Playing E-Guitar is fun!

Playing E-guitar in your own band – made absolutely easy. The audio files make it possible!

Clifton
FINEST MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Playing E-guitar is fun

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Foreword

On the following pages we would like to make you acquainted with the most important basics for playing on the E-guitar. In order to write an instruction as easy as possible, we have done without a long and “dry” theoretical introduction!
This is not a classical school of guitar. This book explains very briefly the most important basics or tricks for playing electric guitar.

Our motto:

Having instant fun playing E-guitar by means of specially produced audio files

On the basis of famous guitar songs by legendary guitar players and bands we would like to make you familiar with different styles such as blues, rock, metal a.s.o. In a very simple and comprehensive way, this book and its corresponding audio files give you all the technical and musical know-how you need to be able to “join in”.
If you then feel “fit for more”, we have prepared a little introduction into “free improvisation”. This means for you: “Play what you feel” and “Get the Blues” – of course everything in pre-given, easy scales.

Usage of audio files:

By means of the audio files you can first listen to the guitar pieces, practise, and then play along with the karaoke version.
To find the desired title quickly without searching, each song is listed with its title number.
You can perform the solo part as lead guitarist or provide the appropriate groove as rhythm guitarist.
It is our declared intention to proceed without boring theoretical instructions. Simply listen, practise and join in!

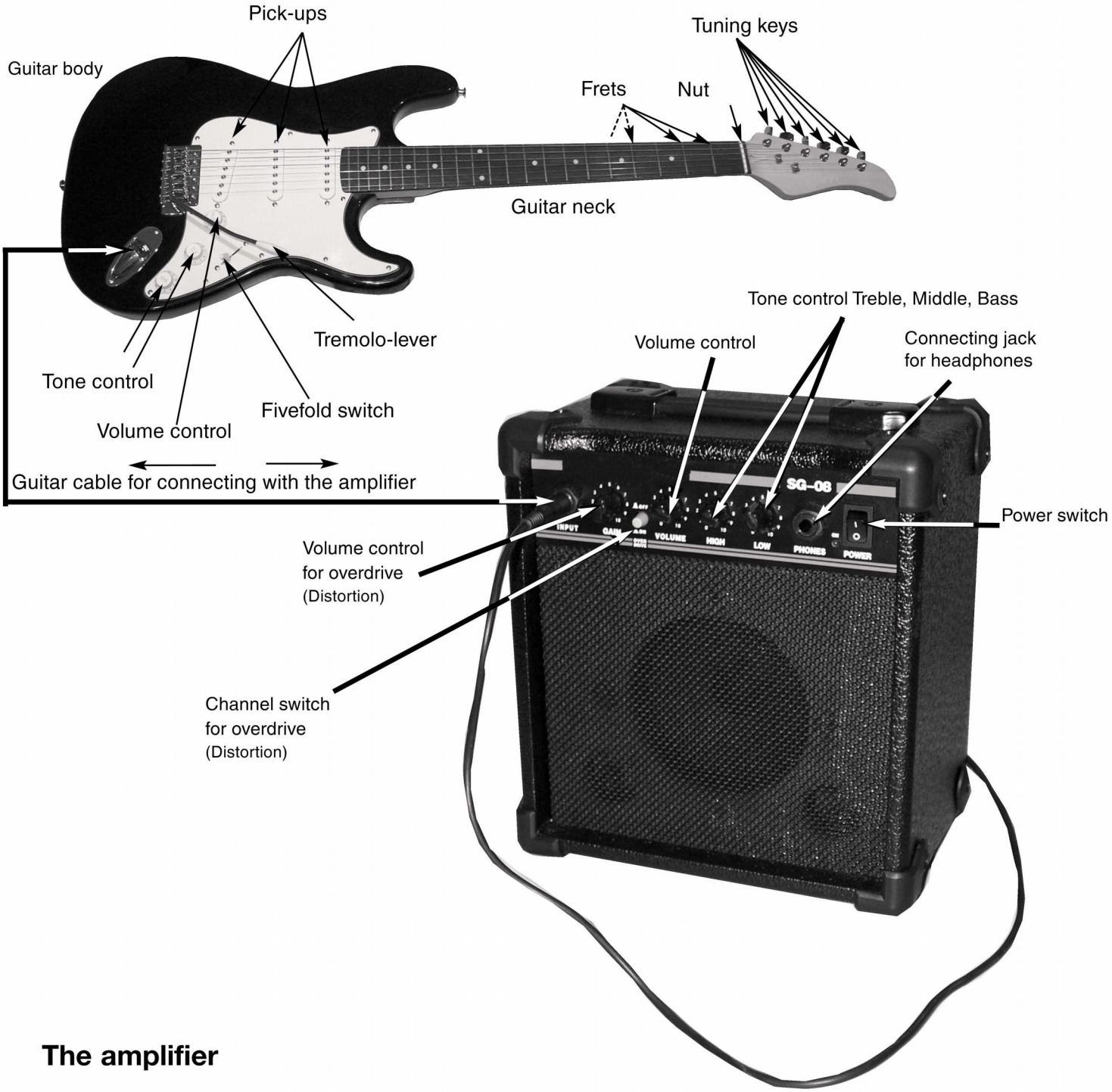
Play E-Guitar just like having your own band - it is really great fun!

The e-guitar

Like any other wooden instrument, the electric guitar is also very sensitive! Therefore, you should never expose your guitar to humidity or direct sunlight. The guitar consists of the two main parts body and neck. In case of the electric guitar, the guitar-body is of massive wood. Contrary to acoustic guitars, the tone of E-guitars is taken from a pick-up and reproduced and reinforced by a guitar amplifier. In the next chapter, the most important parts of the electric guitar are described.

With the volume control you can adjust the basic volume of your guitar. With the two tone controls you can make the sound sharper or duller.
5 different sounds can be chosen with the fivefold switch, which can be used according to taste. Simply check out! The tremolo lever is screwed in. With this lever, also called “whammy bar”, the string tension is decreased or increased. It is also up to you if you want your “solo” to be whamming.

Note! – Using the tremolo lever too heavily can sometimes rip guitar strings.



The amplifier

Most modern guitar amplifiers have a 2-channel technique. 2 channels simply mean 2 different sound types (ways of sound). One channel for normal “clean” sound (undistorted sound) and one channel for “distorted” sound, also called “overdrive”. You will often hear distorted sounds in the rock and blues styles. The most important features of a guitar-“case”-amplifier are shown in the following illustration.

Caution!
Repairs to the amplifier must be carried out by an expert! When repairing the amplifier, unplug the power cord in order to avoid electrical shock.

Changing guitar strings

Changing strings can be inconvenient, even though it is necessary from time to time. Strings can tear for a variety of reasons. Surely, an example is when the string is too highly tuned. There is, however, still another reason: the lifespan of guitar strings is limited. Sweat deposits, dirt and rust can be some reasons for buying a new set of strings for your guitar. With time, strings lose their tonal brilliance and purity.

When performing, it is always advisable to have a replacement set of strings with you. Many musicians even have spare guitars on the stage for this reason.

Drawing the guitar strings

The strings for E Guitars all have a so-called “ball end”. This small ring serves for fixing the string at the bar or at the string mounting. Regarding guitars with a tremolo lever, the string mounting is located on the tremolo block on the backside of the guitar body.

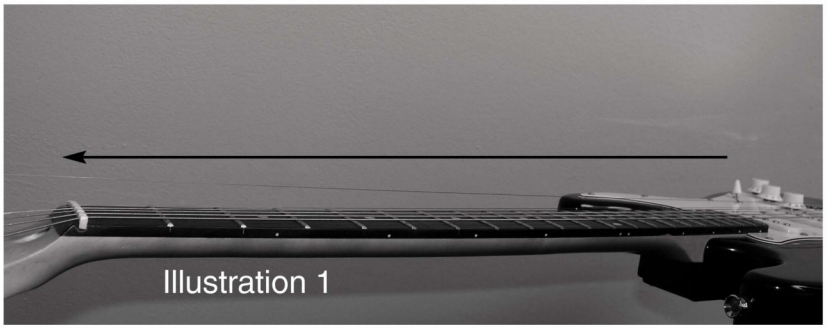


Illustration 1

1.

Remove the string to be replaced. With stubborn strings, remove the string first at the mechanics and at the string mounting.

2.

Thread the corresponding string through the string mounting, over the bridge and the respective notch in the saddle to the mechanic (Illustration 1).

Illustration 2

3.

Lead the string through the hole of the responsible mechanic.
Be careful to use the correct mechanic for each string.
The strings should taper off at the peg (Illustration 2).

4.

Now, you wrap the string around the sound wing of the mechanic. The string should be wound 3-4 times around the peg - pay attention to an even coil. For the clamping direction see Illustration 3. If a string guider is present, fit the string accordingly.

5.

Tune the string. In order to stabilize the string tension, you should stretch the string. This can be done by pulling and stretching the string over the fingerboard with your fingers.

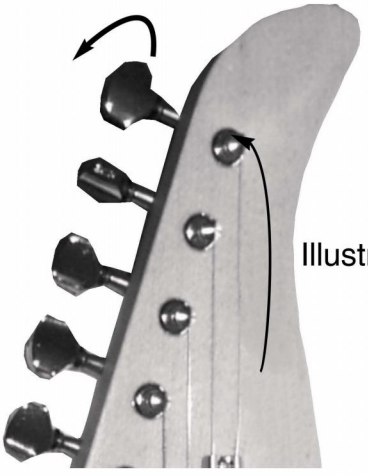


Illustration 3

6.

Tune the guitar again.

7.

Pinch off the remainder of the string projecting on the mechanic with string cutters.
Until tuning is finished, this process must be usually repeated until all strings are tuned.

Let's start now!

and don't forget:
A guitar should first be tuned!

Posture and strumming technique

You can play your E-guitar while standing or sitting. In the beginning, you may find it more comfortable and relaxing to play while sitting.
With the guitar belt you can hang the guitar over your left shoulder.
If you play while standing, you should ensure that the guitar does not hang too low – this may look cool, but it makes striking of harmonies unnecessarily difficult.

How to hold the plectrum:

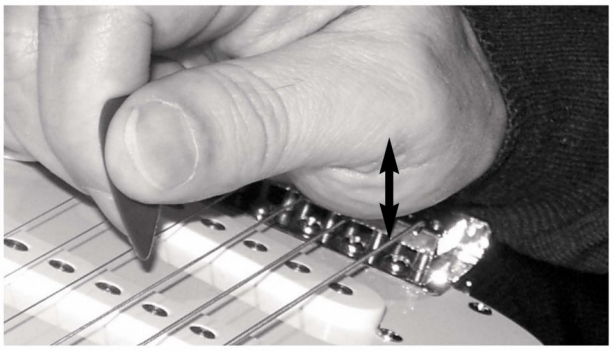
The plectrum is held with index finger and thumb (see illustration left). A small top juts out about 2 cm beyond the fingers. The thumb is stretched out straight. The plectrum should be held with minimum pressure, so that the arm muscles remain relaxed.
It does not matter if at first the plectrum sometimes falls off your hand. On the contrary! This only means that you are using the right finger pressure. Gradually the plectrum will feel like a part of your own hand.

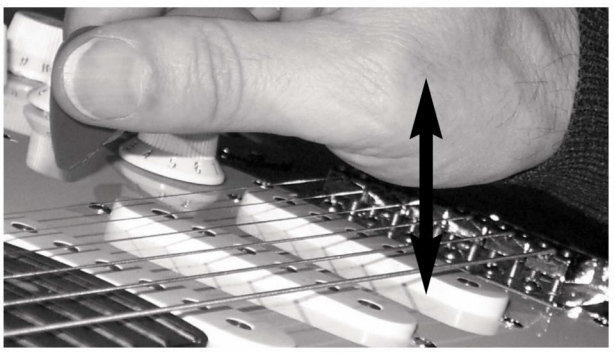
The strumming or: “How to play the guitar strings.” (right hand)

Basically there are 3 different touch techniques:
- rhythm playing
- single tones
- muted single tones

In rhythm playing with chord fingering, several strings are strummed simultaneously.
The pictures show you how to hold the hand while “strumming down” and “strumming up”. Please make sure that the movements come from the wrist and your arm remains immobile meanwhile. At the same time you make semicircular movements with the plectrum and your fingers.

While playing single tones the string is mostly touched in an up-and-down movement of the wrist. How the tone is heard, and in which timbre and intensity it resounds, depends decisively on the touch impulse and the way the plectrum is held with the fingers.





Laying the ball of the hand on the strings generates muted single tones. This technique plays an important part especially when playing with distorted guitar sounds. With this technique you can give the tone particularly strong “pressure” and “power”.
Many guitar players from the Heavy Metal domain use this technique. Especially if many riffs are played on the bass strings, the sound becomes more palpable and concrete by muting. For bass strings vibrate more than treble strings, and by muting you achieve a clearer, more precise tone.

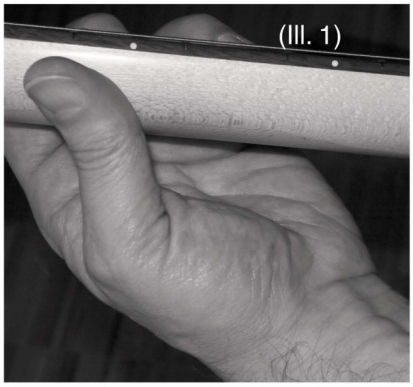
The fingering hand: “How to press the strings?” (left hand)

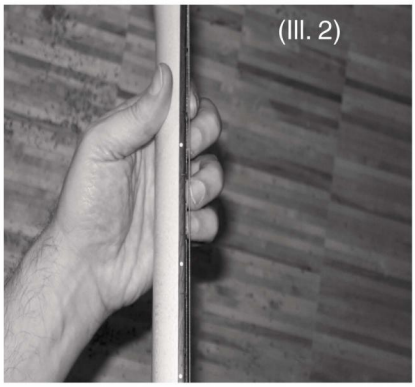
On the illustrations below you see the basic position of the left hand. Note particularly how the left hand encompasses the guitar neck to press the strings. (Ill. 1 and 2)

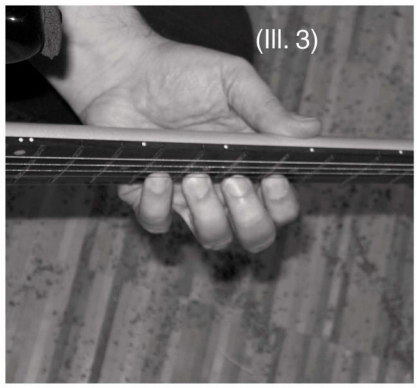
For initial practising you take one guitar string and place your fingers on the string one after another. Each finger presses on its own fret.
You keep your fingers “running” on this string successively. This “basic learning” is also called “knocking” by the way (Ill. 3).

Please practise this “fingering-rehearsal” very intensely and every day!

Thus your feeling for your guitar and its strings will be practised essentially. Even professional guitar players do this for warming up and particularly as a coordination practice.


(Ill. 1)


(Ill. 2)


(Ill. 3)

What is important for chords: The fingers of the left hand are assigned numbers:

1 = index finger, 2 = middle finger, 3 = ring finger, 4 = little finger, 0 = string swings freely

Coordination tutorial

By the preceding practice the left hand obtains the necessary power to make the guitar strings sound with the right pressure. Now we want to practise with both hands. To do this, you perform with your left hand (“fingering hand") the “knocking”-practice described in the last chapter. At the same time the right hand (“touch hand”) plays the respective guitar string with the plectrum in an up-and-down movement.

The coordination tutorial – a must for every E-guitar player!

You should practise this every day and use it especially for warming up.

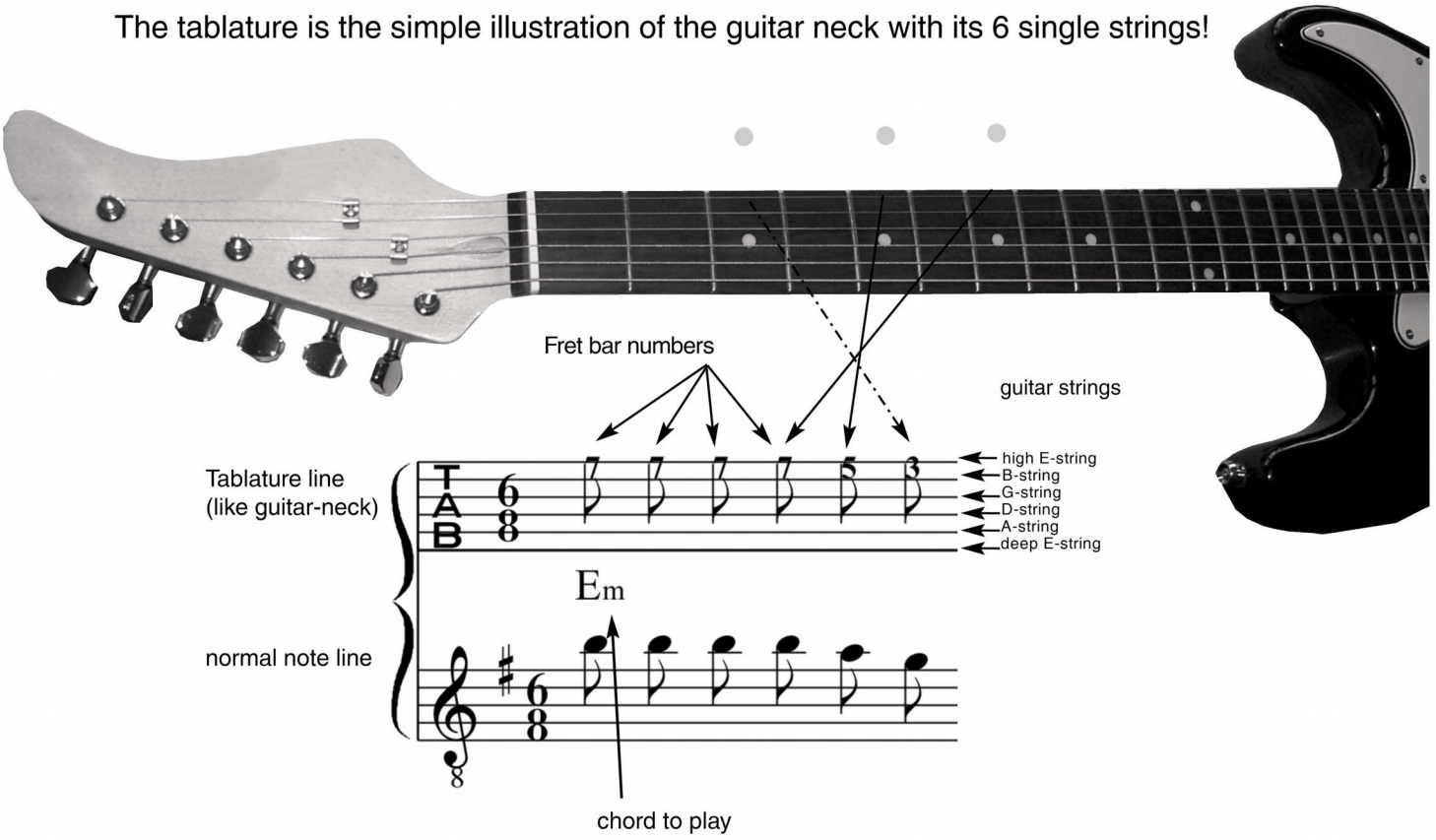
Tablature

“How can I play a melody without being able to read the notes correctly?”
Really easy!

By means of a special tablature below the normal note lines it is indicated which string you have to press on which fret!

The fret bars are counted beginning with the nut (at the head of the guitar).
(See chapter 3)

The tablature is the simple illustration of the guitar neck with its 6 single strings!



“How can I play the chords without being able to read the notes correctly?”
Really easy!

At first it is not so easy to press the strings properly on the guitar neck with the left hand. Don’t press too hard or too soft! The strings must be able to swing freely. You will find the necessary chords for all songs on the next pages described with illustration and picture. Please pay attention to finger positions and position of hand.
We specify the left-hand fingers according to the following scheme:

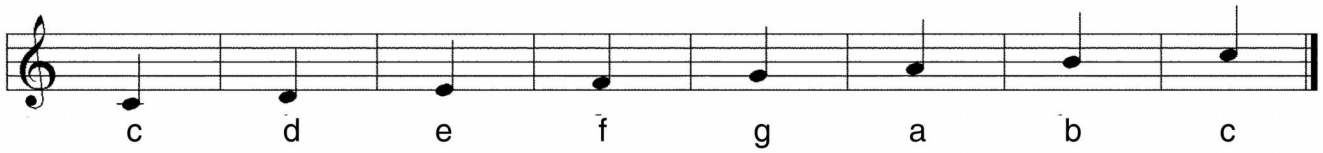
0 = empty string, 1 = index finger, 2 = middle finger, 3 = ring finger, 4 = little finger

Below the note lines of the following songs you will always see the respective chord to play. Have fun playing your first song!

Our notes:

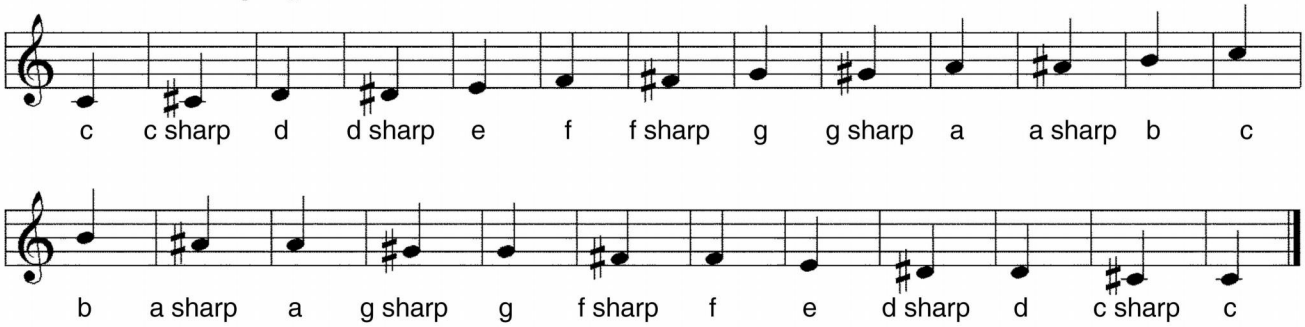
In order to show tones in a graphic form, notes were invented.
The following part shows the basic musical concept.

The major scale:
There are seven basic notes that always repeat.
These are: c, d, e, f, g, a, b.

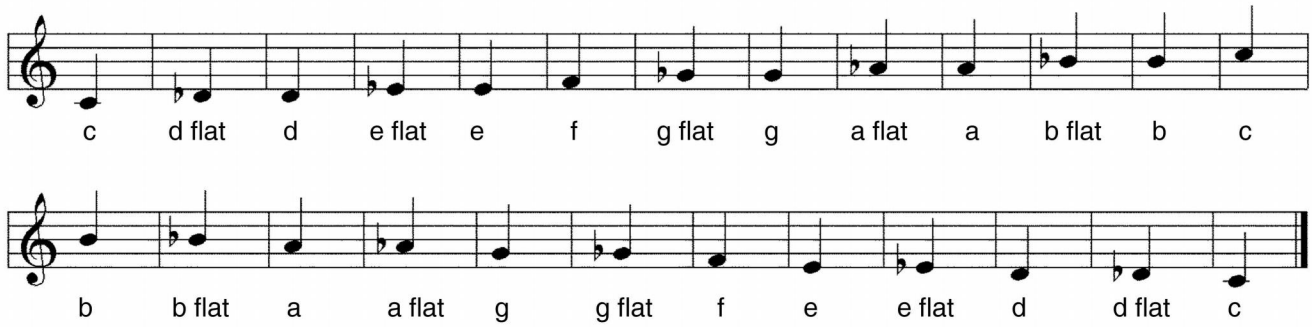


To play in different keys, sharps (#), which raisen the marked note half a step, and the sign flat (b), which lowers the marked note half a step are required.

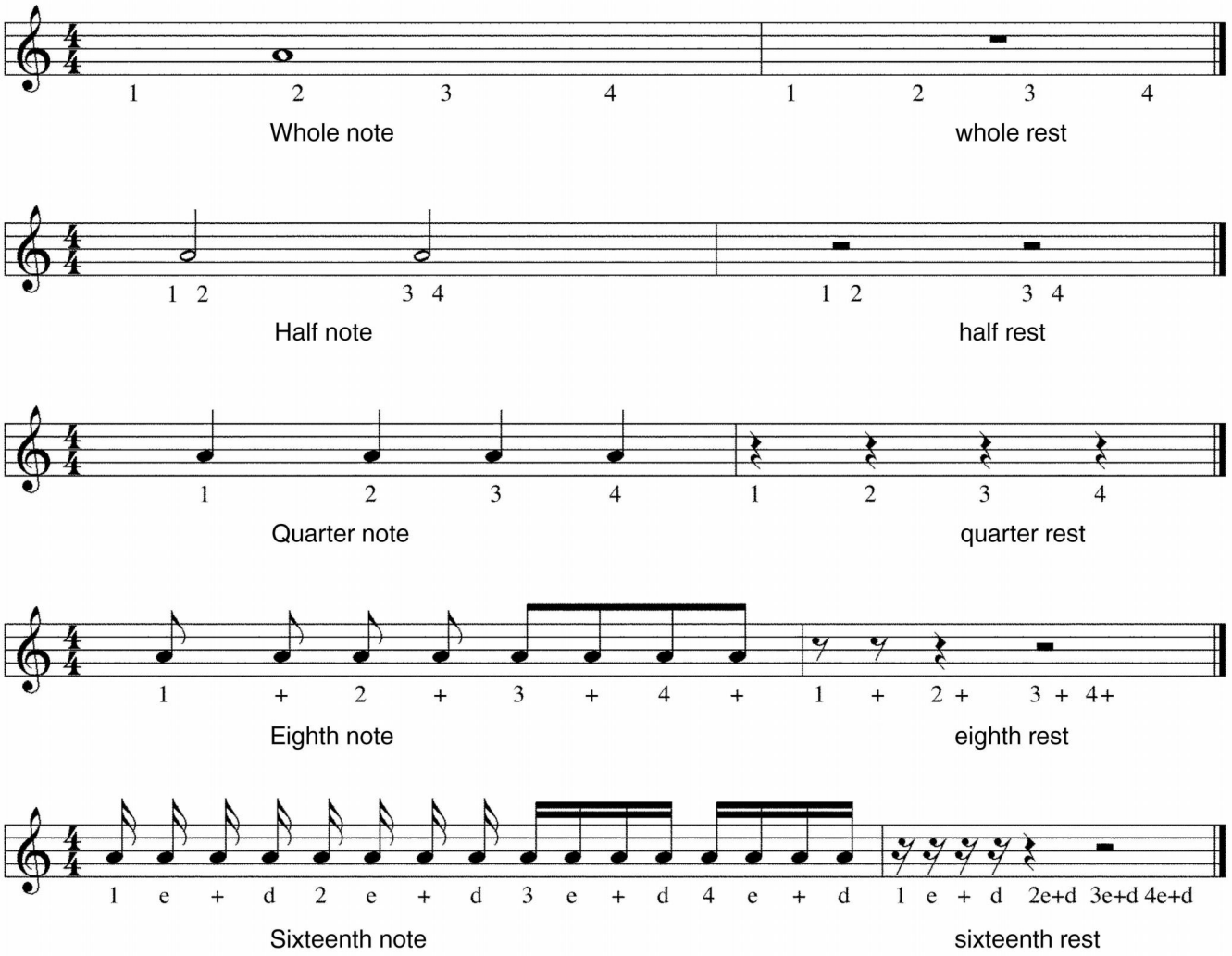
Scale with sharps „#“:



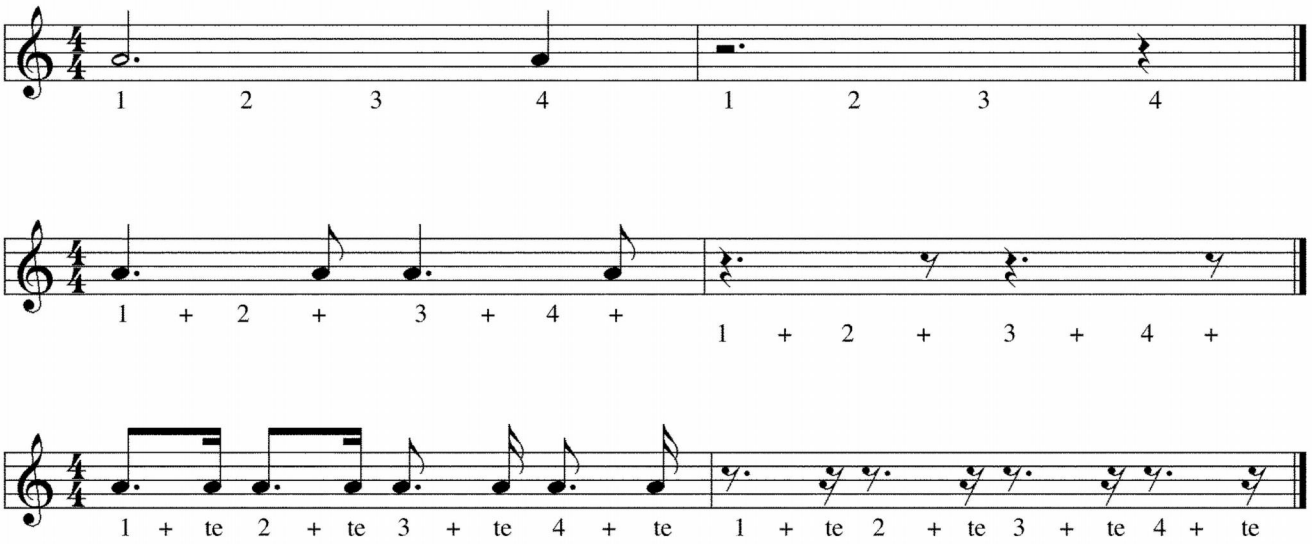
Scale with flats „b“:



The values of notes and pauses:

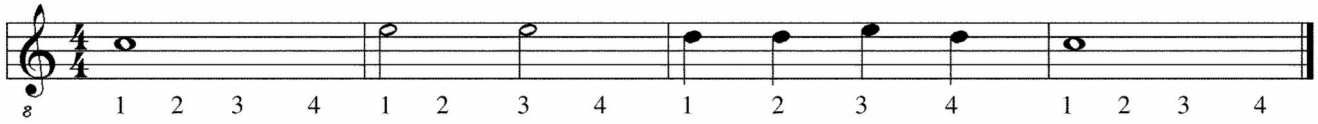


A point after a note or rest lengthens the value for the half.

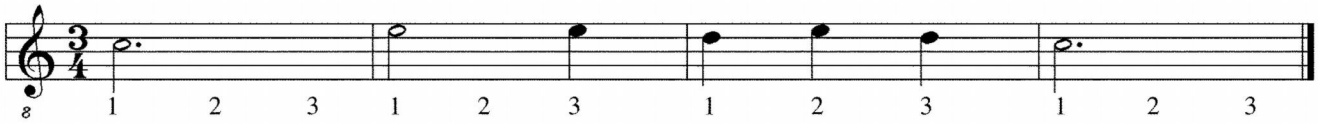


The time signatures:

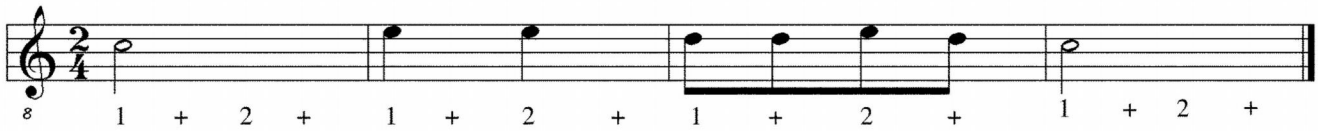
The 4/4 beat



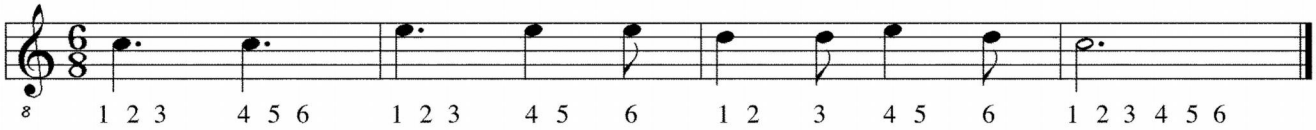
The 3/4 beat



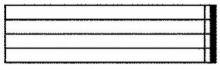
The 2/4 beat

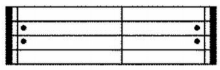


The 6/8 beat



Important musical signs:

 ..... End sign

 ..... Repetition of all beats between these signs

DA CAPO *D.C.* ..... Repetition from the beginning of the part

al ..... to the

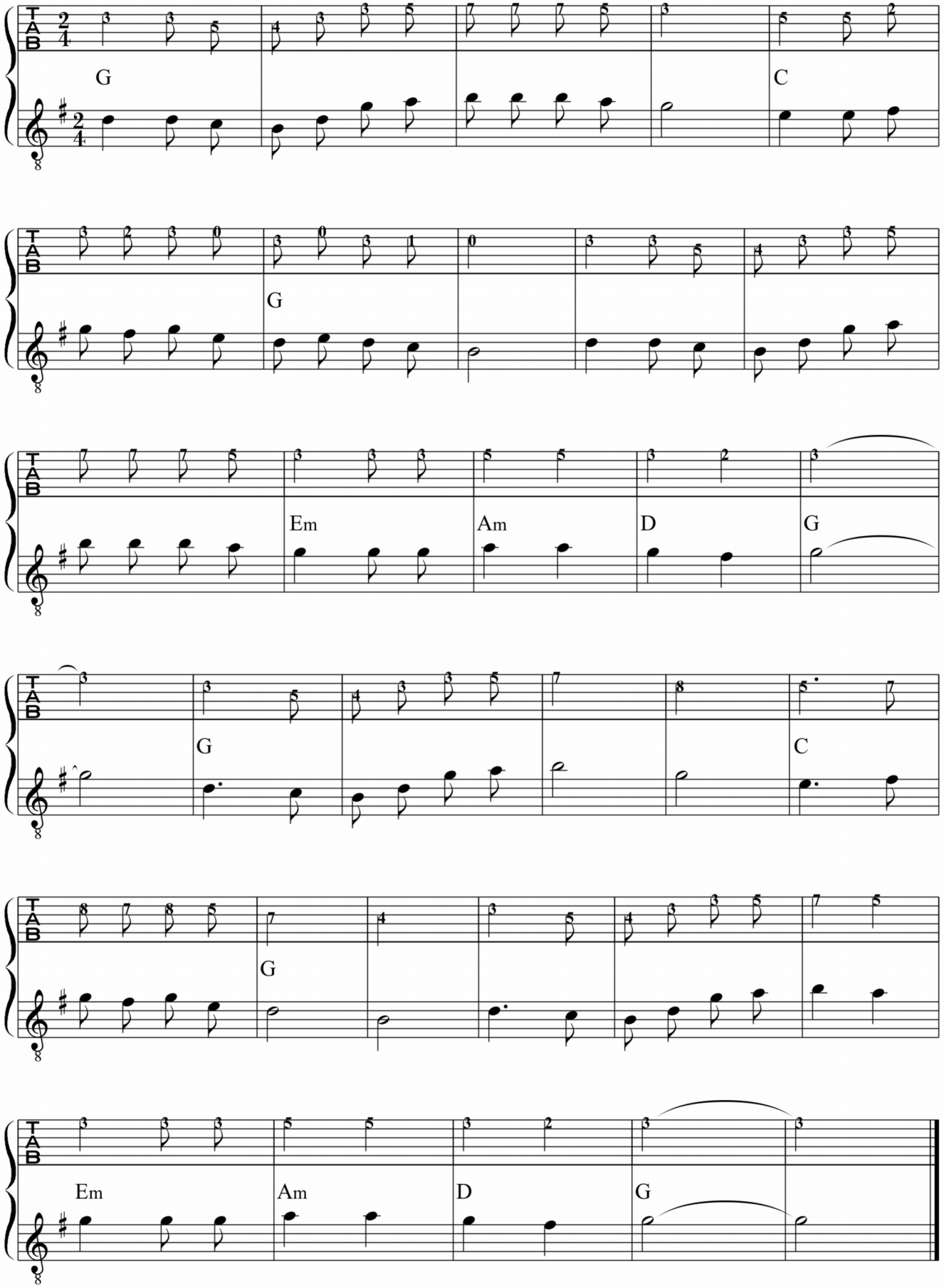
Fine ..... End

DAL SEGNO *D.S.* 𝄋 ..... Repetition from the DAL SEGNO sign

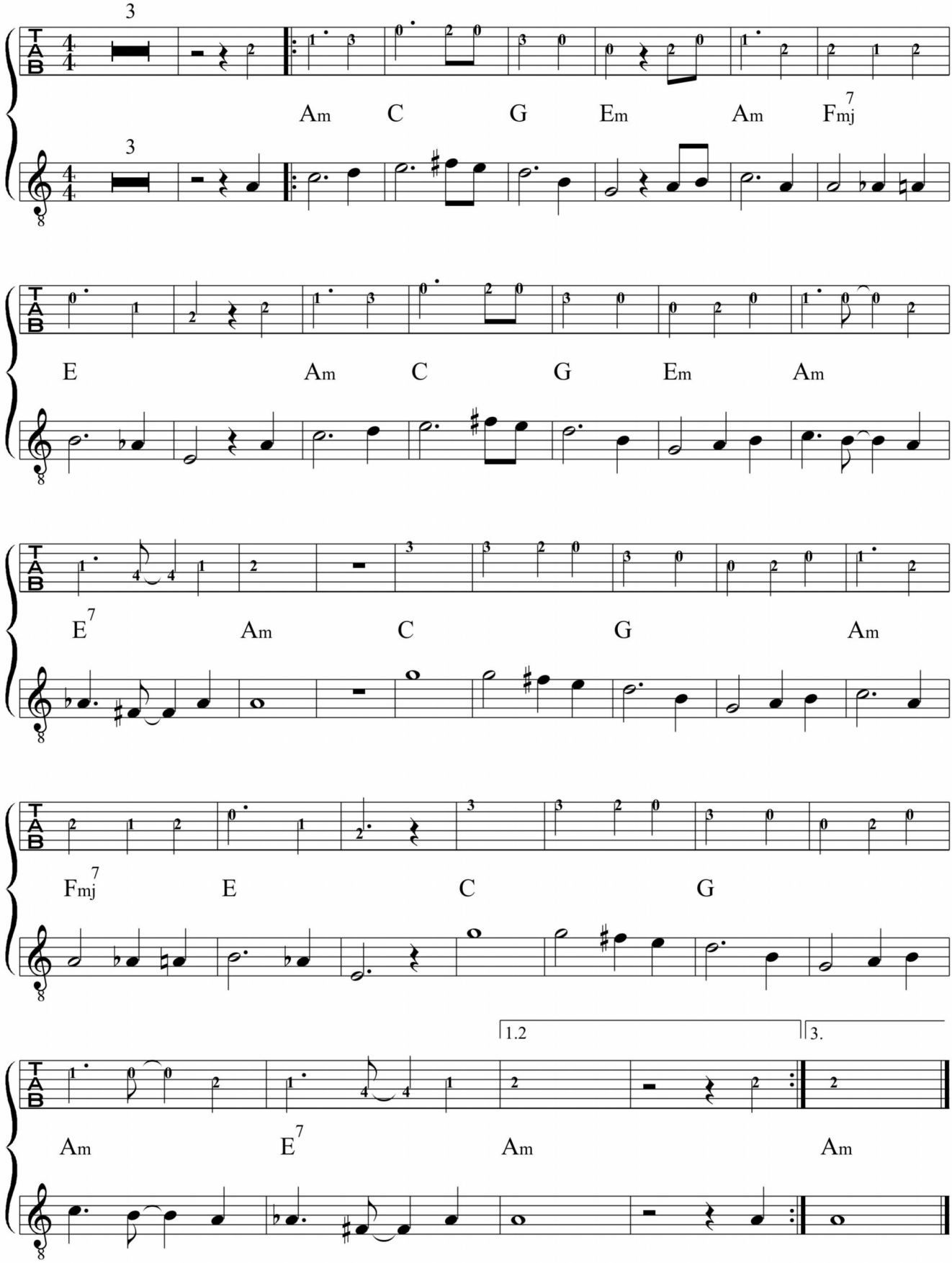
𝄇 ..... At repetition, jump from head

𝄇 To lower head 𝄇

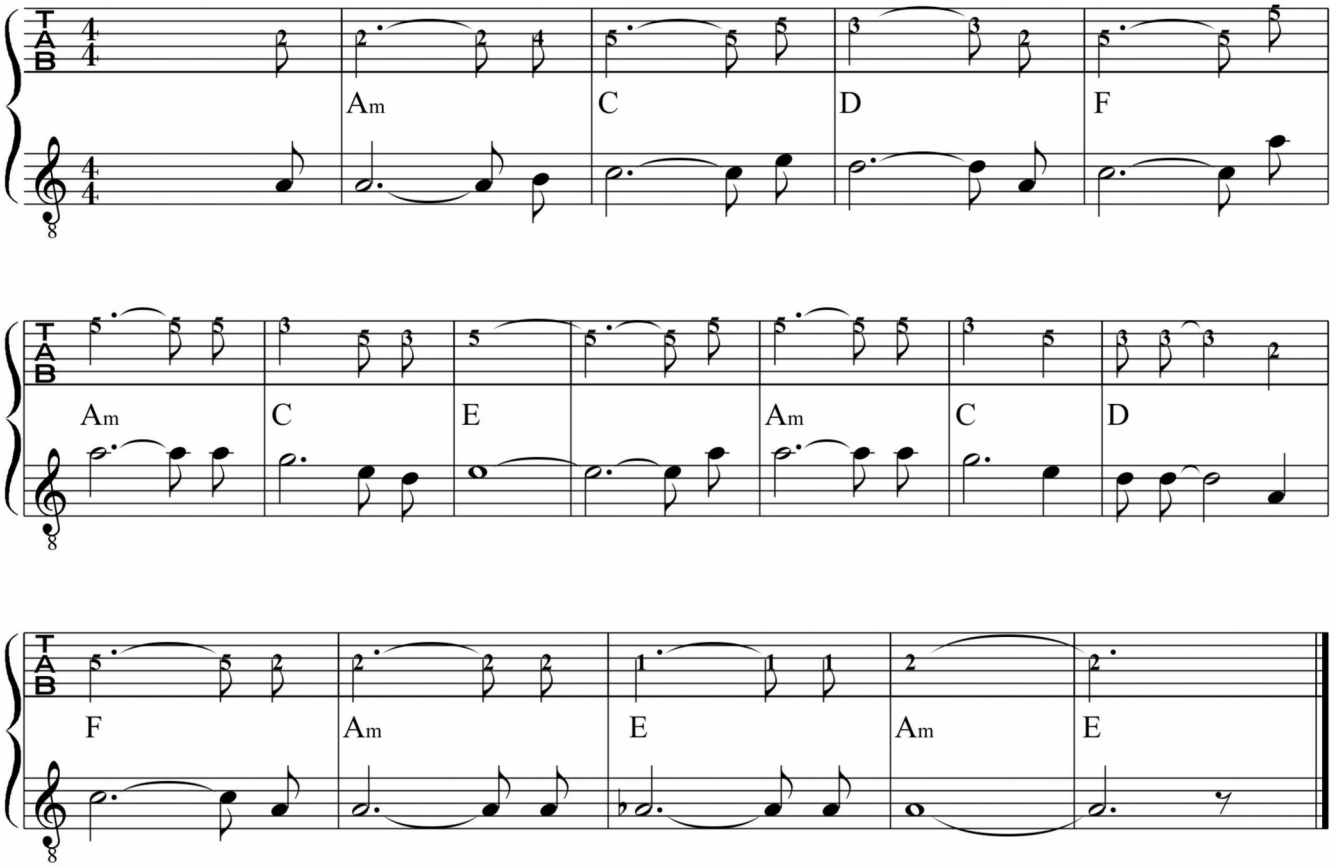
John Brown's Body



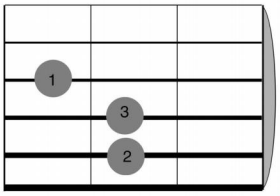
Greensleeves



House Of The Rising Sun

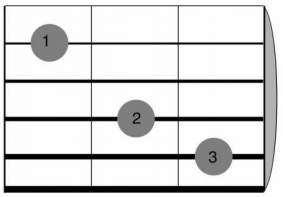


E (mi majeur)



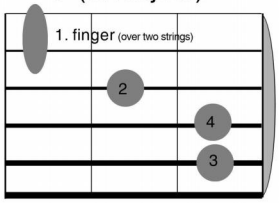
1. fret

C (do majeur)



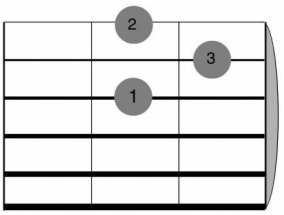
1. fret

F (fa majeur)



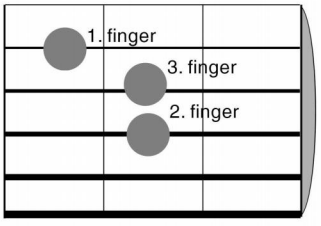
1. fret

D (ré majeur)



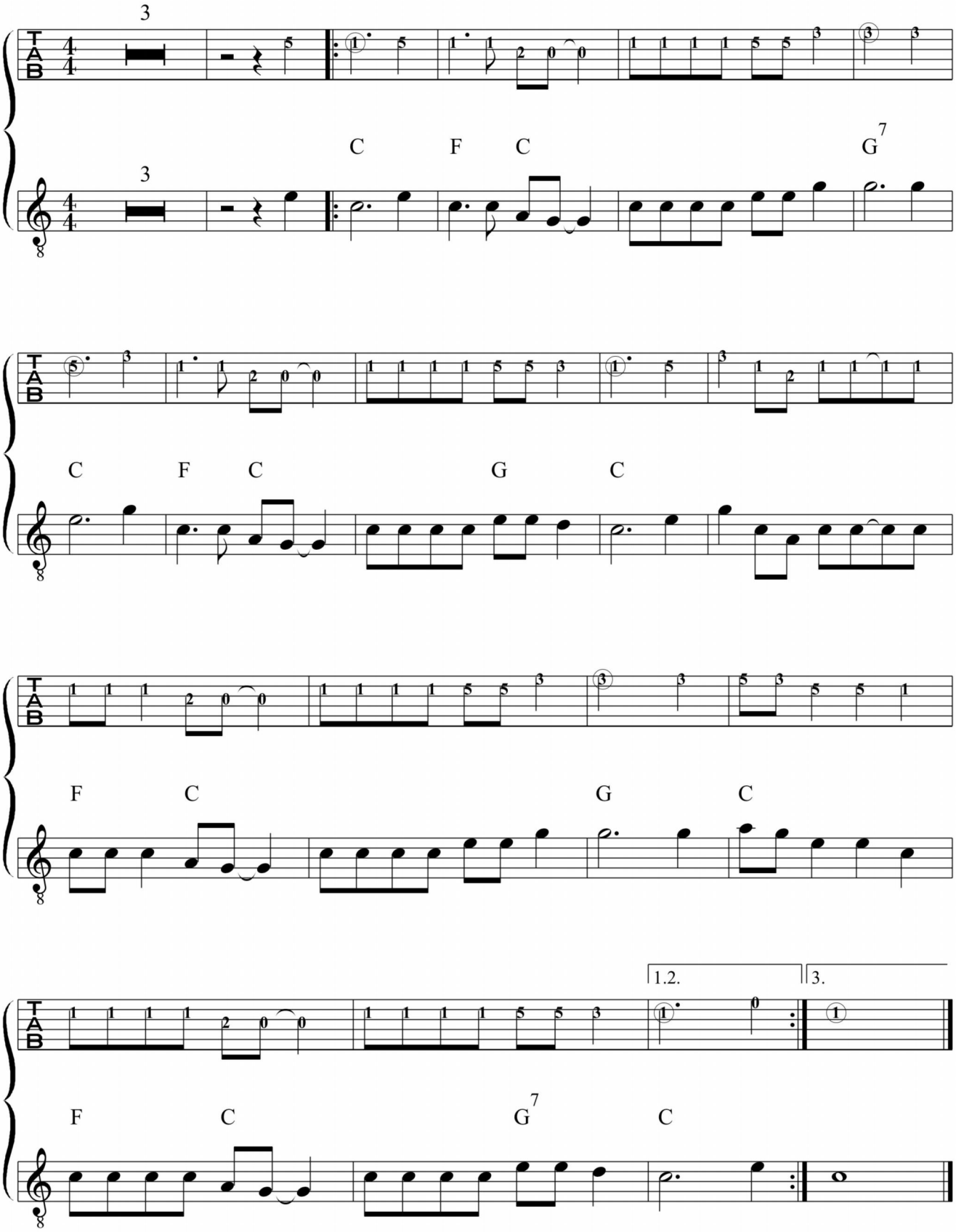
1. fret

Am (la mineur)

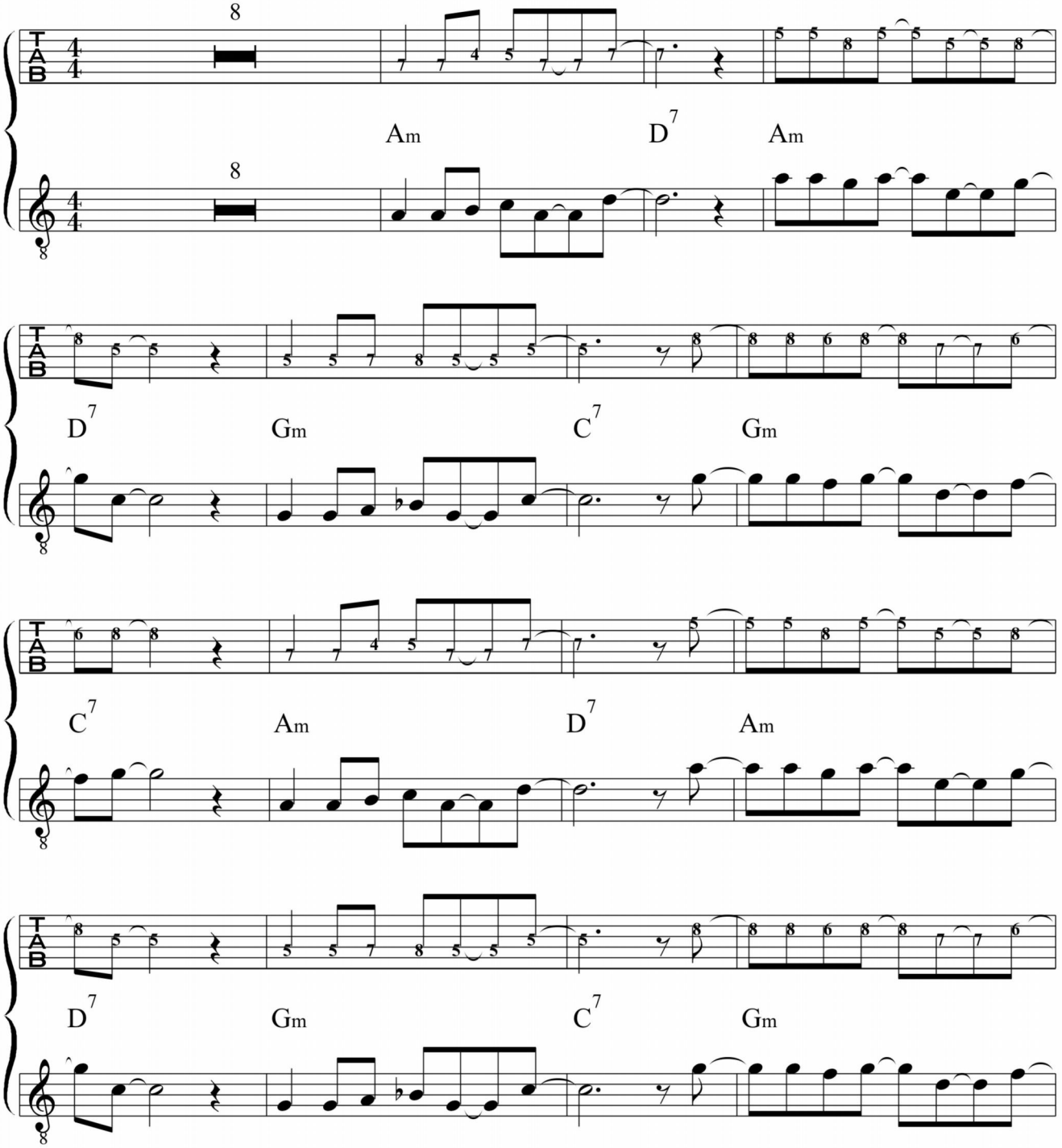


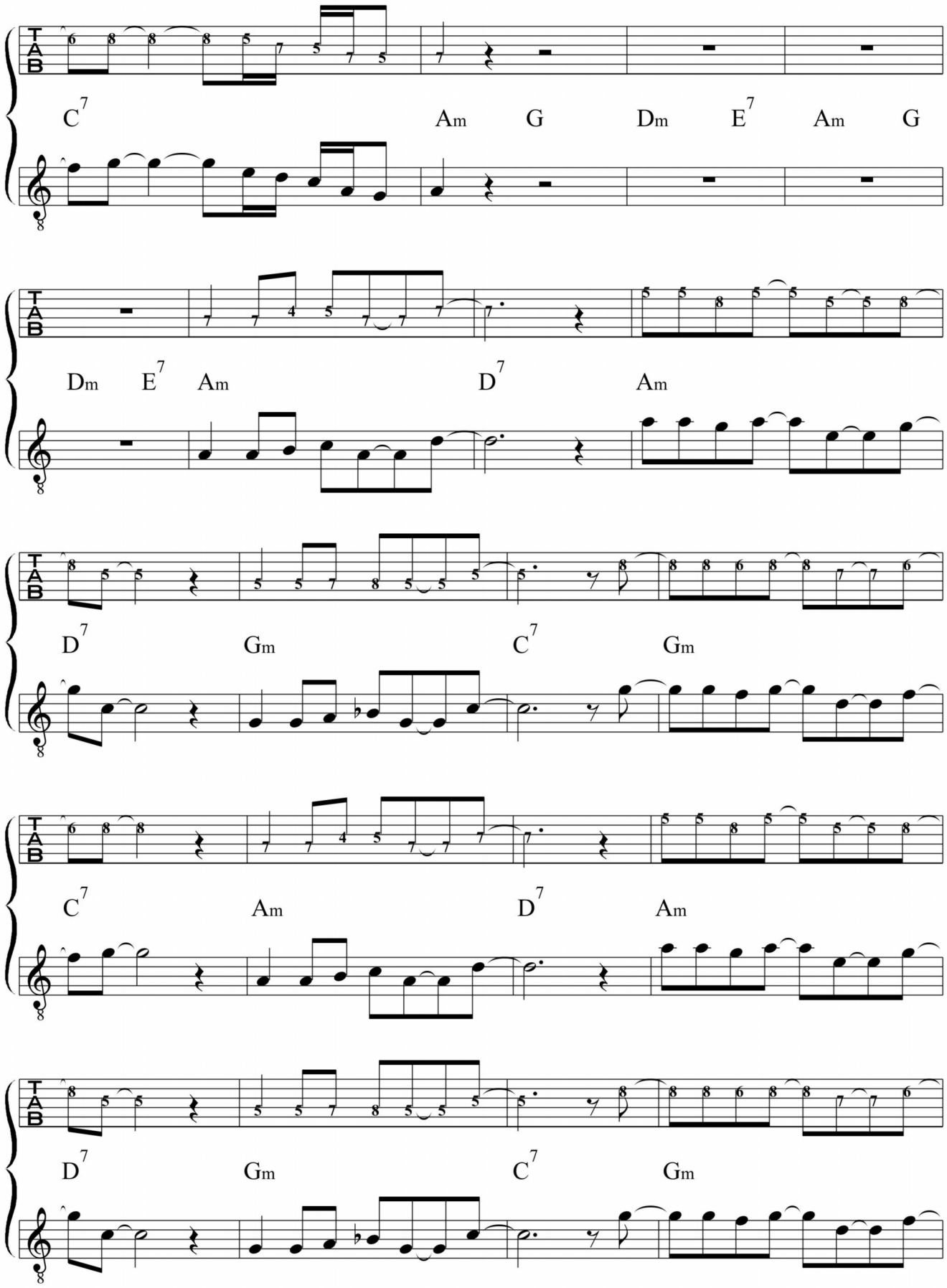
1. fret

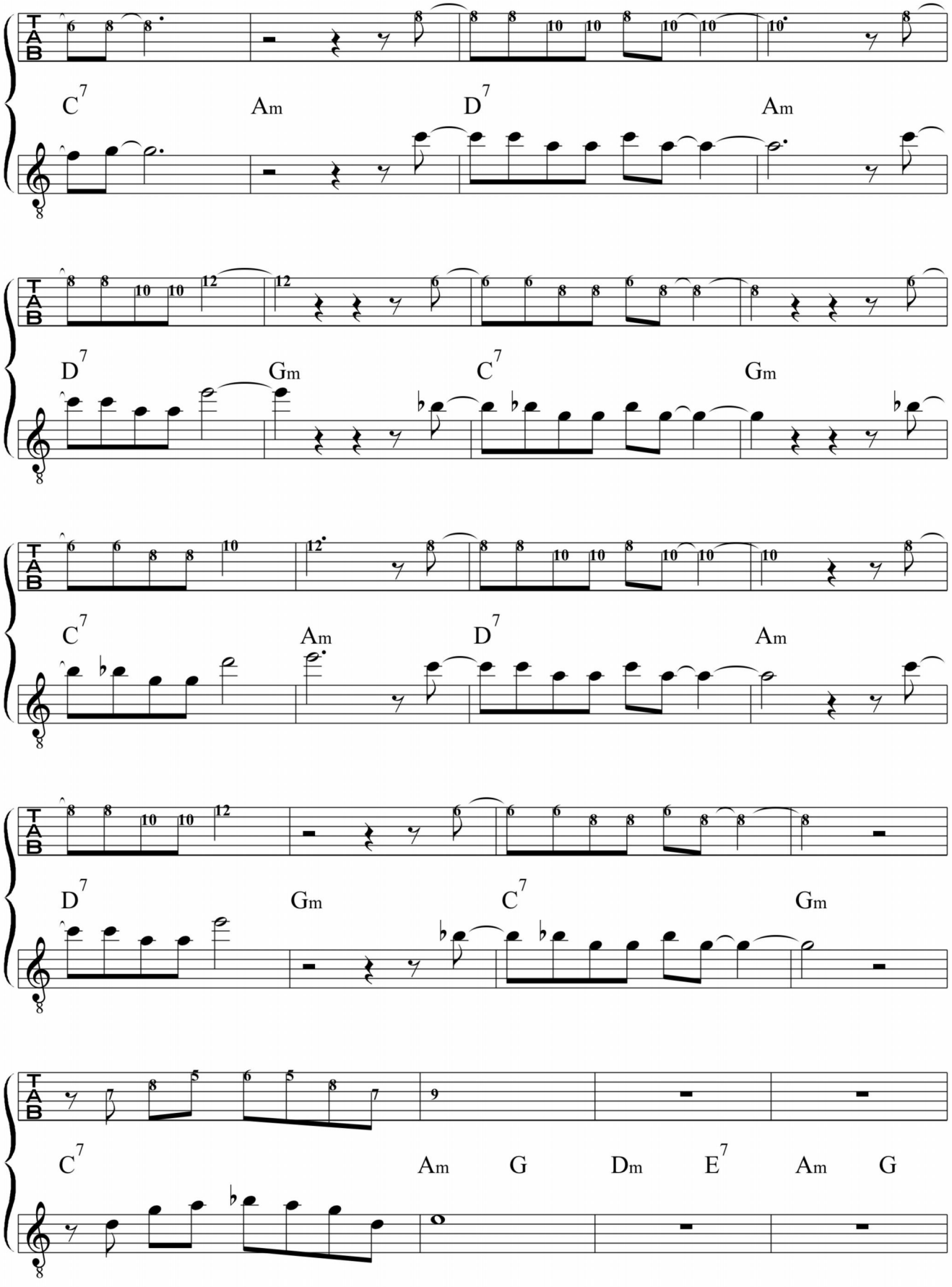
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

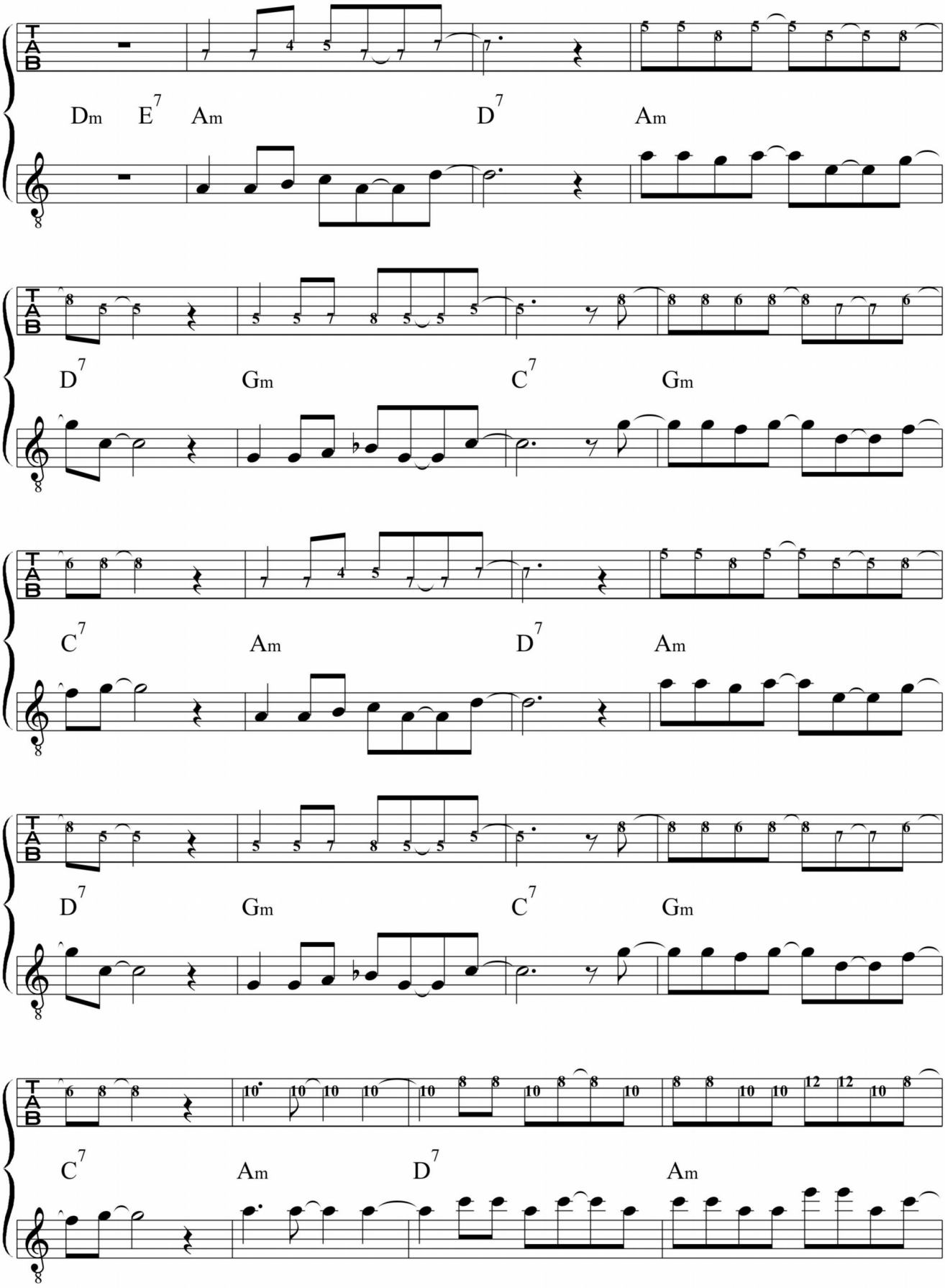


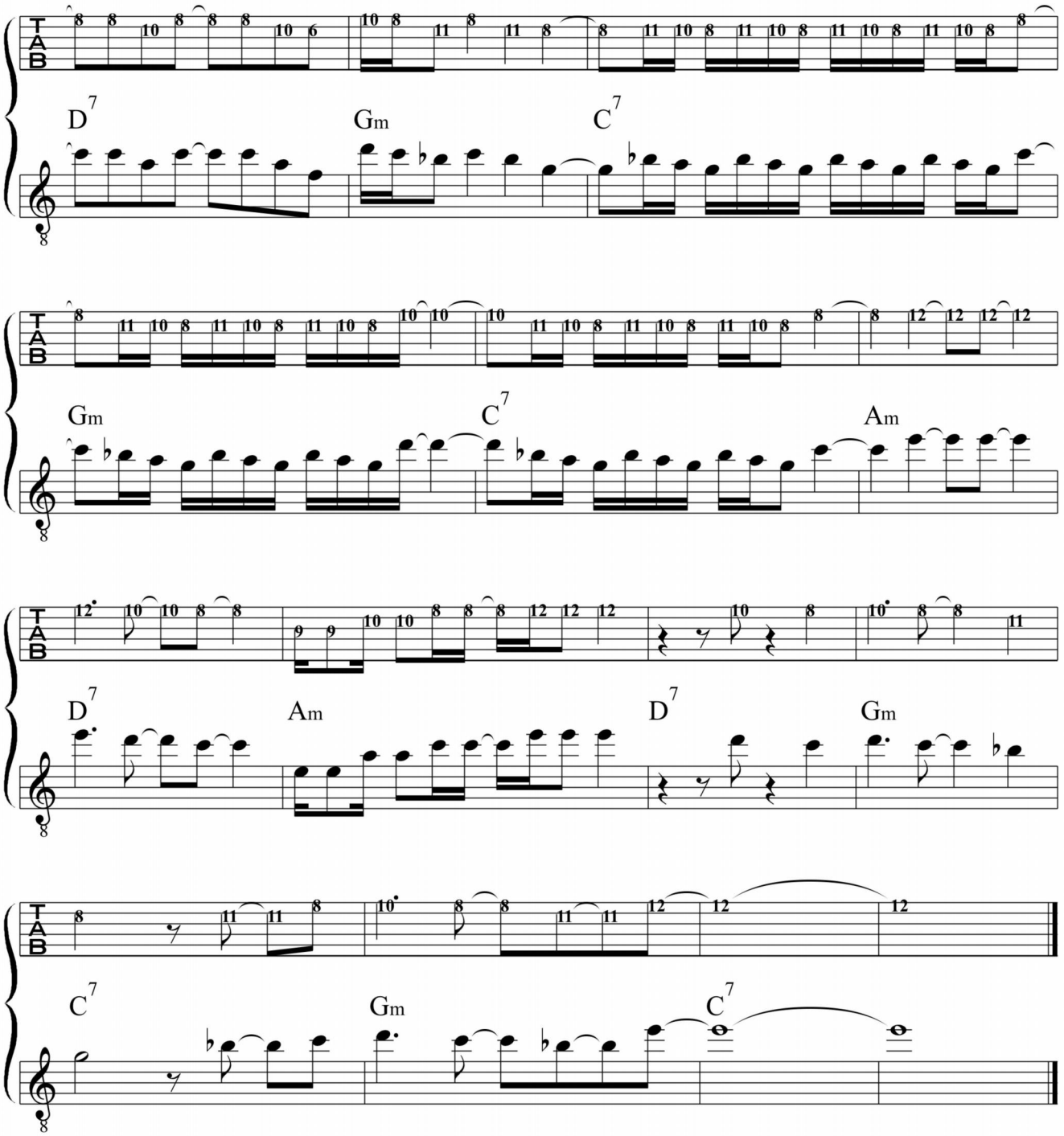
Then Play On



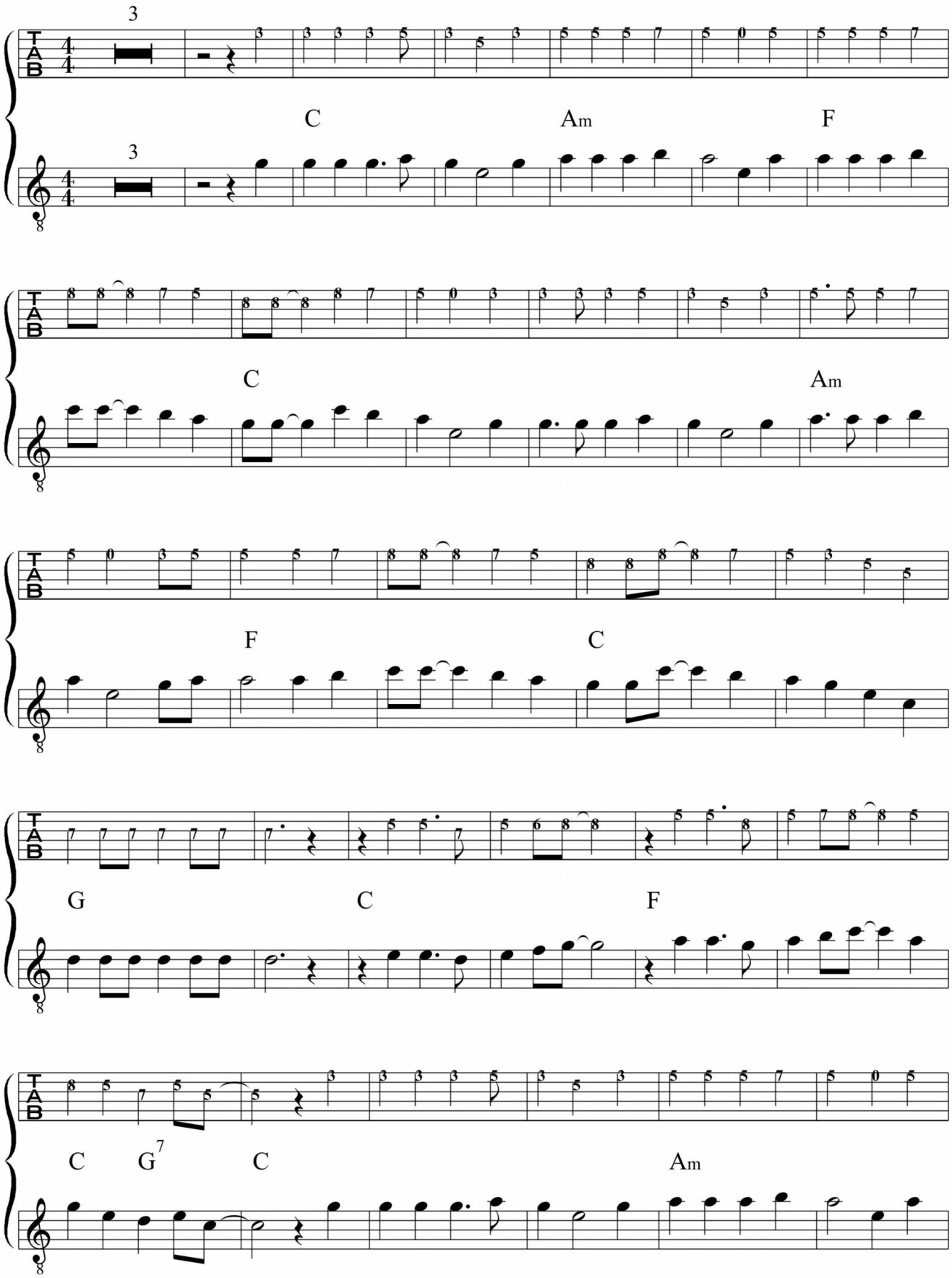

C7 Am G Dm E7 Am G
Dm E7 Am D7 Am
D7 Gm C7 Gm
C7 Am D7 Am
D7 Gm C7 Gm

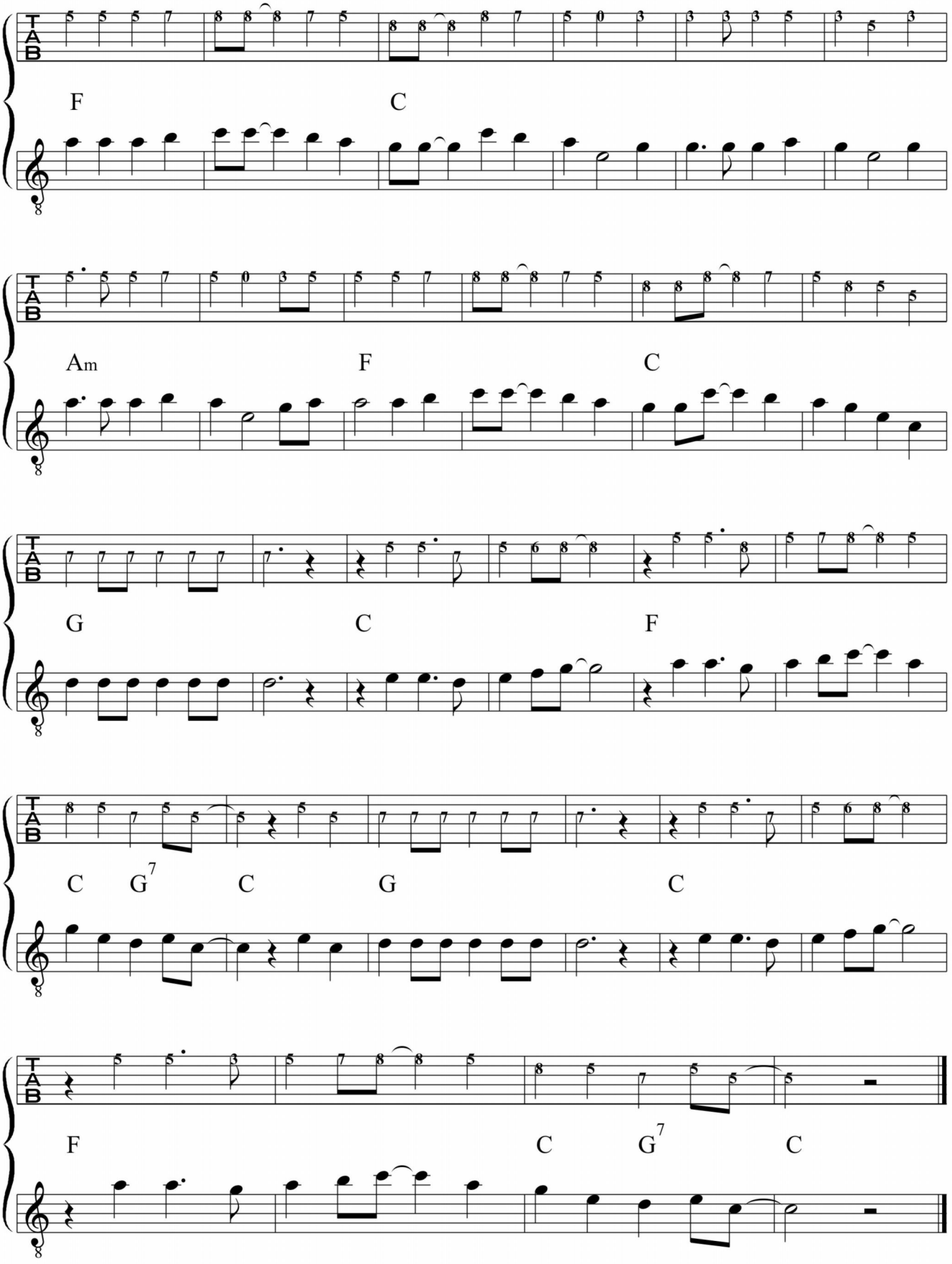

C7 Am D7 Am
D7 Gm C7 Gm
C7 Am D7 Am
D7 Gm C7 Gm
C7 Am G Dm E7 Am G


Dm E7 Am D7 Am
D7 Gm C7 Gm
C7 Am D7 Am
D7 Gm C7 Gm
C7 Am D7 Am


D7
Gm
C7
Gm
C7
Am
D7
Am
D7
Gm
C7
Gm
C7

Whiskey In The Jar



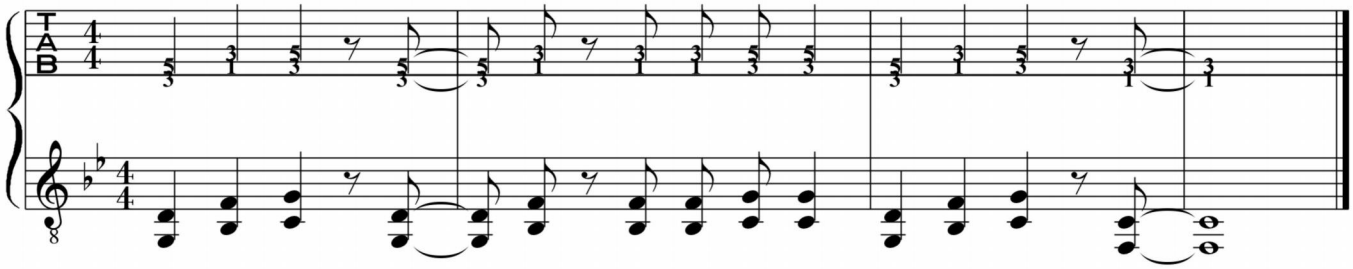

F
C
Am
F
C
G
C
F
C
G7
C
G
C
F
C
G7
C

Heavy guitar riffs with quint fingering.

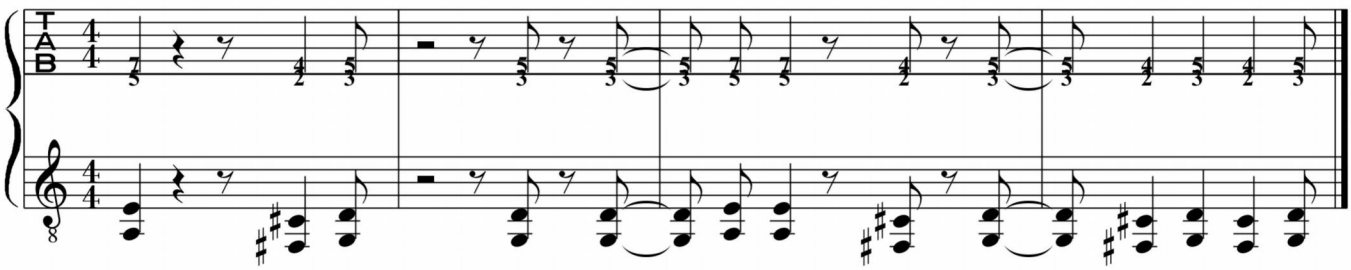
In the audio files you can hear 2 guitar riffs which sound good and powerful. Simply listen to them and join in – with bass and drums!

You get the feeling to play in your own rock band!

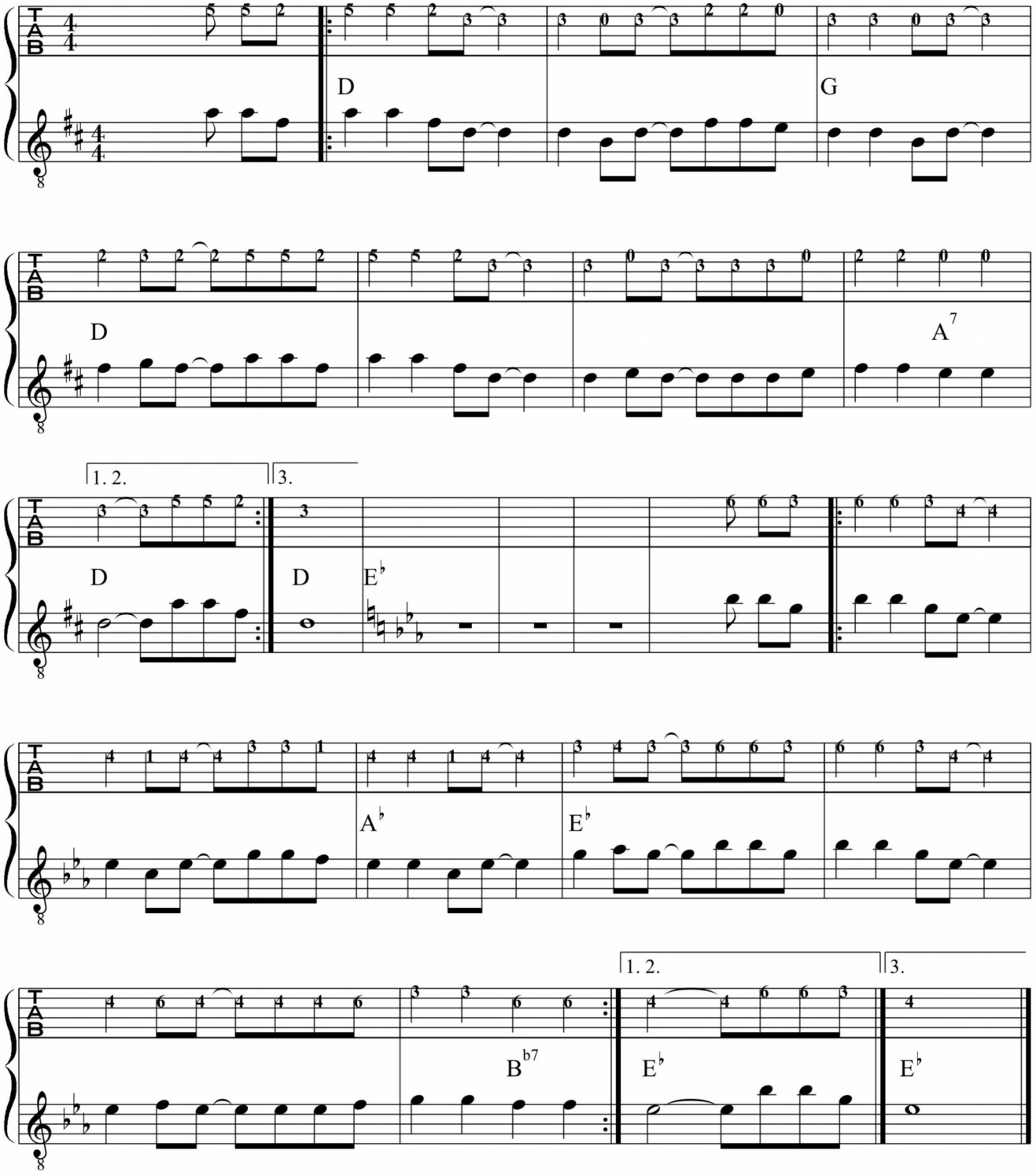
Strange



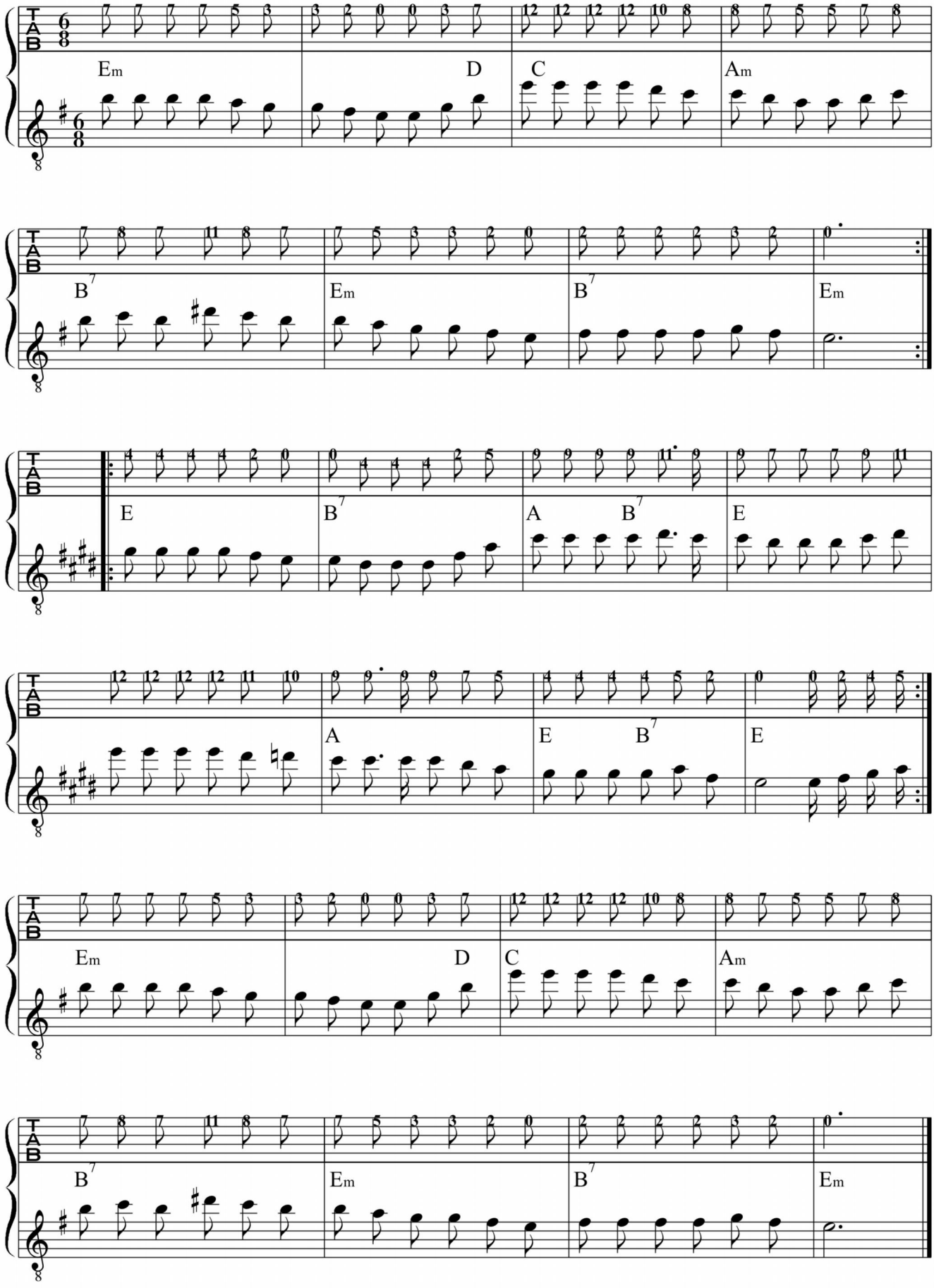
Helldriver



Gospelsong



Romanze

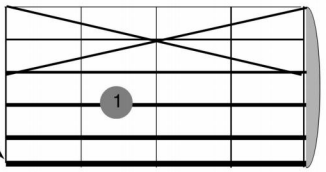


The Blues „Take twelfth”

The Blues is the origin of rock'n'roll. It is played very often with fifth fingering in a very special rhythm. If you like to let the strings swing freely or have your guitar sound a little more powerful by muting with the ball of the hand - it'a all.
You need the following 3 blues-patterns over the chords A, D, and E:

do not let these strings sound

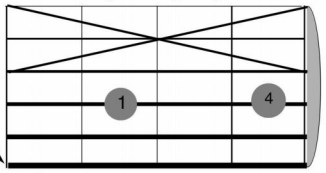
A (la majeur)



1. fret

do not let these strings sound

A (la majeur)



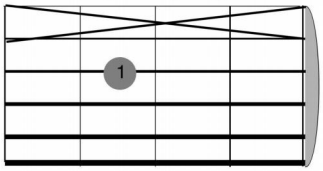
1. fret

alternating

Blues Scheme in “A”

do not let these strings sound

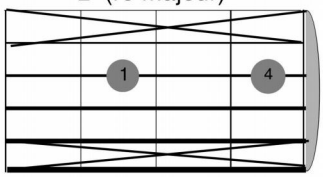
D (ré majeur)



1. fret

do not let these strings sound

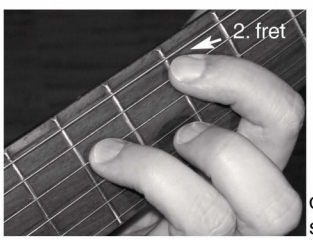
D (ré majeur)



1. fret

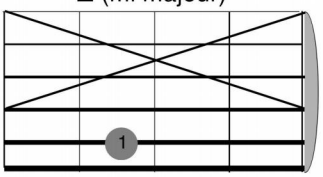
alternating

Blues Scheme in “D”



do not let these strings sound

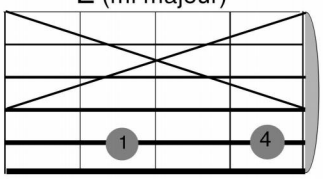
E (mi majeur)



1. fret

do not let these strings sound

E (mi majeur)

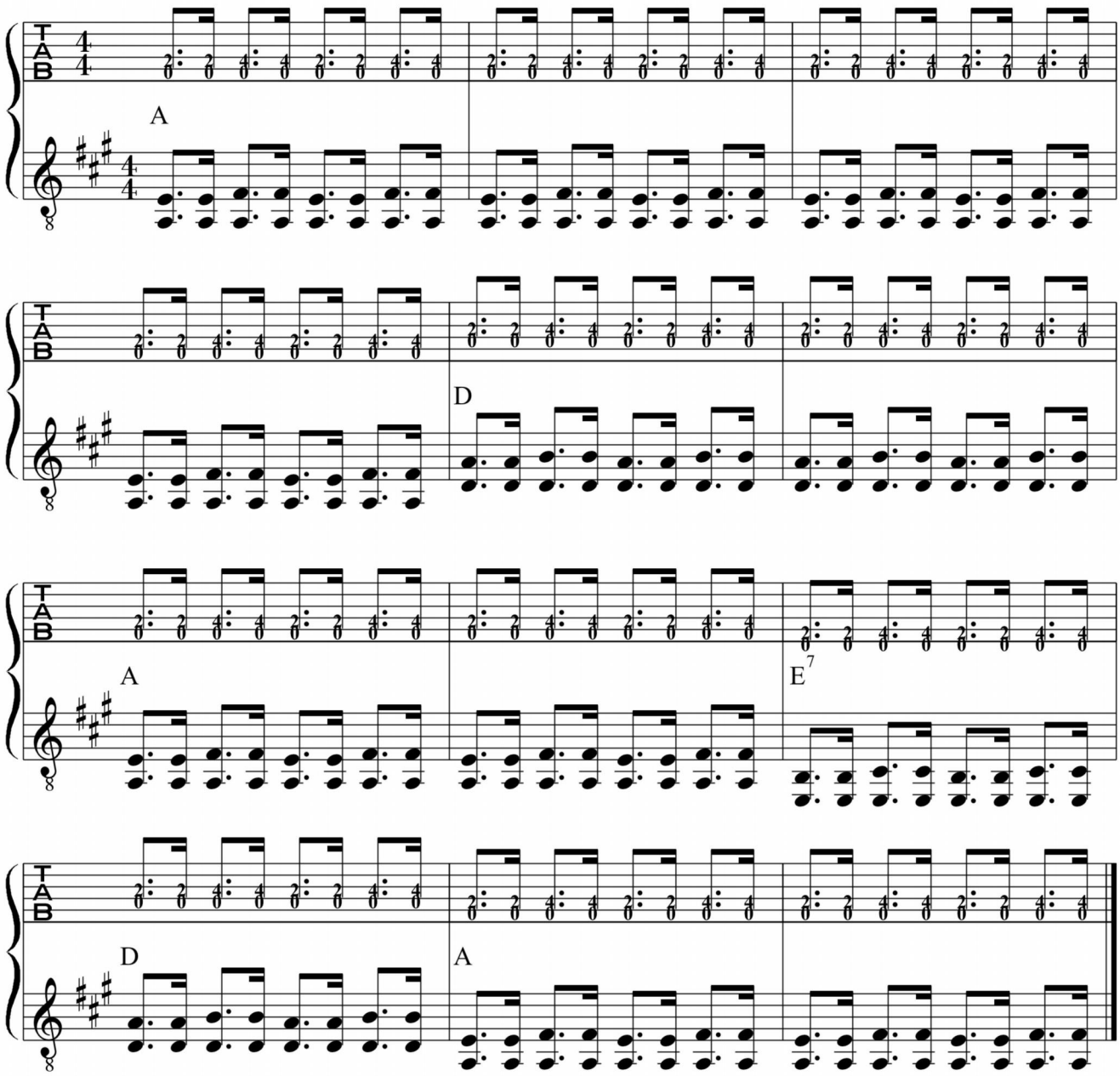


1. fret

alternating

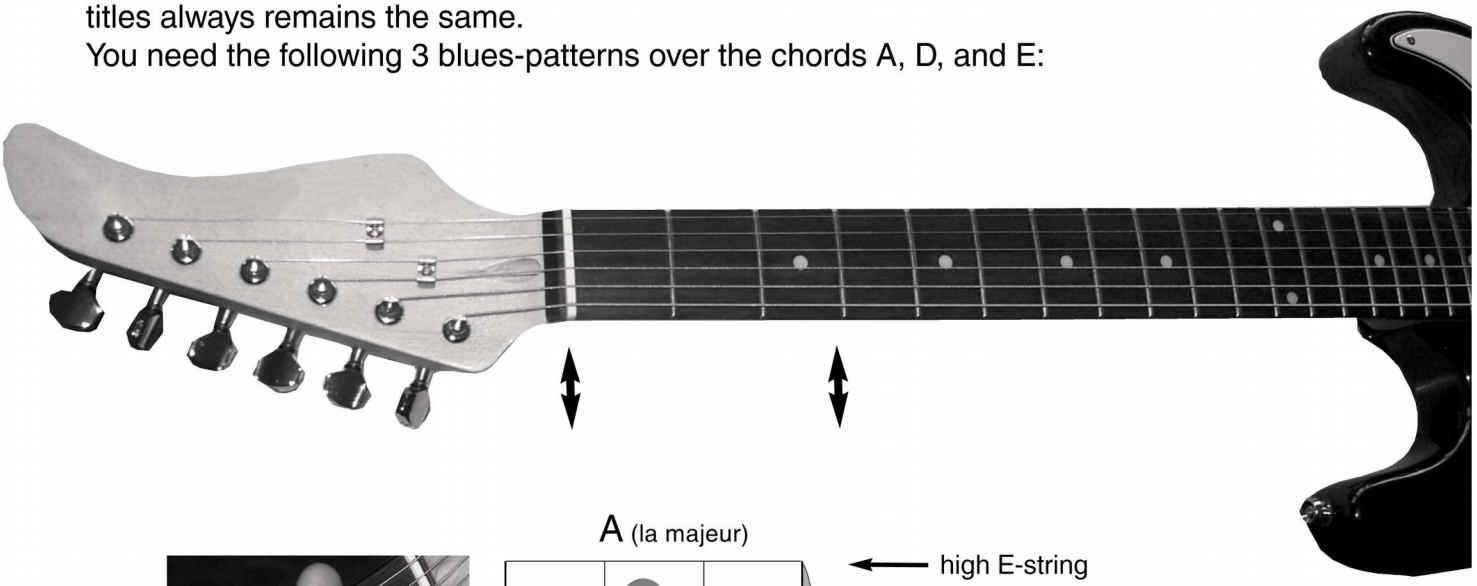
Blues Scheme in “A”

Take twelfth

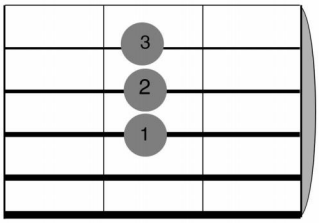


Above you get familiar with the Blues-pattern again by means of the tablature.
Practise this scheme thoroughly with the audio files and you'll get the feeling for beat and rhythm.

If you listen to other blues titles you will find that the basic pattern of many traditional blues titles always remains the same.
You need the following 3 blues-patterns over the chords A, D, and E:



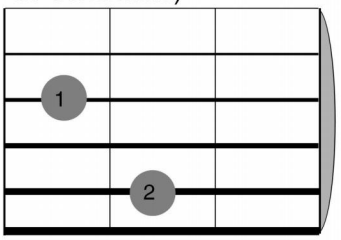
A (la majeur)



1. fret

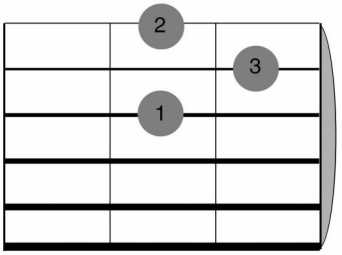
high E-string
B-string
G-string
D-string
A-string
low E-string

E^7 (mi majeur septième de dominante)



1. fret

D (ré majeur)



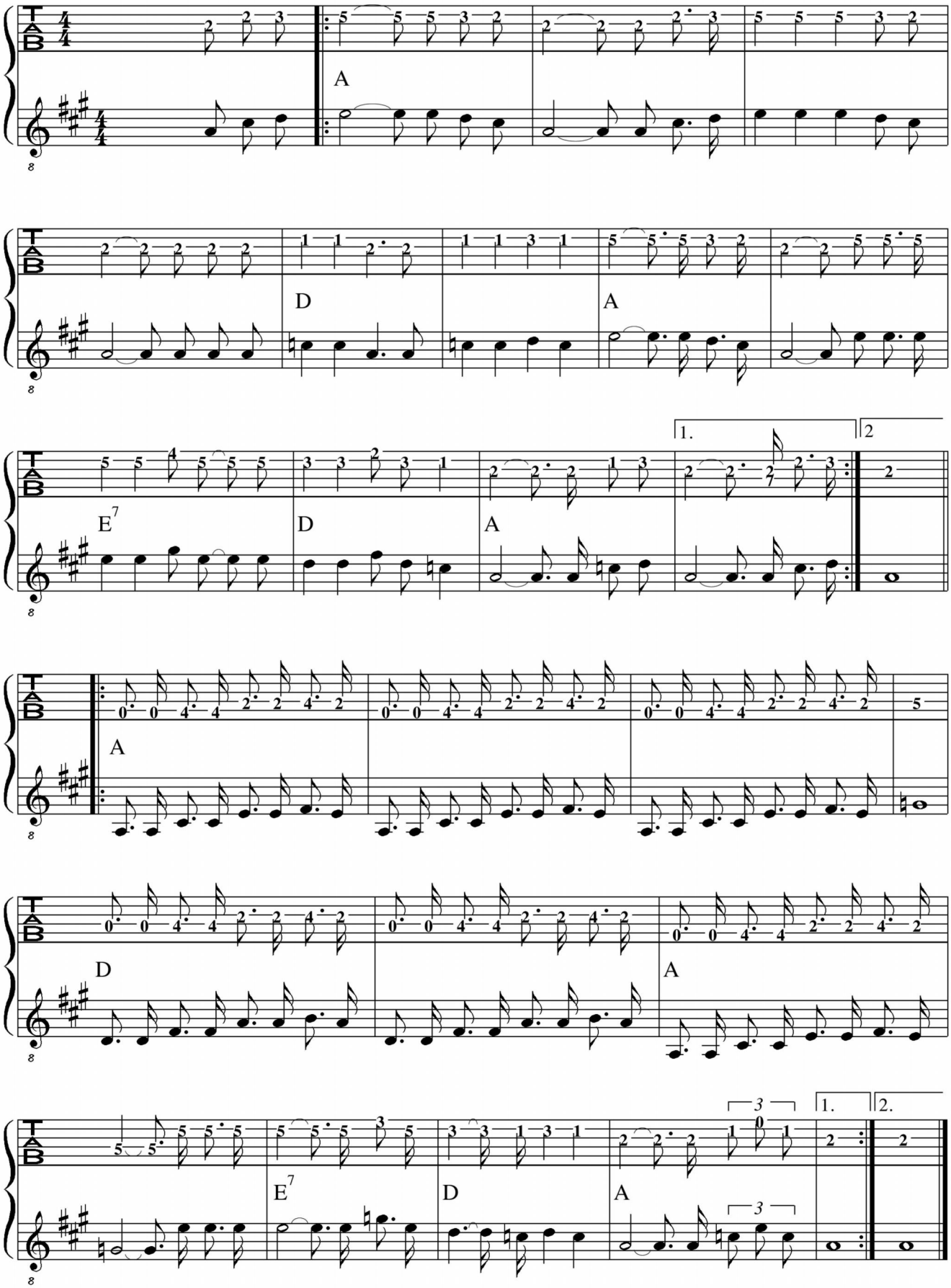
1. fret

Free Improvisation on a Blues Scheme in Key "A"

The blues pattern is nearly always structured in the same way concerning chords and sequences. The following tablatures display all single tones which match the respective blues harmonies. (By the way: The technical term for this tone sequence is "minor pentanonic"). You will further see so-called "blue notes" which are characteristic for blues sequences and their passages.

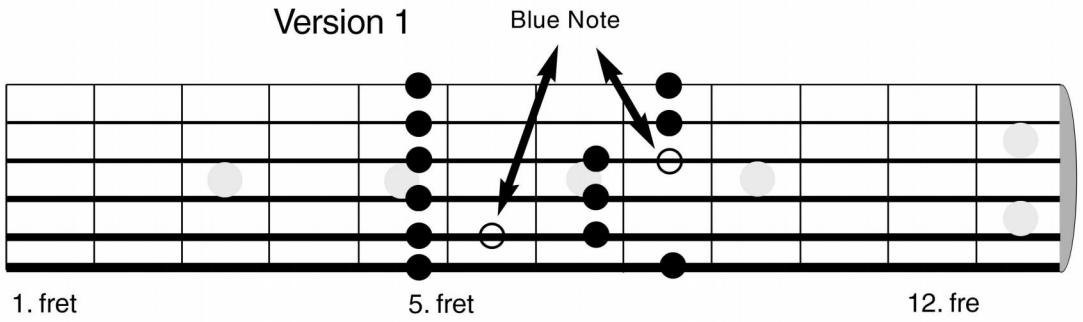
The following tablatures thus show you all adequate tones you can play just as your "blues-feeling" inspires you. Everything else, such as sound and phrasing, is up to you.

"Get your own blues-feeling!"

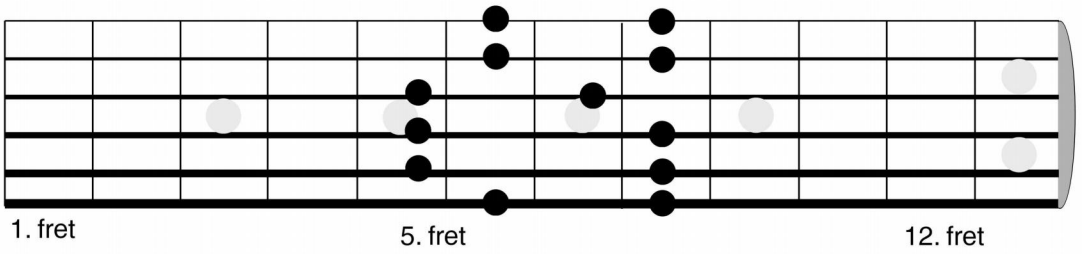

A
D
A
E7
D
A
1.
2
A
D
A
E7
D
A
3
1.
2.

Minor pentatonic with Blue Notes in “A”

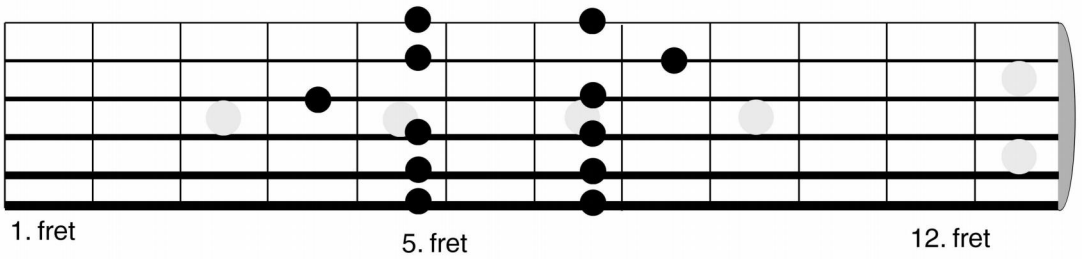
Version 1



Version 2



Version 3



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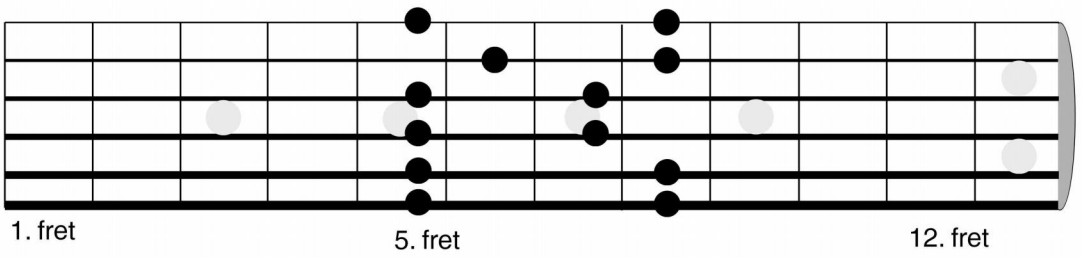
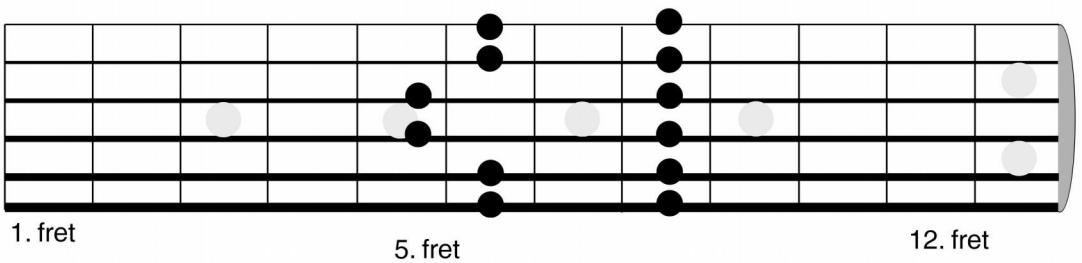
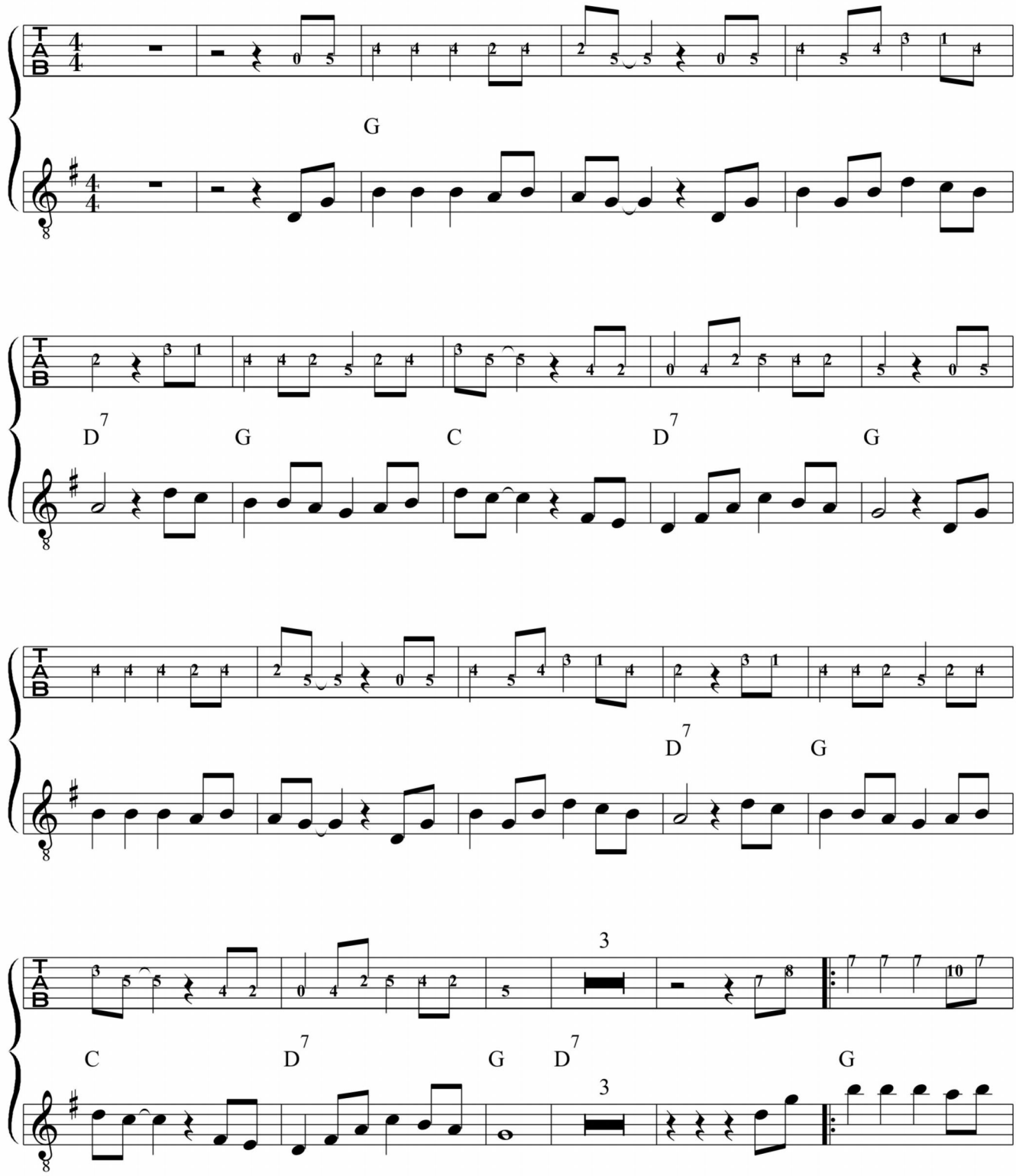
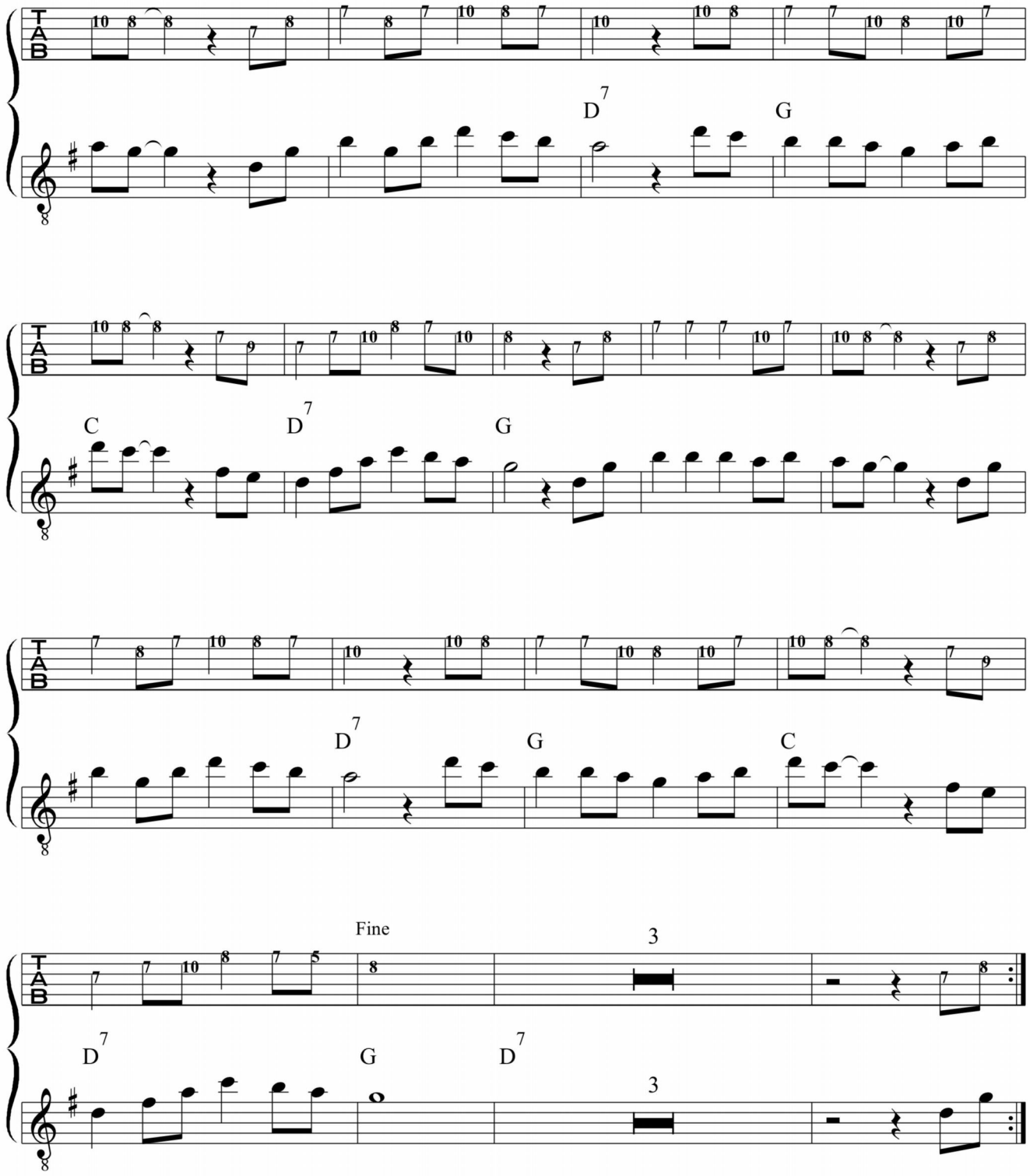


Version 5

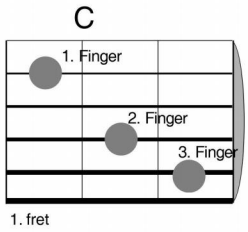


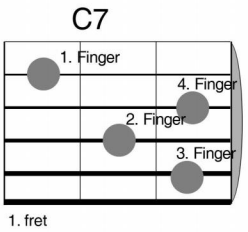
Red River Valley

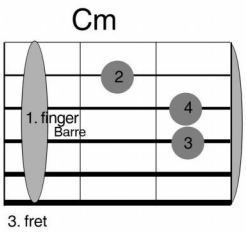


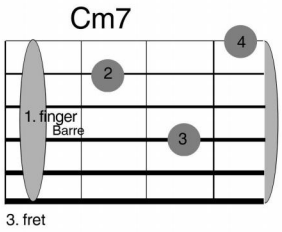

D7
G
C
D7
G
D7
G
C
Fine
3
D7
G
D7
3

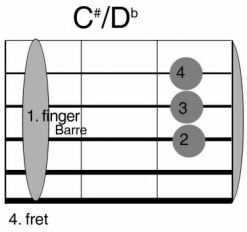
Fingering chart

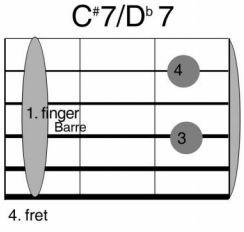


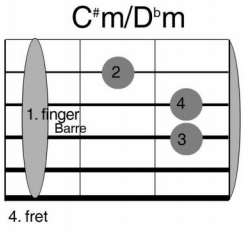


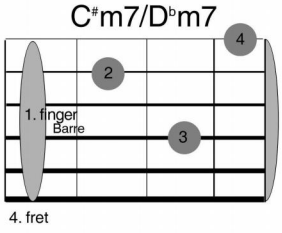


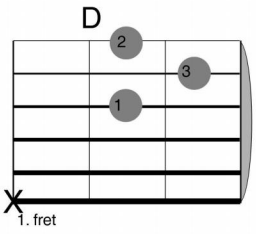


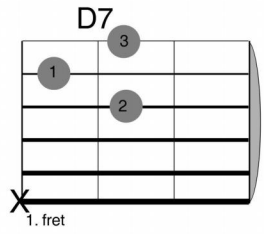


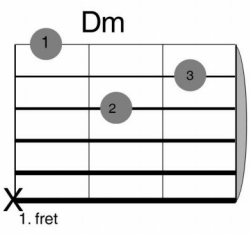


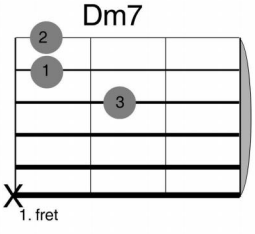


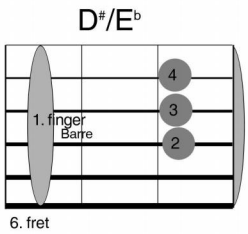


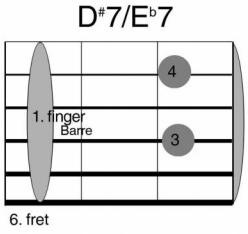


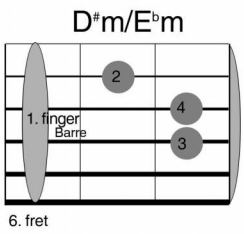


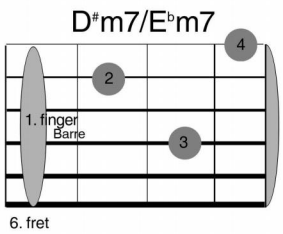


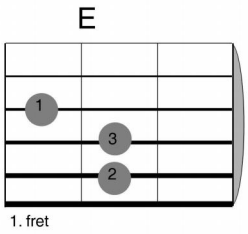


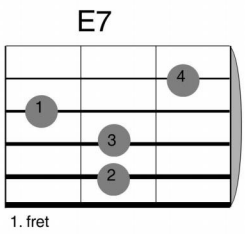


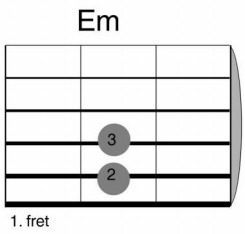


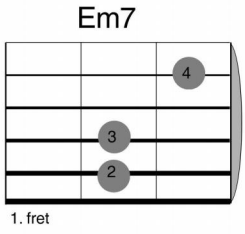


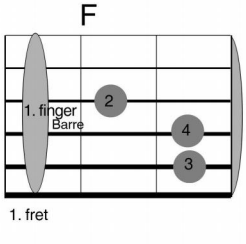


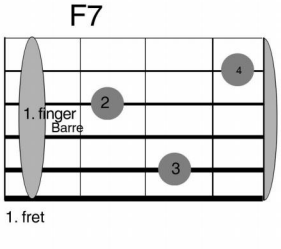


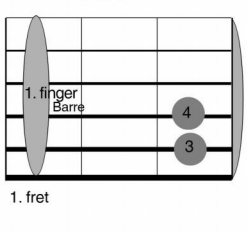


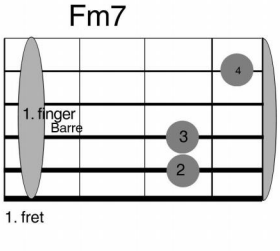




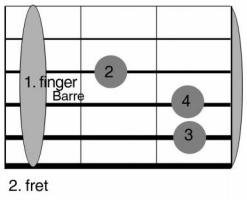






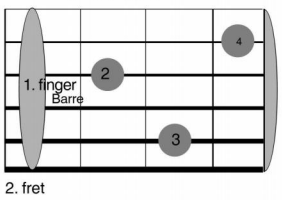


F#/Gb



2. fret

F#7/Gb7



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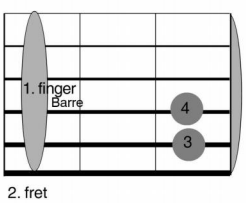

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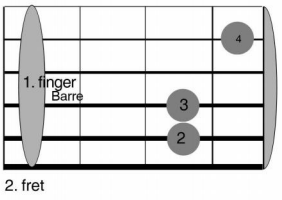

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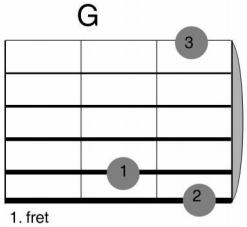

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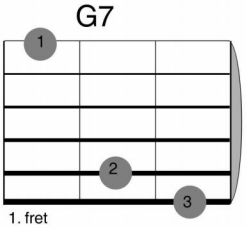

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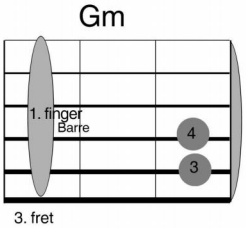

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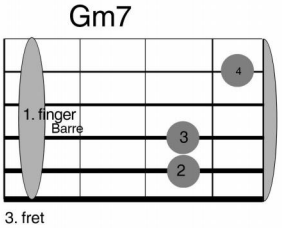

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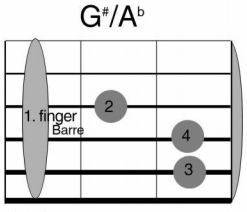

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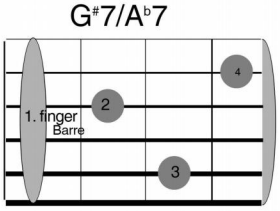

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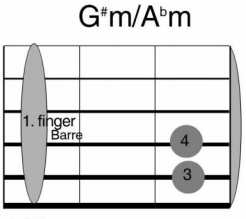

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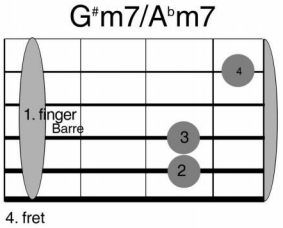

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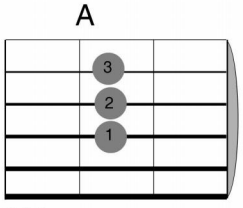

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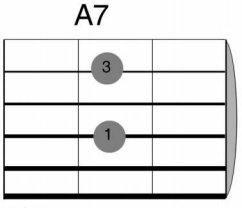

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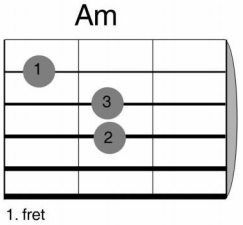

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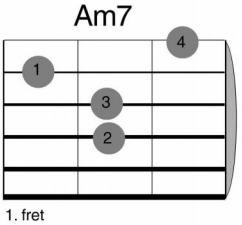

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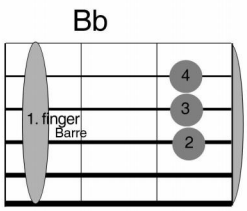

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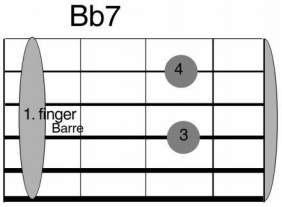

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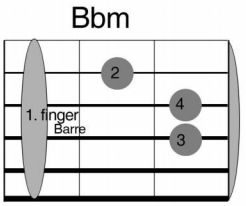

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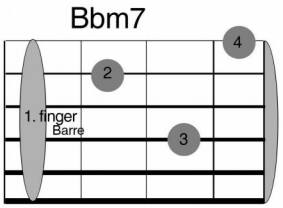

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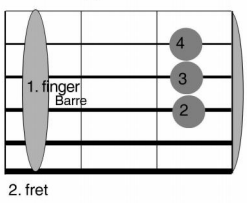

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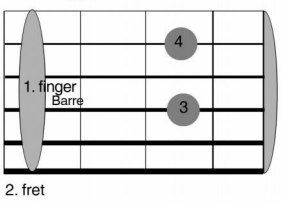

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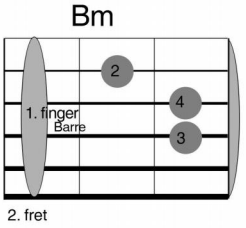

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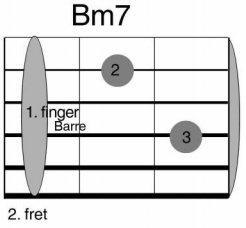

2. fret

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Let it rock! ...

- **Playing E-guitar in your own band – made absolutely easy. The audio files make it possible!**

Blues, Rock, Pop, Metal, Gospel, Country, ...

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