



# **3 STEPS TO PLAYING YOUR FIRST SONG ON GUITAR**

**1**

**2**

**3**

# 3 STEPS TO PLAYING YOUR FIRST SONG ON GUITAR

## STEP 1 WHAT TO LEARN

### The Songs

These 4 songs are hand-picked for their simplicity. Each song is made up of only verses, which allows you to just learn the progression for 1 verse, and that is repeated for the remaining verses. The pace and phrase structure of these songs also adds to the simplicity. Pick one of these songs to learn first.

AMAZING GRACE

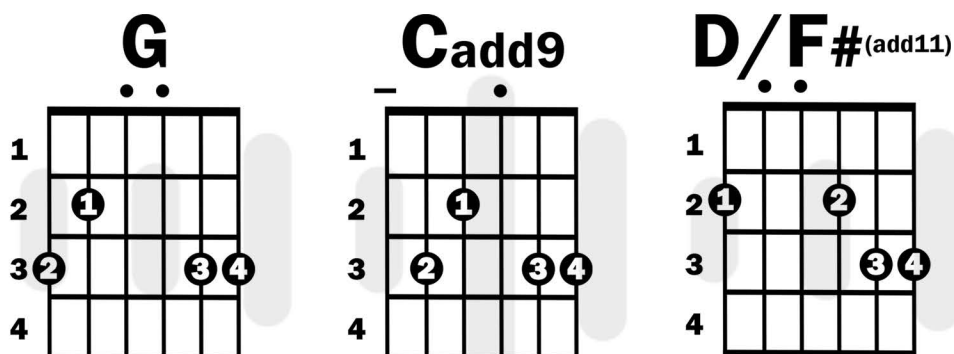
JOY TO THE WORLD

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB

### The Chords

Each song above uses these 3 chords. These particular chord variations are chosen because of their similarity in shape with one another, which makes for easier transitions and a more unified sound when played together.



### The Strum Pattern

Each song above uses the “Driving Strum Pattern”. This pattern is a great one to begin with, as it uses one down strum per beat, similar to clapping your hands to a song, and it is the foundation for many strumming patterns you will learn in the future.

#### The Driving Pattern

1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&
↓		↓		↓		↓	↑

## **STEP 2**

# **HOW TO PRACTICE**

If you don't know how to practice correctly, you will just be spinning your wheels and not making much progress. Playing the guitar is multi-tasking. When just starting out, it is important to segment the different skills required to play the guitar, and learn them individually, before trying to combine them together into a song. Below are the different segments of practice that will help you make the most progress from your practice time.

### **The Clean Chords Practice**

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The focus of this practice is to get clean sounding chords. Pluck each string one at a time, making sure to get a clean resonating sound. If you get a muted or chattering string, fix it, and then start over. Do this until all strings of the chord resonate clearly.

If you get a muted or chattering string, remember to press with the tip of your finger, and press on the sweet spot of the fret.

### **The Muscle Memory Practice**

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You will not be pressing down on the strings for this practice. The focus is to get the muscles of your fingers to memorize the chord positions and transitions. Just place your fingers gently on the chord positions, and practice each transition for the particular song you are trying to learn, one at a time repetitively.

### **The Strum Pattern Practice**

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The focus of this practice is strictly the strum pattern. You will not be using chords at all. Simply mute the strings with your chording hand, and focus only on the strumming. Once you have the pattern memorized, you can practice singing the song with just the strum pattern...no chords. Follow along with the strum pattern guide for the song you want to play, and focus on matching the melody of the lyrics with the rhythm of the pattern.

### **All Together Practice**

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The focus of this practice is to begin combining the previous practices together. Play the chords and the strum pattern together while counting the beats and measures out loud. Follow along with the chord chart. When you get comfortable with this, you can then add singing the melody.

## **STEP 3**

# **HOW TO BE PERSISTENT**

You can have all the knowledge of what and how to learn, but if you are not prepared mentally for this task, you will give up shortly in the future. Below are the 4 P's to developing persistence in your own life.

### **PURPOSE**

Why do you want to learn? Take a minute and ask yourself this question. Many people would say something like, 'I want to be able to play my favorite songs.' And that's good, but that's not a purpose. I challenge you to dig deeper than that. Why do you want to play your favorite songs? To play for your spouses anniversary? To play for your child's birthday? To play for your grandkids? To join the church music team? To play your dying mother's favorite song before she passes? Find a purpose that is backed by a burning desire for its fulfillment, and it will be the fuel to persist through the more difficult days of practice.

### **PLAN**

Once you have your specific purpose discovered, you need to create a plan to achieve it. There are a few things that go into a good plan:

**A Due Date:** Pick a specific date that you will execute your purpose.

**A Practice Schedule:** How often will you practice between now and then? How many days a week, and how many minutes per day? At what time each day will you practice? And what will you practice?

**Write it down:** Put all this down on paper and pin it up where you will see it. Like the old saying goes, "if you fail to plan, then you plan to fail."

### **POSITIVE THOUGHTS**

Nothing will make you quit faster than negative and discouraging words from those around you, or even conjured up in your own mind. Thoughts like, "Who am I to think I can learn the guitar?" or "I'm too old" or "I'm too young", or a thousand other negative thoughts and excuses. The only limitation to you successfully learning to play is yourself and if you believe you can do it. People with no arms learn to play guitar with their feet because they believed they could and persisted to the point of success. You must shield your mind from these crippling thoughts during your learning stages.

### **PEOPLE**

This may be the most important of all the steps. There is an exponential power in community. You can join up with some of your friends and learn the guitar together. Maybe you can start a family band with your kids or cousins. Your community can even be digital, through online guitar learning communities and interactive classes. There are many ways to get involved with others and benefit from a friendly alliance of like minded people. Take a moment and come up with a few ideas on how this would look for you. Then take steps to make it happen!

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Now, join me in the...

# 7 DAY SONG CHALLENGE

1

2

3

4

5

6



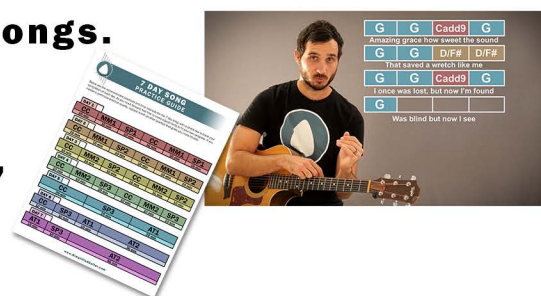
And let me help you play your first song by this time next week!



**Detailed Video tutorials for the 4 songs.**



**PDF practice guide with day by day, minute by minute instruction.**



When you enroll in my “Beginner Course” today, not only will you get the 7 Day Song Challenge, but you’ll also learn...



**The 18 chords & 3 strum patterns that will equip you to play hundreds of popular songs.**



**How to transpose and simplify songs to play more with less chords.**



**How to get clean sounding chords & smooth transitions.**



**How to strum fluently without pauses.**

**How to practice effectively.**

**Plus access to the online Community**

Private Facebook Group

Online Forums

Weekly Live Classes

**CHECK IT OUT NOW!**