

Beginning and Intermediate Guitar

You are responsible for the understanding and memorization of the following information. For more detailed descriptions, corresponding page numbers in your text, *Solo Guitar Playing I*, will be listed to the right of each bold heading.

1. Left hand fingers: (page 6)

- 1= index
- 2= middle
- 3= ring
- 4= little
- 0=no left hand finger (which is equivalent to an open string.)

2. Right hand fingers: (page 6)

- p= thumb
- i= index
- m= middle
- a= ring
- s or c= little

3. String numbers: (Introduction: page xxii)

Strings are numbered from the ground up, the thinnest, highest sounding, being the first.

- ① - **E** = first string
- ② - **B** = second string
- ③ - **G** = third string
- ④ - **D** = fourth string
- ⑤ - **A** = fifth string
- ⑥ - **E** = sixth string

4. Fret numbers: (Introduction: page xxii)

Frets are metal ridges crossing the fingerboard and are numbered from the head to the body of the guitar, using Roman numerals to indicate the **position** of the first finger (left hand).

I-First position (1st finger at 1st fret, 2nd finger at 2nd fret, 3rd finger at 3rd fret, and 4th finger at 4th fret.)

II-Second position (1st finger at 2nd fret, 2nd finger at 3rd fret, 3rd finger at 4th fret, and 4th finger at 5th)

III-Third position (1st finger at 3rd fret, 2nd finger at 4th fret, 3rd finger at 5th fret, and 4th finger at 6th)

Etc.

5. Technique:

Left hand: (page 7) Strings are depressed with the fingertip directly to the left of the fret, carefully avoiding contact with the fret itself or adjacent strings.

Right hand: The right hand uses three different techniques:

Rest Stroke (pages 4-12) – the finger passes through the string, coming to rest directly on the next adjacent string (used for playing scales/melodies/repeated single strings).

Free Stroke (pages 11-12) – the finger passes through the string avoiding the next adjacent string (used for playing chords/arpeggios/crossing strings).

Rasgueado – strumming.

6. Musical notation (pages 15-17)

Notation indicates pitches (A,B,C,D,E,F,G), and measured time (rhythm), written on a staff (five lines/four spaces). Each open string, and each fret on any string, has a corresponding letter name (its pitch) and can be given a specific duration (its rhythm).