



Sight-reading Made Easy

(Beginners' level)

By Vinod Saranga

Introduction to the sight-reading

Sight Reading! What is it?

Sight-reading is to read music notation and to play what you read in same time. This is an excellent skill one would have. It helps to grasp deep musical knowledge easily. Sight Reading will give you the ability to name any note in your Fret Board.

This course is designed to help you to sight-read music for guitar without having heavy theory knowledge.

Trust me sight reading is very easy and it's very fun to sight-read.

Most people give it up and go for tabs not because of difficulty in sight-reading but because of the boring theory stuff.

WHAT IS A TAB

TAB or tablature is a method of writing down music played on guitar or bass.

Instead of using symbols like in standard musical notation, it uses ordinary

ASCII characters and numbers.

Which is better? Tab vs. Standard notation

If you want to be a great musician one day then you should learn how to read standard music notation.

It's essential to know how to read tabs if you learn guitar over internet since many solos are in tab format and great players use tabs as well.

So my advice is to learn both of them and use standard notation whenever possible.

Question:

How do you get a guitar player to turn his volume down?

Answer:

Put a piece of sheet music in front of him!

Index

	Page
Introduction to the sight-reading	2
Goals of beginners' course	8
Guidelines	9

Drills

1. Learn your Open strings	10
----------------------------	----

1.1 Drill 1

E, A, D notes

1.2 Drill 2

G, B, E notes

2. Learn the notes in 3 frets' area	12
-------------------------------------	----

2.1 Drill 3

Notes on the 6th String

2.2 Drill 4

Notes on the 5th String

2.3 Drill 5

Notes on the 4th String

2.4 Drill 6

Notes on the 3rd String

2.5 Drill 7

Notes on the 2nd String

2.6 Drill 8

Notes on the 1st String

3. Improve your rhythm reading in 2/4, 3/4 & 4/4 (beats without rests) 18

3.1 Drill 9

2/4 (beat without rests)

3.2 Drill 10

3/4 (beat without rests)

3.3 Drill 11

4/4 (beat without rests)

4. Improve your rhythm reading in 2/4, 3/4 & 4/4(with Quarter rests) 20

& introduction to the ClapZ technique

4.1 Drill 12

2/4 (with Quarter rests)

4.2 Drill 13

3/4 (with Quarter rests)

4.3 Drill 14

4/4 (with Quarter rests)

5. Improve your rhythm reading in 2/4, 3/4 & 4/4 (with Half rests) 24

5.1 Drill 15

2/4 (with half rests)

5.2 Drill 16

3/4 (with half rests)

5.3 Drill 17

4/4 (with half rests)

6. Improve your rhythm reading in 2/4, 3/4 & 4/4 (with Whole rests) 26

Drill 18

2/4 (with Whole rests)

Drill 19

3/4 (with Whole rests)

Drill 20

4/4 (with Whole rests)

Goals of beginners' course

At the end of this course you should be able to

- 1 .Recognize Open string notes.
2. Recognize notes within 3 frets region.
3. Read any rhythm with whole notes, half notes & quarter notes in 2/4,3/4 and 4/4 beat.
4. Read any rhythm with whole notes, half notes & quarter notes in 2/4,3/4 and 4/4 beat with whole, half and quarter rests.

At the beginning of this course it is assumed that you know some basic knowledge of the symbols of standard music notation.

If you don't know anything read **this** first.

Guidelines

A brief note about drills...

This skill needs time. You need to do these drills everyday or every other day if you really want to progress. Several minutes per day is more than enough. But remember, the more you read the more you progress. To do all the drills in one day will not give you a good result.

First few lessons don't contain any hard rhythm. It only focuses on your knowledge to identify the correct notes. Later there will be more complex rhythms.

Here are some guidelines to follow the course.

- 1. Go through the drills in order. (When you have done all the drills at least once you can chose anyone you like and practice it)**
- 2. Always Keep a steady rhythm (If possible use a metronome in a slow tempo)**

1. Learn your Open strings

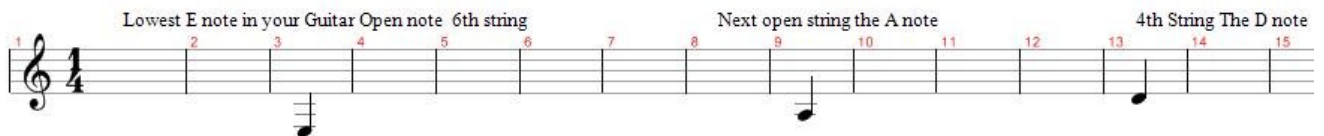
Drill 1

E, A, D notes

Give a good look at notes and try to remember them until you can visualize them with your Eyes closed.

Sight reading -Learn Your Open Strings

Try to remember the note and Visualize it with your Eyes Closed



Now try to play this. Play the Drill at very slow tempo. Remember this is not a speed building exercise. But you can gradually increase your speed.

Sight Reading First Lesson

Learn your Open Strings (E A D Notes)



Drill 2

G, B, E notes

Sight Reading Lesson 2

Say Them aloud and visualize them

3rd string G note 2nd String B note 1st string E note

Sight Reading Lesson 2

All the Open Strings

♩ = 40

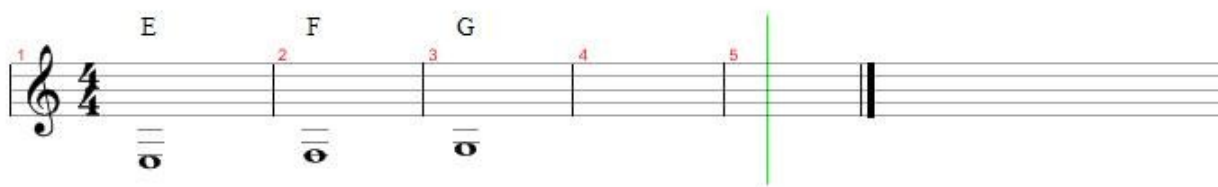
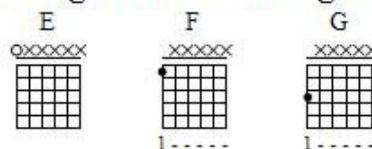
2. Learn the notes in 3 frets' area

Drill 3

Notes on the 6th String

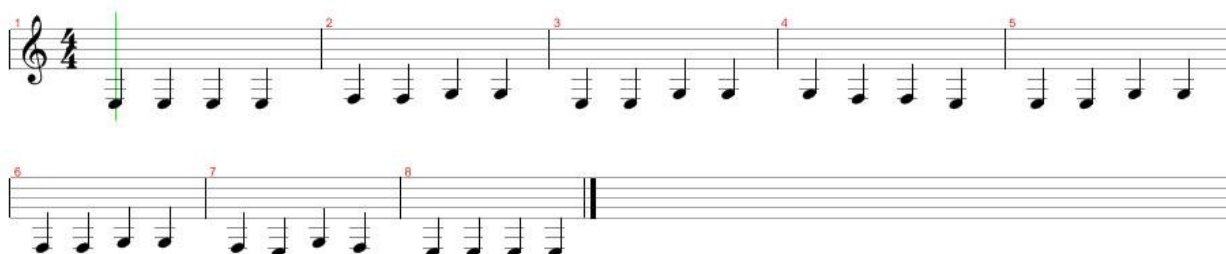
Notes in 6 th String

Use Index finger for F and ring finger for G



Sight Reading Drill 3

Notes in 6th string

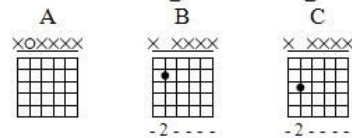


Drill 4

Notes on the 5th String

Notes on the 5th String

Use middle finger & ring finger



Sight Reading Drill 4

Notes on the 5th string



Notes on the 4th String

Use middle finger (for E note) and ring finger (for F note)

Use middle finger (for E note) and ring finger (for F note)



Notes on the 4th String

6 7 8

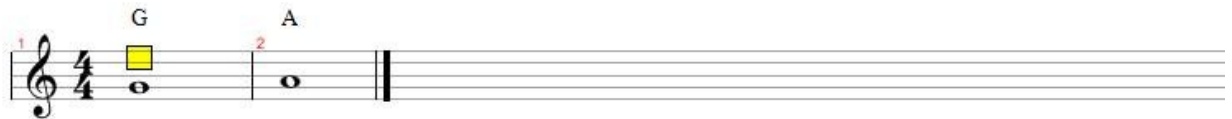
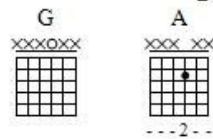
2 2 3 3 2 0 3 2 0 0 0 0

Drill 6

Notes on the 3rd String

Notes on the 3rd String

Use middle finger



Sight Reading Drill 6

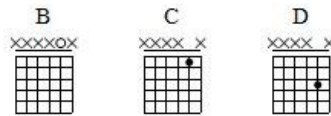
Notes on the 3rd String



Drill 7

Notes on the 2nd String

Notes on the 2nd String



Musical notation for Drill 7, Notes on the 2nd String. The notation is in 4/4 time and consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The bottom staff is a bass clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notation shows the notes B, C, and D on the 2nd string, with fingerings 1, 2, and 3 respectively. The notes are written as quarter notes. The bottom staff has a yellow square box under the first measure, indicating a starting point for a drill.

Sight Reading Drill 7

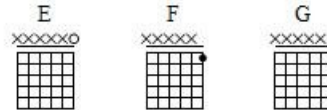
Notes on the 2nd String

Musical notation for Sight Reading Drill 7, Notes on the 2nd String. The notation is in 4/4 time and consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The bottom staff is a bass clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notation shows a sequence of notes on the 2nd string, with fingerings 1 through 5 indicated. The notes are written as quarter notes. The sequence starts with a yellow square box under the first measure, indicating a starting point for a drill.

Drill 8

Notes on the 1st String

Notes on the 1st String



Musical notation for Drill 8, showing the first three notes of the first string: E, F, and G. The notation is in 4/4 time, with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are E (first fret), F (second fret), and G (third fret). The notation is shown on a staff with a yellow box highlighting the first note (E). Below the staff is a TAB line with the fret numbers 0, 1, and 3, and a yellow box highlighting the first fret (0).

Sight Reading Drill 8

Notes on the 1st String

Musical notation for Sight Reading Drill 8, showing a sequence of notes on the first string. The notation is in 4/4 time, with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are E (first fret), F (second fret), G (third fret), A (fourth fret), B (fifth fret), C (sixth fret), D (seventh fret), and E (eighth fret). The notation is shown on a staff with a yellow box highlighting the first note (E). Below the staff is a TAB line with the fret numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, and a yellow box highlighting the first fret (0).

3. Improve your rhythm reading in 2/4, 3/4 & 4/4 (beats without rests)

Ok now we are going to read rhythms rather than notes. These drills are very fun and very helpful for your sight-reading ability.

In first few lessons we only deal with notes (not rests)

We are having drills on 2/4, 3/4 & 4/4 beats. This drill contains the exercise for 2/4 beat.

You should be steadily counting 1, 2 , 1, 2 ,1, 2 & so on.

If you find a quarter note you clap for the duration of one number. If it's a minim (half note) your clap should last for a 2 counts. Got it?

You can also pluck a string instead of clapping. It's your choice. But clapping is interesting isn't it?

Drill 9

2/4 (beat without rests)



Drill 10

3/4 (beat without rests)



Drill 11

4/4 (beat without rests)



4. Improve your rhythm reading in 2/4, 3/4 & 4/4(with Quarter rests) & introduction to the ClapZ technique

I am going to introduce you rest signs and a new technique to practice it.




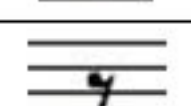
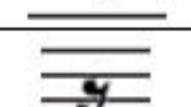
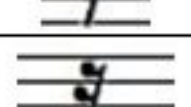
I invented this method myself and it worked fine for me. I called it ClapZ method.

You don't need a guitar but two hands and a mouth!



First of all I want you to know about note values and to be able to recognize their corresponding rest signs. Rest is just to be silent. I will go through a quick overview of notes and rests.

Classical Note Name	Common Name	Symbol	Comments
Semibreve	Whole note		Your basic whole note
Minim	Half note		A whole note with a tail.
Crotchet	Quarter note		A half note filled in. Two crotchets shown, with tails going up and down
Quaver	Eighth note		A quarter note with a tick on its tail. Two quavers shown.
Semi-quaver	16 th note		A quarter note with two ticks on its tail. Two semiquavers shown.
Demisemi-quaver	32 nd note		A quarter note with three ticks on its tail. Two demisemi-quavers shown.

Classical Rest Name	Common Name	Symbol
Semibreve	Whole note rest	
Minim	Half note rest	
Crotchet	Quarter note rest	
Quaver	Eighth note rest	
Semi-quaver	16 th note rest	
Demisemi-quaver	32 nd note rest	

Ok here is the technique.

You count rhythms as 1,2,3,4 etc.

If it's the 4/4 beat you count 1,2,3,4,1,2,3,4,1,2,3,4 & so on

If it's the 3/4 beat you count 1, 2, 3,1,2,3,1,2,3 & so on

(Each count should be for a same duration)

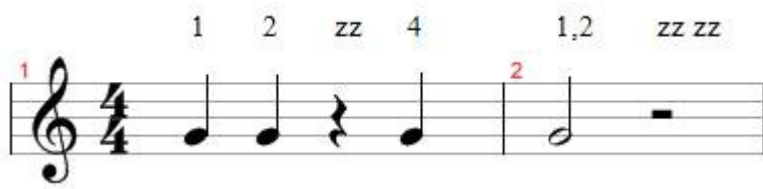
If you see a note you clap with your hand

If you see a rest you say zzz.. and stop counting for the correct duration of the rest and then resume the count.

That's why it's called ClapZ method. The reason why it really works is that it uses very different parts of your brain.(you have to think, count, clap etc)So there is a lot of things to be synchronized in your head,

On the other hand it's very fun to do. So brain quickly traps the rythems and stores them permanently. When you see a pattern later your brain will quickly recognize it that means you know when to play. Only thing you need to know is what to play i.e. the notes you should play. After you have practiced this method several times you can omit the zzz sound and mentally count numbers which contain rest signs.

Ok here is an example.



(Clap= Cp)

What's your mouth should be doing 1 2 zz 4 1,2 zz zz

What's your hands should be doing Cp Cp Cp Cp

Drill 12

2/4 (with Quarter rests)

Here is the drill for 2/4 beat with quarter rest.



Drill 13

3/4 (with Quarter rests)

Remember dotted minim stay for a three counts.



Drill 14

4/4 (with Quarter rests)



5. Improve your rhythm reading in 2/4, 3/4 & 4/4 (with Half rests)

Drill 15

2/4 (with half rests)



Drill 16

3/4 (with half rests)



Drill 17

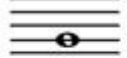
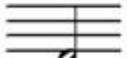




4/4 (with half rests)



6. Improve your rhythm reading in 2/4, 3/4 & 4/4 (with Whole rests)

Unlike other rests whole rest indicates a silence that lasts for an entire measure it doesn't necessarily correspond to particular note duration. So whatever the beat is whole rest lasts for a one measure.

Don't confuse the whole rest with the half rest, they may look like same but there is a difference.

Classical Note Name	Common Name	Symbol	Comments
Semibreve	Whole note		Your basic whole note
Minim	Half note		A whole note with a tail.
Crotchet	Quarter note		A half note filled in. Two crotchets shown, with tails going up and down
Quaver	Eighth note		A quarter note with a tick on its tail. Two quavers shown.
Semi-quaver	16 th note		A quarter note with two ticks on its tail. Two semiquavers shown.
Demisemi-quaver	32 nd note		A quarter note with three ticks on its tail. Two demisemi-quavers shown.

Drill 18

2/4 (with Whole rests)



Drill 19

3/4 (with Whole rests)



Drill 20

4/4 (with Whole rests)

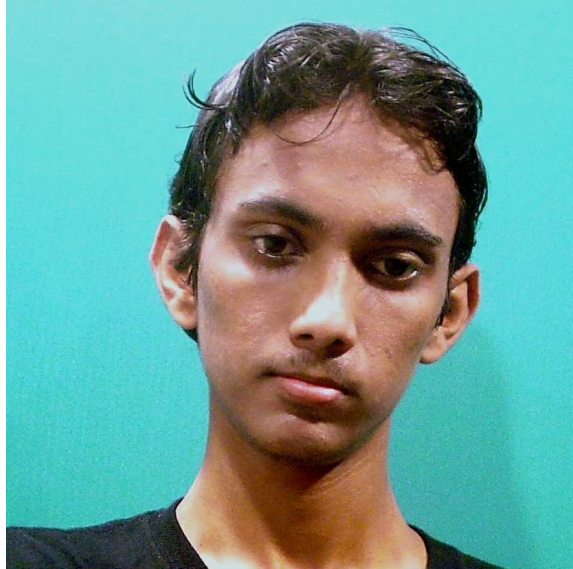


Well-done!

You have just completed the beginners' course for sight reading by Vinod Saranga.

Stay tuned for the Intermediate level

About Vinod



Vinod is a classical guitar instructor of guitarmasterclass.net. He has been teaching there since 2007 Sep.

Guitarmasterclass.net (GMC) is a huge online guitar video lesson archive with a great guitar community.

You can watch many free videos there and for full access

There are over 11100 videos, 1000 lessons and 60 instructors in GMC to help you to become a great guitarist.

It's frequently updating and there is average of ~20 new videos per day.

EXTRAS: Gear-, singing-, recording-, bass- and drum lessons.

You can access for member's area just for **29\$** for 3 months. It's lower than 10 \$ per month.

You cannot find such Killer video lessons and many other guitar related resources with an excellent standard of quality in this planet for such amazingly low price.

Bonus

You can have full access to the GMC for just **19\$** for first 3 months if you follow this [link](#) .

Sign up today and save **10\$**.

See you in the GMC!

