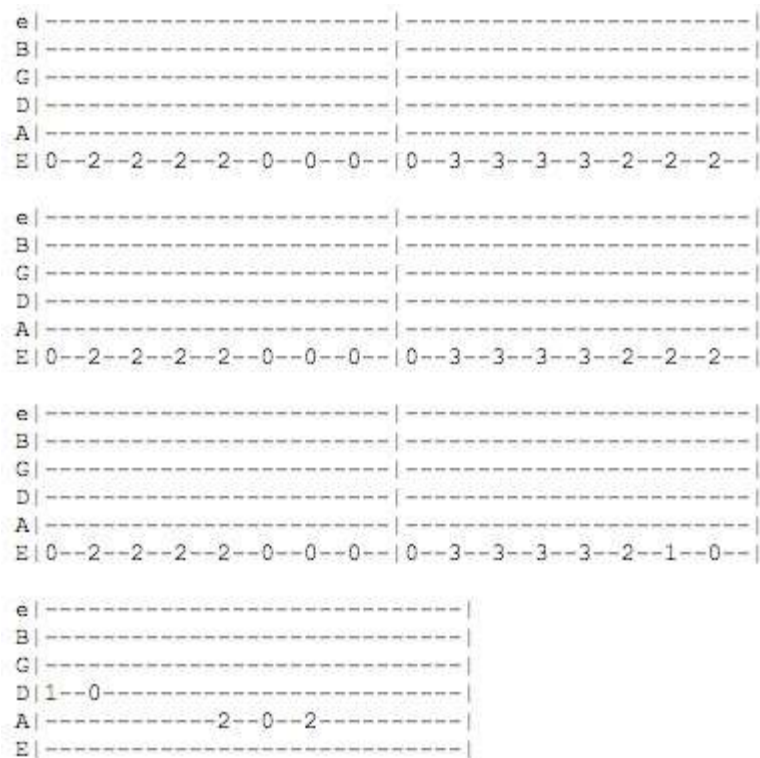
Tab notes

The tricky part with this is changing between the high E string and the B string, if you're struggling with that part, it would be useful to practice playing between those strings first. (That way your right hand is used to playing that part first.)

Check out this video where Jack explains in more detail:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ourAtNoPG5k>

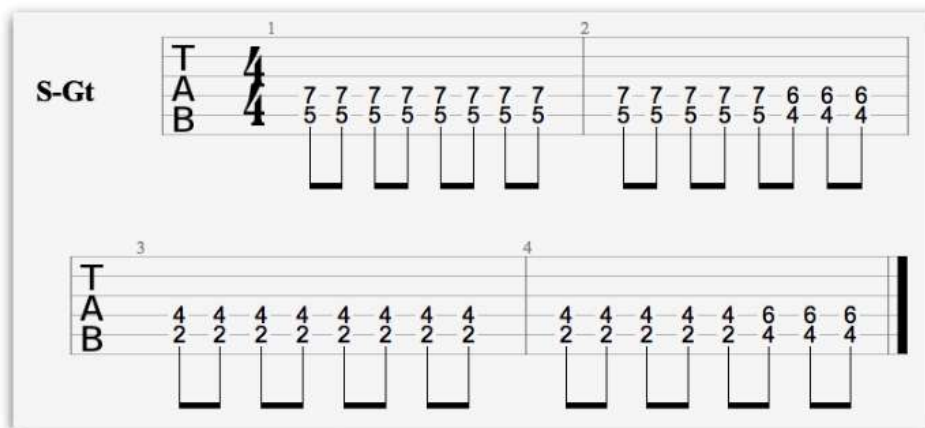
Here's the tab for the next part:



Guitar tabs for beginners – ‘Teenage Kicks’ by The Undertones

This is one of those guitar tabs for beginners that has real energy. A fantastic punky riff by The Undertones. (The favourite song of John Peel, no less.) It's simple to play:

We're going to be focusing on the main riff. Here's the tab:



Tab notes

If this is the first time you've ever played power chords this is a great track to learn with. Use fingers 1 and 3 to play this. Give it some chops!



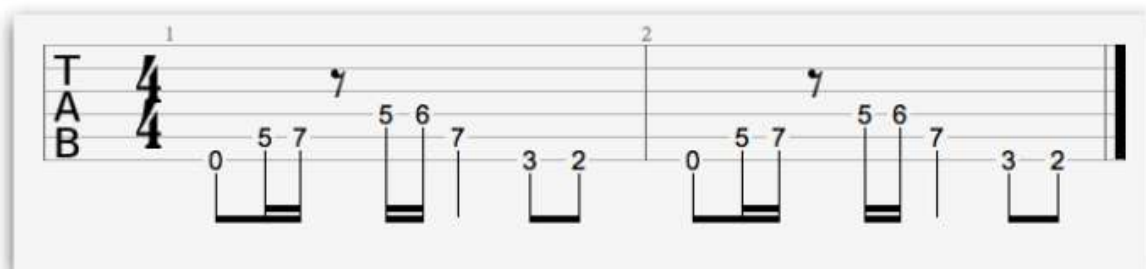
Watch the video to learn more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chibab3IpfY>

Guitar tabs for beginners – 'Killing In The Name' by Rage Against The Machine

One of the most angsty guitar tabs for beginners comes from alt rockers Rage Against The Machine. Let's take a listen to the tune:

Here's the tab:



Tab notes

This can be a little tricky to get down as the timing can be strange, try practicing with a metronome (or metronome app) to make sure you're in time.

Take a look at this video to hear this in action:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqxIWzENibU>

Guitar tabs for beginners – ‘Chasing Cars’ by Snow Patrol

This is one of the more gentle guitar tabs for beginners in our list. We’ve rocked hard, now it’s time to chill.

Let’s have a listen to this iconic indie riff.

This riff is super simple, but the timing requires concentration. Let’s have a look at the tab.

The image displays three systems of guitar tablature for the song 'Chasing Cars' by Snow Patrol. Each system is labeled 'S-Gt', 'A-Gt', and 'B-Gt' respectively. The first system (S-Gt) is in 4/4 time and consists of two measures: the first measure has notes 7, 9, 7, 9, 7, 9, 7, 9 and the second measure has notes 7, 9, 7, 9, 7, 9, 7, 9. The second system (A-Gt) also has two measures: the first measure has notes 6, 9, 6, 9, 6, 9, 6, 9 and the second measure has notes 6, 9, 6, 9, 6, 9, 6, 9. The third system (B-Gt) has two measures: the first measure has notes 0, 9, 0, 9, 0, 9, 0, 9 and the second measure has notes 0, 9, 0, 9, 0, 9, 0, 9. Vertical lines indicate measure boundaries, and a double bar line is at the end of the third system.

Tab notes

The really important thing to notice when you’re practice this tune is the stretches. Stretching between the 6th fret on the D string and 9th fret on the G string is a killer stretch!

Make sure you practice that carefully, your posture will really help with this, make sure your wrist come forward under the guitar to give you the reach you need.

Check out this article where we talk about guitar posture [How To Play Guitar Chords: A Beginner’s Guide](#)

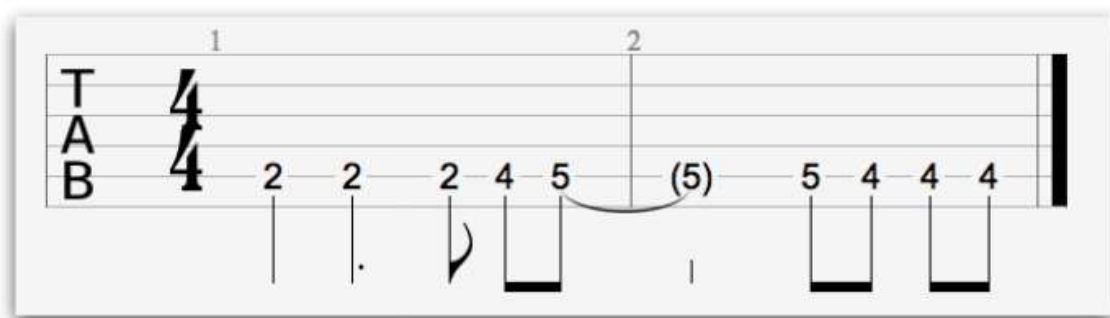
Also have a look at this video where I explain how to play this riff in more depth:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7DvU0xP_r4

Guitar tabs for beginners – ‘(I Can’t Get No) Satisfaction’ by the Rolling Stones

This next riff is a stone-cold-Rolling-Stone classic! It sounds great and is dead simple. This is one of the very best guitar tabs for beginners (because it’s so easy and sounds so great).

Here’s the tab:



Learn more in this video:

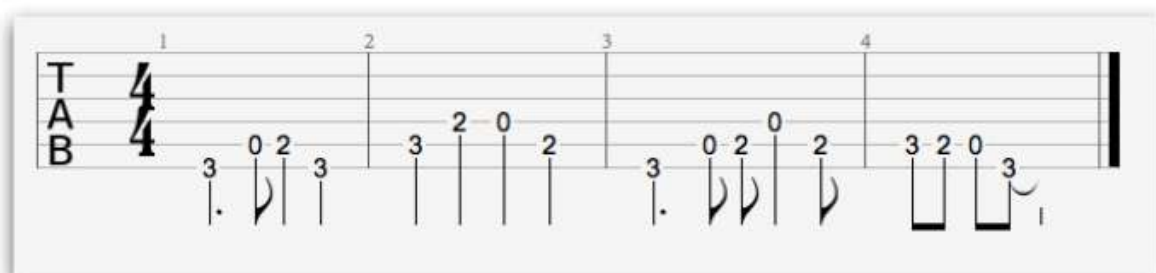
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVgEgYJwqR4>

Guitar tabs for beginners – ‘Redemption Song’ by Bob Marley and The Wailers

This is a lovely song by reggae legend Bob Marley. So soulful and heartfelt.

This is one of the most useful guitar tabs for beginners because it teaches us a big chunk of the C major scale.

We’re going to be focusing on the intro riff, before the chords kick in. Here it is:



This riff can be a bit of a finger twister as it changes quite a bit between each string, make sure you take it really slow and build up speed as you get comfortable. Watch the video to see it in action and learn more:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZb6-nIe_d8&t=28s

Guitar tabs for beginners – ‘I Predict A Riot’ by The Kaiser Chiefs

We’ve looked at tons of classic guitar tabs for beginners, but this is one of the more modern ones. Let’s have a quick listen:

We’re going to be focusing on the main riff after the ghostly soundscape fades out. Let’s take a look at the tab.

The image displays a guitar tab for the song 'I Predict A Riot' by The Kaiser Chiefs. The tab is labeled 'S-Gt' and is divided into three systems of staves. Each system has a 'TAB' label on the left. The first system covers measures 1 to 4, the second covers measures 5 to 8, and the third covers measure 9. The notes are indicated by numbers on the strings, with vertical lines showing the fret position. Measure 1 starts with a double bar line and a '4' on the low E string. Measure 2 has notes 8, 11, and 10. Measure 3 has notes 8 and 11. Measure 4 has notes 10 and 11. Measure 5 has notes 11 and 11. Measure 6 has notes 10 and 10. Measure 7 has notes 8 and 8. Measure 8 has notes 11 and 10. Measure 9 has a note 8. The tab ends with a double bar line.

Tab notes

The main aspect of this is changing between frets. Make this easier by using one finger per fret:

- Your first finger on Fret 8.
- Your third finger on Fret 11.
- Your second on Fret 10.

As we only cover these frets, it means you can keep your fingers in one space, rather than just using one finger for ALL the frets. Here's the video:

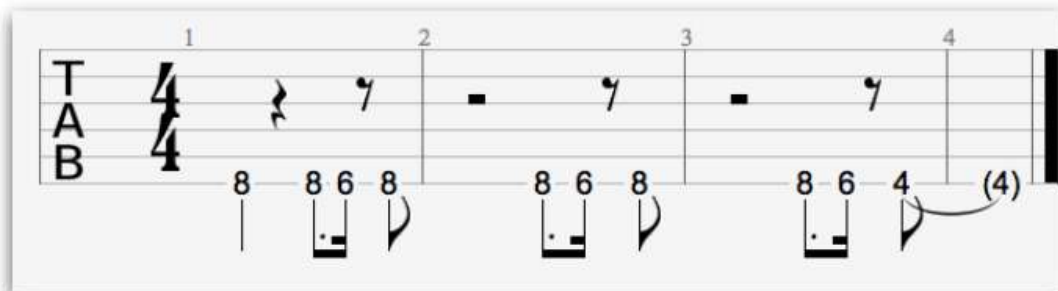
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olN83g5DhmM>

Guitar tabs for beginners – 'Eye Of The Tiger' by Survivor

Is this the most uber of all guitar tabs for beginners?? Maybe! Let's finish with a blinder of a track: 'Eye Of The Tiger' by Survivor. What a riff!

This sounds amazing on guitar and is so easy. Let's listen to the track:

We're going to be focusing on the main riff which starts at 0.09. Here's the tab.



Tab notes

In this tune, the timing is absolutely key. Make sure those breaks are so clear in-between changes.

Here's a video explaining how to play this awesome iconic riff:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugBizvpiAz4&t=36s>

Can you play each riff? [Download this lesson's worksheet](#) to keep/save/print for future practice.

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