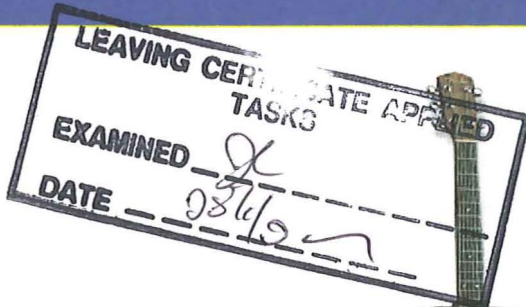


# GUITARS



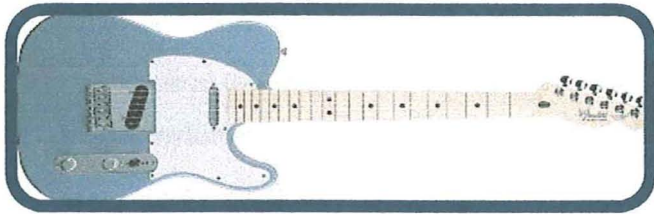
*A Beginners Guide to the Guitar*

*By Tony Clarke & Patrick Mulvey*

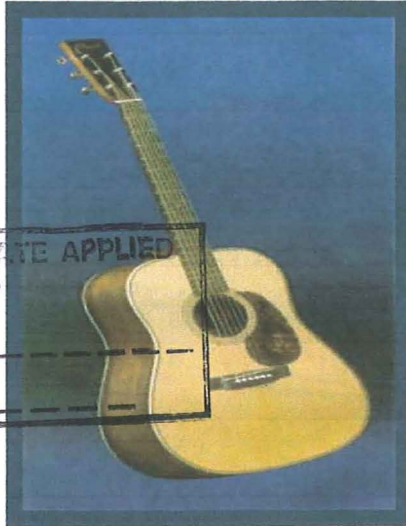


## Introduction

The booklet you are about to read is titled “The Beginners Guide to the Guitar”. It contains detailed information about Acoustic Guitars and Classical Guitars. It will show the different characteristics of each guitar and which guitar may suit you best. We talk about Guitar chords, we display illustrations of chord diagrams and photographs of chords. We also supply Guitar Tablature for beginners. We talk about strumming, finger-picking and tuning.



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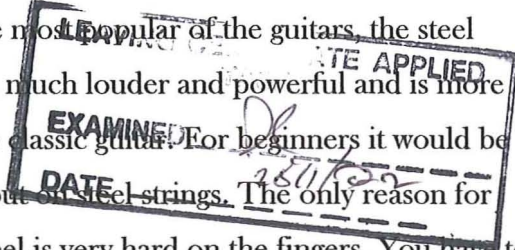


### CLASSICAL GUITARS

Classical Guitars are very good guitars. They often have nylon strings and are very friendly on the fingers. If you were thinking of buying a guitar and you are a beginner, nylon strings are highly recommended. They have good advantages like they are thicker, looser and they are more friendly on the fingers than steel strings and also to get a better sound because they are easier than steel strings. This guitar is ideal for learning because of its wider neck that gives you more room to work with. There is more room for fingers so it is easier to learn finger style guitar playing.

## STEEL STRING GUITARS

Then there is the most popular of the guitars, the steel string guitar. It is much louder and powerful and is more versatile than the classic guitar. For beginners it would be difficult to start out on steel strings. The only reason for this is that the steel is very hard on the fingers. You have to press down hard to get the proper tone out of the guitar. If you start with steel strings you would have to cope with it extra layers of tough skin on the tops of your fingers and it will be a lot easier to play.

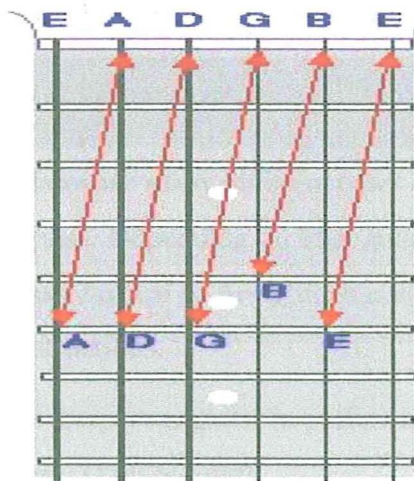


## TUNING YOUR GUITAR & PICKS

There are six strings on a guitar and they are tuned in the format: E, A, D, G, B, E. The six strings on your guitar are also numbered as your top string is number six and your bottom string is number one. The A string is tuned to a note made when you play the fifth fret of the E string then the A string takes over from the E string at the fifth fret which is an A note. The D string follows this fifth fret rule, it takes over from the A string at the fifth fret. The G string also follows the rule, taking over from the D string at the

fifth fret. The B string breaks the rule. It is tuned to the fourth fret of the G string.

Lastly the E string follows the rule again and it takes over from the B string at the fifth fret.




When you know your notes and the different chords of a tune that you want to play. Depending on what guitar you are using, you want to get a plectrum for a steel strings and also classic

but the classic guitar prefers to be plucked. A flat pick is the best way to get a good clean sound out of the steel string guitar especially.

There are different types of picks, the flat is a good one to start on and there are picks to go around your thumb so you can pick with them and strum with them.

The term “rhythm guitar” is often used and it describes a style of guitar playing. When you play in this style of guitar you become half guitarist half percussionist.





You can use your plectrum to either pick single notes or strum all six, or combinations of both. The most common way of playing rhythm is to pick the root note of the chord and then strum the rest of the chord.

### *GUITAR STRINGS*

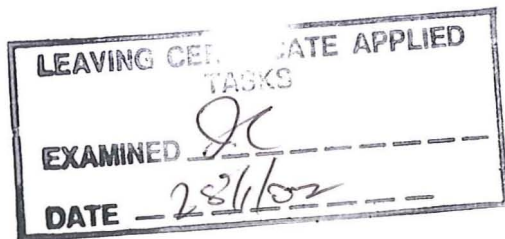
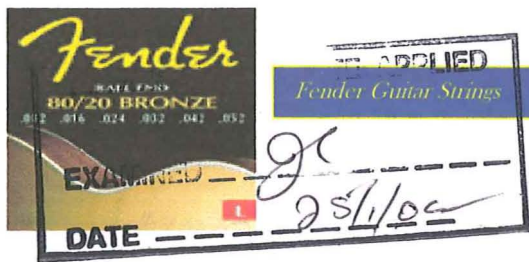
There are many different types and brands of guitar strings. Depending on what guitar your using and weather it is Classical or Acoustic, it is advisable to follow these instructions.

To keep your guitar in perfect and clear sound all the time, (You Should):

<i>How often you play</i>	<i>When you should re-string your Guitar</i>
3-4 hours per day	Weekly
1-2 hours per day	Every 2 weeks
1 hour per week	Every 2-3 months



Steel strings are worn-out more easily than nylon strings. The difference between steel and nylon strings are already explained. The most recommended strings for beginners are Gibson, Fender and Martin.



*All Guitars vary in price and condition*

All guitars vary in condition and price. One person could buy a guitar for £500 and another person could buy a guitar for £100. Last year I bought a Samick steel string acoustic guitar for £95. Here are the costs I have spent on the guitar since September 2000-September 2001.

Cost of the guitar to buy = £95

Guitar Case = £7

Guitar Capo = £4

One set of Gibson steel guitar strings = £8




It is advisable to change the strings on your guitar every so often depending on how often you play. This is explained in the Guitar Strings page.

Gibson Guitar Strings purchased twice per month  
= £14

For 11 months = £154





One set of Martin steel strings = £10

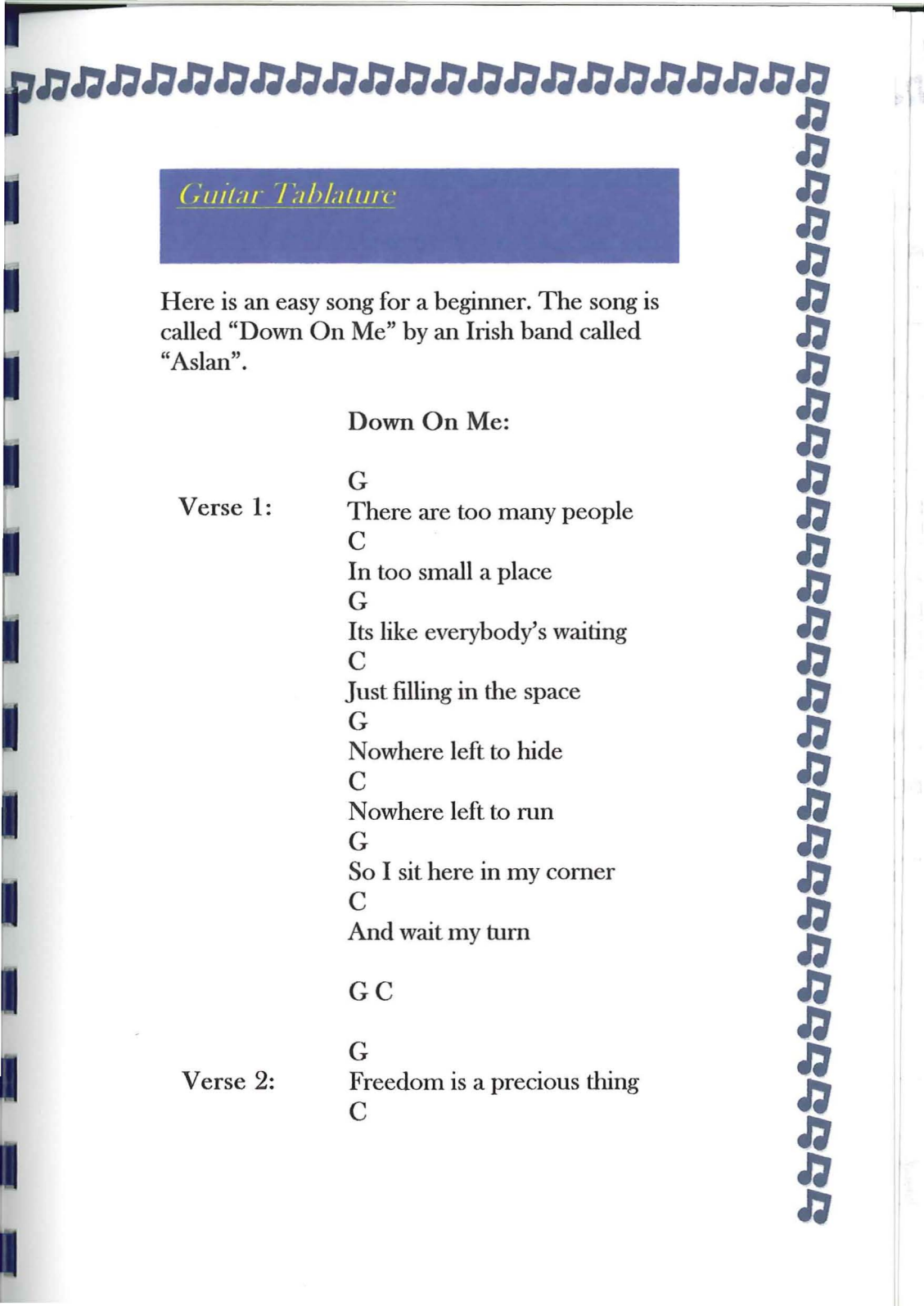
Chord book encyclopaedia = £25

I purchase 5 guitar plecs every time I buy guitar strings,

120 plecs in 1 year, each plec costs 40p, 120 plecs

= £48





## *Guitar Tablature*

Here is an easy song for a beginner. The song is called "Down On Me" by an Irish band called "Aslan".

### Down On Me:

Verse 1:

G  
There are too many people  
C  
In too small a place  
G  
Its like everybody's waiting  
C  
Just filling in the space  
G  
Nowhere left to hide  
C  
Nowhere left to run  
G  
So I sit here in my corner  
C  
And wait my turn

G C

Verse 2:

G  
Freedom is a precious thing  
C



In the world today

G

We don't know how lucky we  
really are

C

So if there's something to be  
said, there is nothing you can

Bridge 1:

D

Say, yeah, yeah

C E7

G

So don't look down on me

Chorus:

F            C

G

Oh, oh oh, so don't look down  
on me, down on me

X2

G

Down → C

G

Verse 3:


If you think your life's a waste of  
time

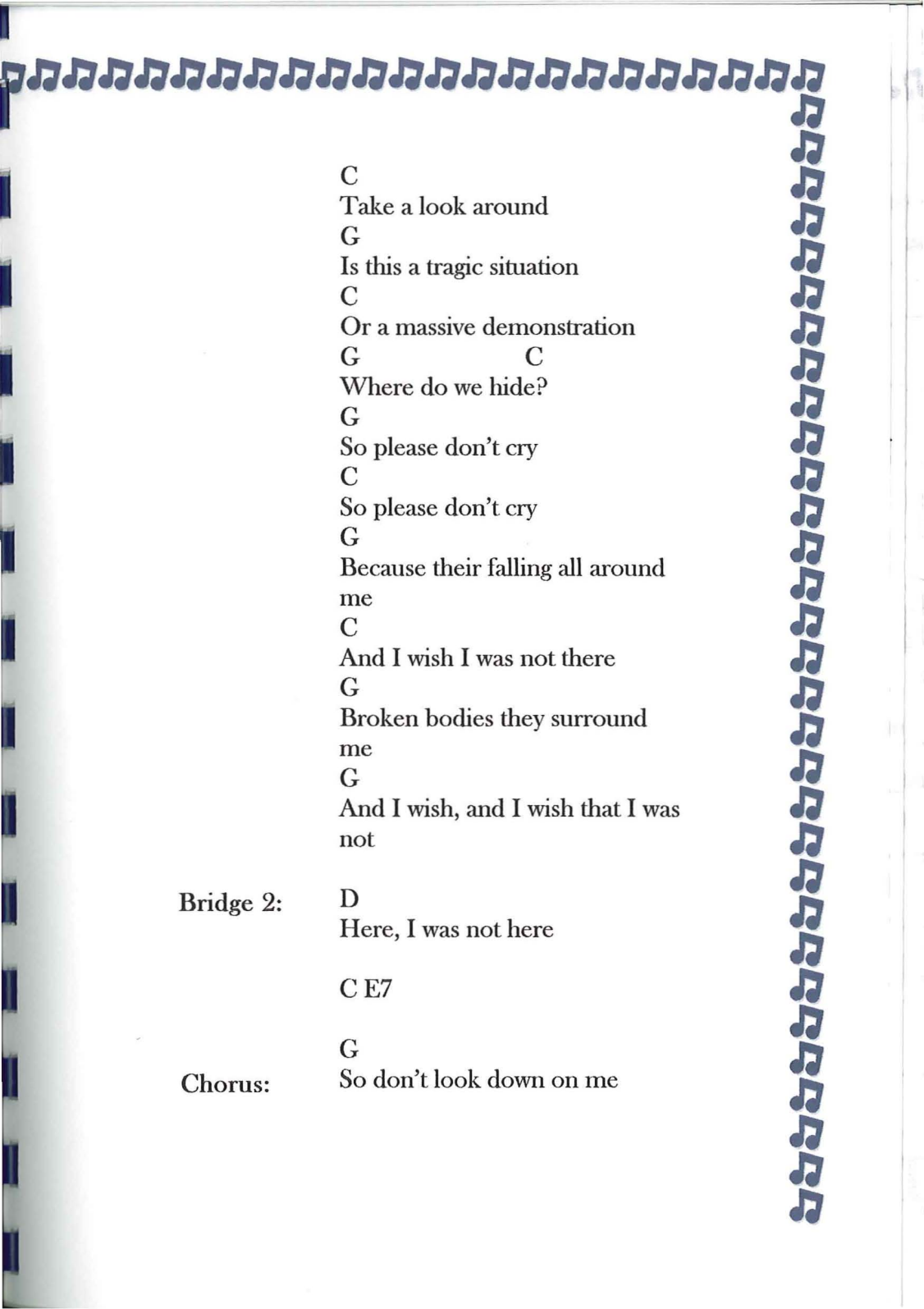
C

If you think your time's a waste  
of life

G

Come over to this land





C  
Take a look around  
G  
Is this a tragic situation  
C  
Or a massive demonstration  
G C  
Where do we hide?  
G  
So please don't cry  
C  
So please don't cry  
G  
Because their falling all around  
me  
C  
And I wish I was not there  
G  
Broken bodies they surround  
me  
G  
And I wish, and I wish that I was  
not

Bridge 2:

D  
Here, I was not here

C E7

Chorus:

G  
So don't look down on me

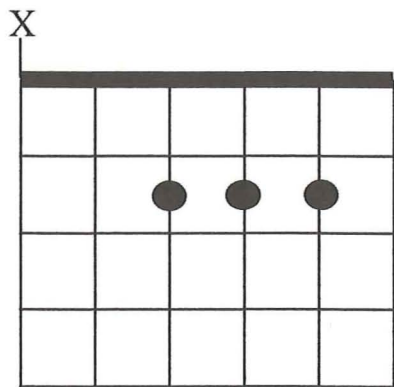


F            C    G  
Oh, oh, its coming down on me

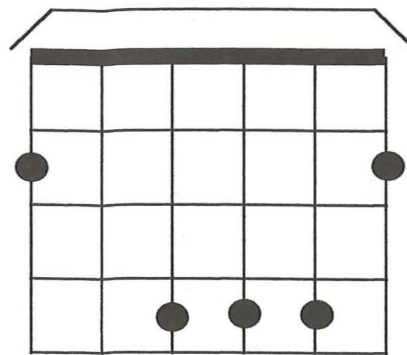
X4



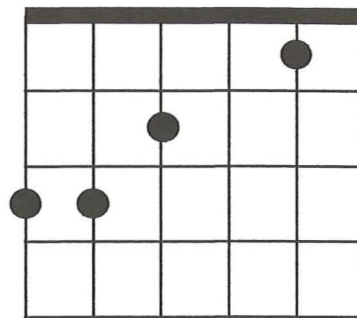
GUITAR CHORDS



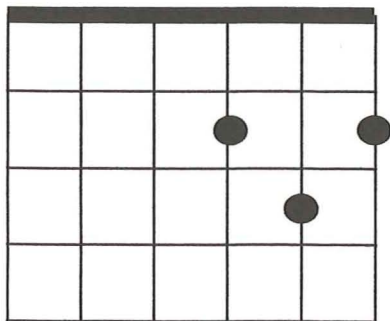
A



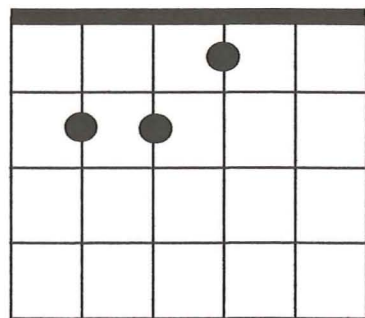
B



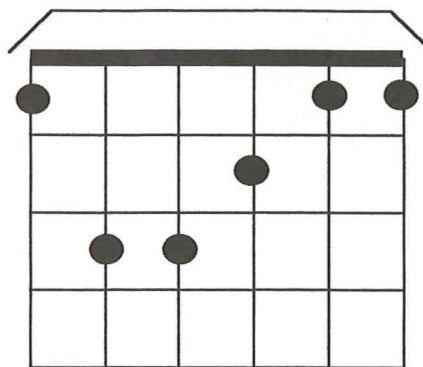
C



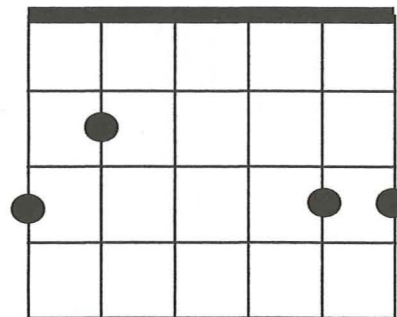
D



E

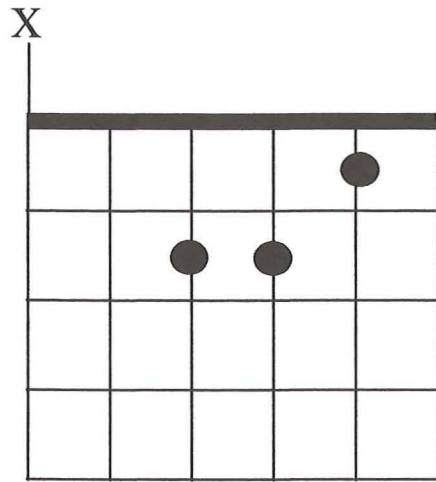


F

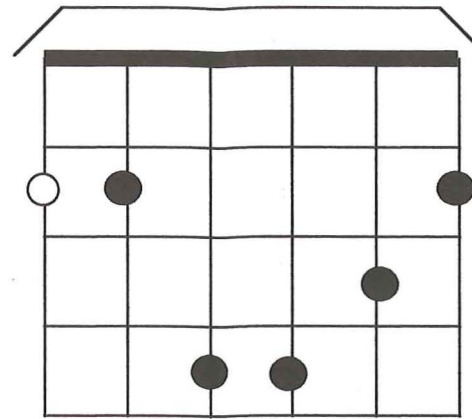


G

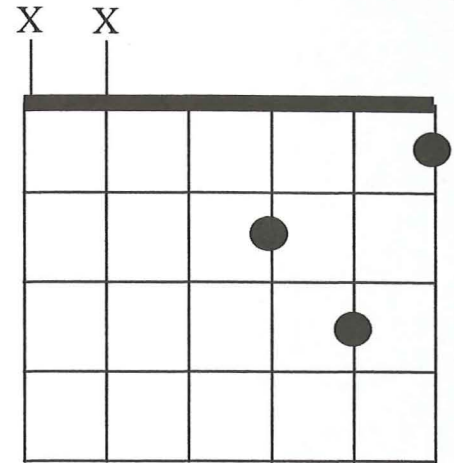
MINOR CHORDS



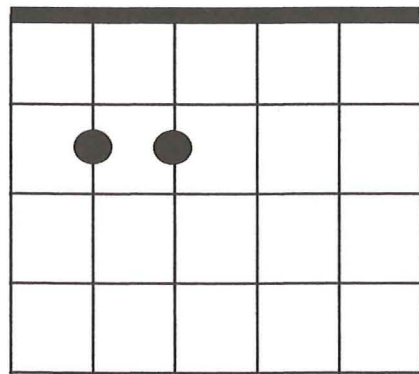
Am



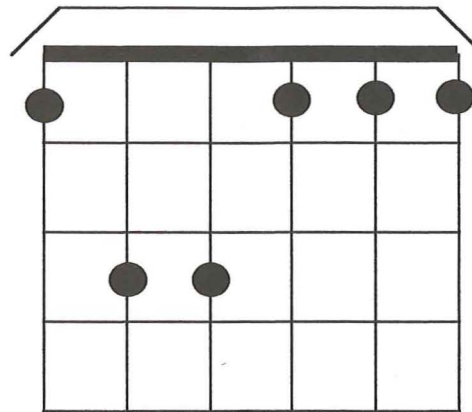
Bm



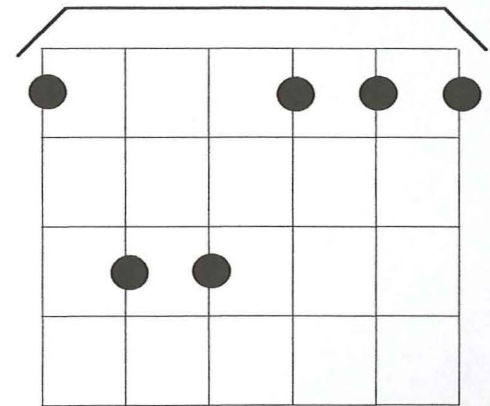
Dm



Em



Fm



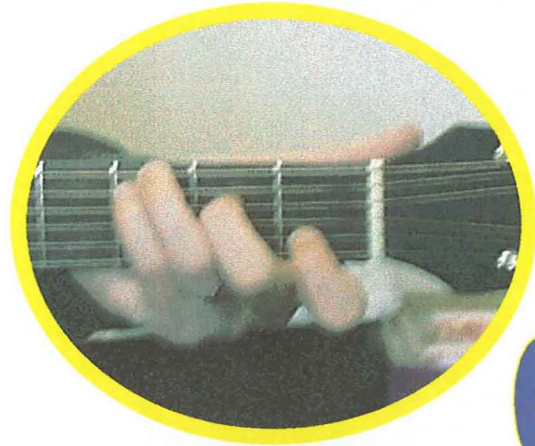
Gm



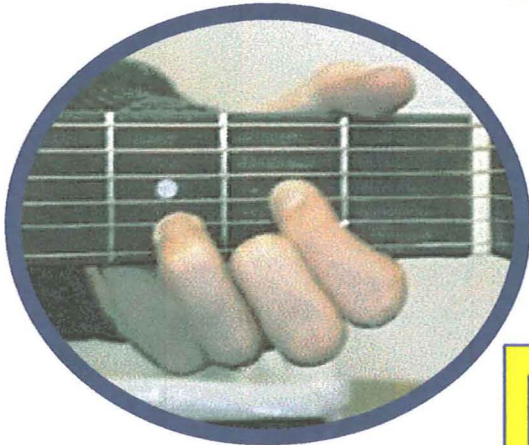
A



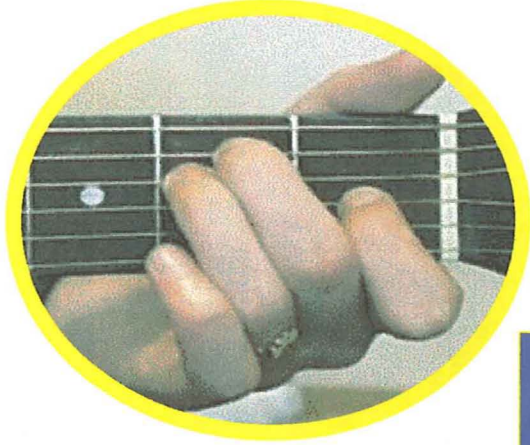
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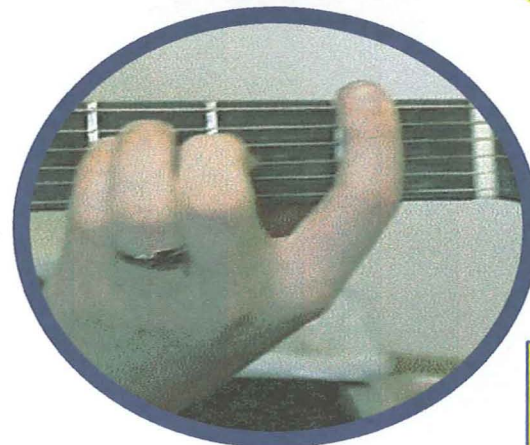
C



D



E



F

# GUITAR PICKS



G



GUITAR PICS



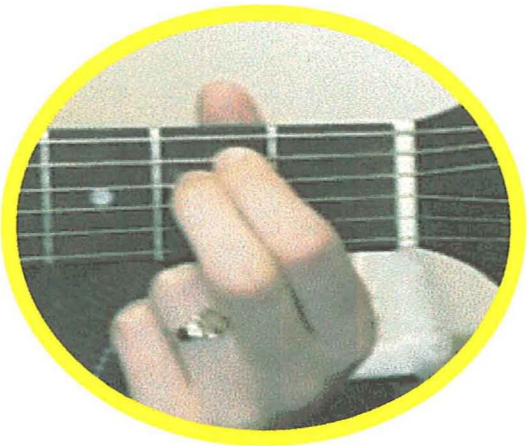
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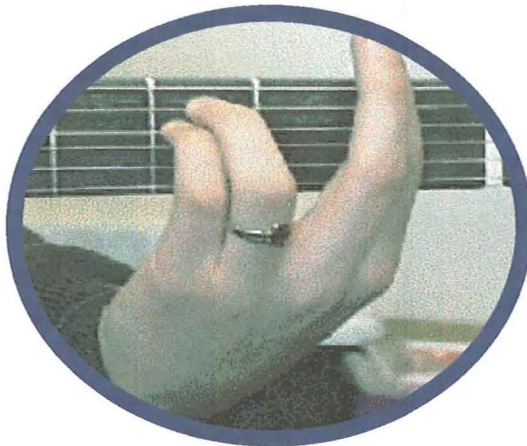
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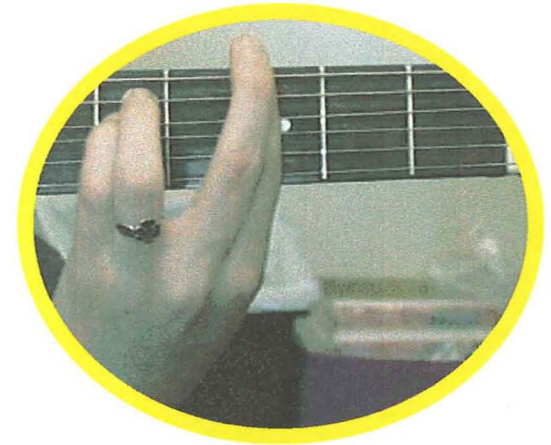
Dm



Em



Fm



Gm