

# Basic Guitar Online- Level One

## Introduction:

This online guitar text covers in detail the information that I consider to be critical for a beginning guitar student to know. It also serves as a good review for self taught guitarists who may have gaps in their knowledge of the instrument. It is written in easy to understand language to make it accessible for both young and older students.

**Basic Guitar Level One** is designed for the complete beginner who has never even held a guitar before. It begins with the fundamentals of guitar playing through chording, explanation of the fingerboard, tuning, rhythms, scales, right/left hand positions, and solo playing. Tablature will be used in this course to facilitate learning and quick access to playing solo music.

## Use of Tablature

*Tablature* is a very old method of reading music. It is an easy method that takes about five minutes to learn. Traditional note reading on the staff (called modern notation) can take two years to learn well on the guitar.

It was common years ago to teach note reading to beginning students, but I have since changed my mind about the validity of that approach. I have found through experience that forcing beginning guitar students to read notes too soon can slow their learning progress and discourage their interest in the guitar. Learning to play the guitar is often a struggle because students are learning to hold and support the instrument and train their hands and fingers to work correctly. Adding note reading at this stage of development can be overwhelming for a student. Also, one must understand that some beginning students are not interested in reading notes and do not need to learn that skill for the type of music they want to play. Many students just want to learn a few chords and songs for personal enjoyment. This is why I use tablature for *Level One* of this course. If at the end of this course a student feels he/she would like to continue studying the guitar in more depth, which is certainly recommended, the next step would be to learn to read notes on the guitar. (Note reading will be introduced in Basic Guitar - Level II.)

Special thanks to **Tony Manjarrez** at **1on1 Plus** computer training, for designing and building my website. Special thanks also goes to my daughter, **Serena Delgado**, for her great assistance in editing this online version of my guitar book.

## To the student...

This goal of this course is to provide the basic fundamentals of guitar technique that will serve as a foundation for any style of music you wish to pursue. This course does not teach a certain style of guitar playing (although solo guitar playing is emphasized); it teaches how to play the guitar.

### Recommendations:

1. Do not rush through the material; be patient.
2. Practice slowly and develop speed gradually.
3. Purchase a metronome from your local music store if you have trouble keeping time.
4. Enjoy the learning process, since there will always be something new to learn.

**Ruben Delgado** is a teacher, guitarist, and composer. He holds an M.A. in Music (guitar performance) from C.S.U., Fresno, a K-12 teaching credential, and an M.A. in Reading/ESL from Fresno Pacific University. He currently teaches English and guitar at Reedley College in Reedley, CA.