

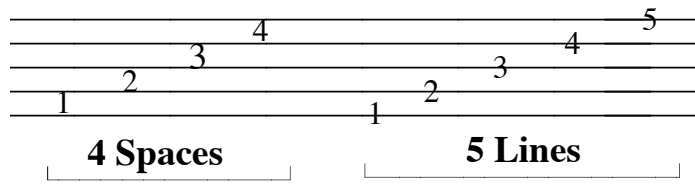
Theory Lesson 1

Theory Rudiments

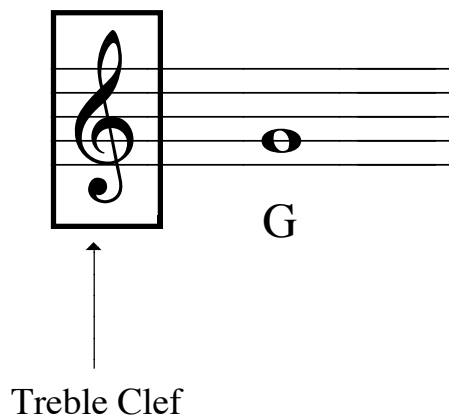
I am starting with just a few basics to get us going on the subject of music theory. If you want to know more about the rudiments of music then check out my book “*Music Reading for Guitar*” published by Hal Leonard.

If you don’t know this information, then take the time to familiarize yourself with these diagrams.

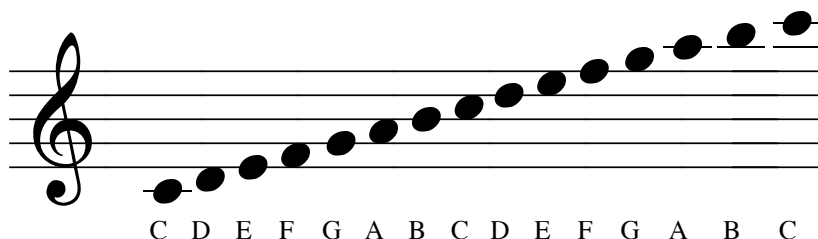
The staff consists of 5 lines and 4 spaces on which music is written. Lines and spaces are always counted from the bottom line or space up.



The first sign on the staff is the clef sign. Guitar music is written in the treble or “G” clef. For our purposes, all of the theory in these lessons will be written on this staff as if it would be played on the guitar.



From this point we can learn all of the other notes on the staff. These same notes are all playable on the guitar in several different positions.



Theory Lesson #1

Exercise: Look at the notes on the staff and say the names of the notes out loud. Memorize these note names. Cover up the names of the notes and then say them as you read the note heads. To read music on the guitar, you need to also understand ledger lines. Ledger lines extend the range of the staff in both directions. If you notice the first “C” is written on the first ledger line below the staff. The last note “C” is written on the 2nd ledger line above the staff. Most guitar music is written between three ledger lines below the staff and as many as five ledger lines above the staff. Also, notice that each note written with a ledger line has it’s own set of ledger lines.

Also notice that these notes go up the alphabet to the note “G” and then start again. What is actually written here is a two octave C major scale. Much more on both what that means and how to construct it later.

Once this lesson has been completed, move to the scales and arpeggio’s lesson #1.