

The Guitar is the simplest instrument to learn.

You do not need to know how to read music. All you need is a chord chart showing how to form the chords, and a song that shows you when to play those chords.

Each finger is allocated a position, a note, and should not touch any other string. If it sounds blunt or distorted then you are either touching an adjacent string or not pressing down hard enough. Make sure your fingers are placed straight up and down on the neck, having your thumb in the middle of the back of the neck should help. It should not be peering over the top.

Once you have clean sounding notes, find a song that you know, and practice changing the chords as you sing the words. Do not worry about strumming a Rhythm, that comes a lot later with practice, just learn to change (eventually without looking) getting a clean chord sound.

I have attached some songs you may know, and a chord chart to get you started. Use the Transposing lessen to change the chords and keys in songs you already have, they may have advanced or difficult chords. By changing them to the basic chords you know, will allow you to play them.

Knowing how the song should sound will be you best gauge on if you are doing it right, so choose well-known simple songs to start with.

Chords to learn first? (try the first song)

D G A7

then

D7 Em C (your first 4 finger chord to condition the little finger)

then

Am Dm E

finally

G7 Bm F B7 (3 more 4 finger chords that are necessary to master)

There are dozens more out there, but these are the basic country and western chords that should allow you to play most songs in 3 keys. Bar Chords using four fingers are not shown here. Although hard to play with beginner's fingers, they will later open up any unknown chord in a simple way. e.g Bb C#m etc...

If your fingers hurt at the start, then consider changing to nylon strings for the first three months until the railway tracks on your finger tips form calluses and harden up.

Enjoy your learning, - Bryan.

Let Me Be There

D

Wherever you go

G

D

Wherever you may wander in your life

Surely you know

A7

I always wanna be there

D

Holding your hand

G

D

And standing by to catch you when you fall

A7

Seeing you through

D

In everything you do

Chorus

Let me be there in your morning

G

Let me be there in your night

D

A7

Let me change whatever's wrong and make it right

D

Let me take you through that wonderland

G

That only two can share

D

A7

D

All I ask you is let me be there

Watching you grow

G

D

And going through the changes in your life

That's how I know

A7

I always wanna be there

D

G

D

Whenever you feel you need a friend to lean on, here I am

A7

D

Whenever you call, you know I'll be there - Chorus

Banks of the OHIO

A7 D A7
I asked my love to take a walk
D
To take a walk, just a little walk
D7 G
Down beside where the waters flow
D A7 D
Down by the banks of the Ohio

Introduces D7

CHORUS A7
And only say that you'll be mine
D
In no others' arms entwined
D7 G
Down beside where the waters flow
D A7 D
Down by the banks of the Ohio

A7
I held a knife against his breast
D
As into my arms he pressed
D7 G
He cried "my love, don't you murder me
D A7 D
I'm not prepared for eternity" - Chorus

A7
I wandered home 'tween twelve and one
D
I cried, "My God, what have I done?"
D7 G
I've killed the only man I love
D A7 D
He would not take me for his bride - Chorus

A7
And only say that you'll be mine
D
In no others' arms entwined
D7 G
Down beside where the waters flow
D A7 D
Down by the banks of the Ohio

Take Me Home, Country Roads

CHORUS

G D
Country roads, take me home
Em C
To the place where I be-long
G D
West Vir-ginia, mountain mama
Em C G
Take me home, country roads

Introducing C and Em

G Em D
Almost heaven, West Virginia
C G
Blue Ridge Mountains, Shenandoah River
Em
Life is older there, older than the trees
D
Younger than the mountain
C G
Blowing like a breeze - Chorus

G Em D
All my memories gather round her
C G
Minor's lady, stranger to blue water
Em
Dark and dusty, painted in the sky
D
Misty taste of moonshine
C G
Teardrops in my eye - Chorus

Em D G
I hear her voice in the morning hour

She calls me
C G D
The radio re-minds me of my home far away
Em C G
And driving down the road I get a feeling

D D7
That I should've been home yesterday, yester- day - Chorus

Transposing Guitar Music + Basic Chord Chart (Changing Keys)

This is done for two reasons:

1. The original key is too high or low to sing to,
2. The original key is too hard to play in.

The Scale

A Bb/A# B C Db/C# D Eb/D# E F Gb/F# G Ab/G#

Example: To change a Tune that was written in Eb and containing these chords; Eb, Cm, Ab, Bb, into an easier key to play in, do the following;

To Change from the key of Eb to G, move each letter four places to the right.

A Bb B C Db D **Eb** E F **Gb** **G** Ab

So in the same way that **Eb** became **G** as above, **Cm** will become **Em**

A Bb B **C** Db D **Eb** **E** F Gb G Ab

Ab becomes C

A Bb B **C** Db D Eb E F Gb G **Ab**

Bb becomes D

A **Bb** B **C** Db **D** Eb E F Gb G Ab

Eb **Cm** **Ab** **Bb**
Eg. Dre am dream, dream, dream.

G **Em** **C** **D**
Eg. Dre am dream, dream, dream.

You will notice that if the original chord was a minor and seventh, then the new chord is also a minor or seventh.

Another examples could be F, Dm, Bb, C to C, Am, F, G. etc...

A Bb B **C** Db D **Eb** **E** **F** Gb G Ab

A Bb B **C** Db **D** Eb E F Gb G Ab

Chords usually found in these Keys.

C	Am	F	G	Dm
D	Bm	G	A	Em
E	C#m	A	B	F#m
F	Dm	Bb	C	Gm
G	Em	C	D	Am
A	F#m	D	E	Bm

Basic Guitar Chords - numbers = 1st, 2nd, 3rd finger, lines across are Frets.

