

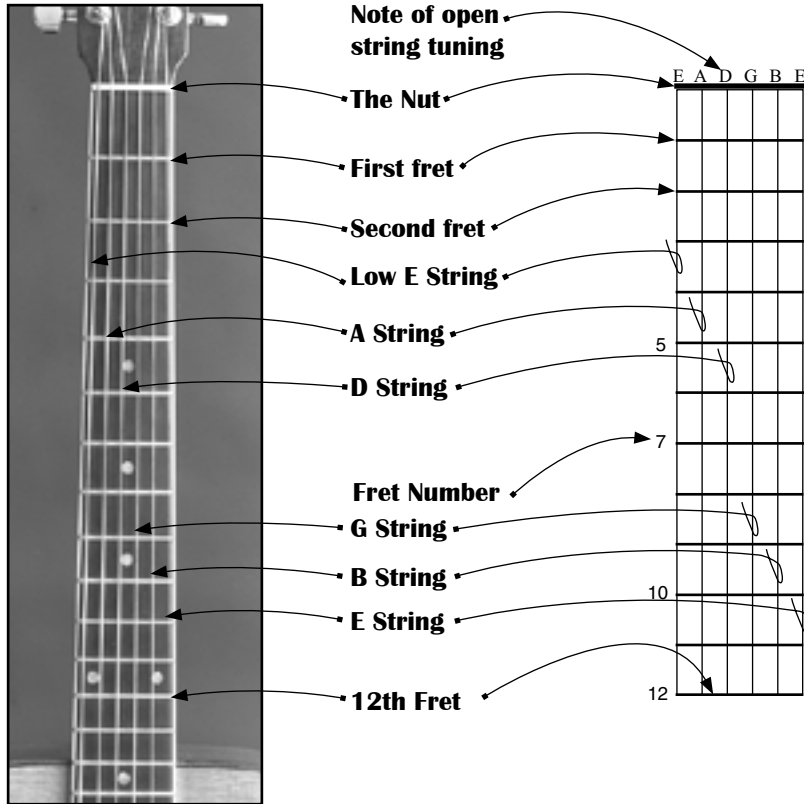
# The Fretboard

## The White Dots

On the side of the guitar you will see some small white dots (see picture on page 18). They coincide with the white dots on the fretboard face as shown here. On acoustic guitars these dots usually are placed on the fifth, seventh, ninth and twelfth frets. The twelfth fret may have two dots on the side.

Some classic guitars have dots on the fifth, seventh, tenth and twelfth frets.

These dots are there to serve you as a frame of reference. They help you to orient yourself. Usually they are white dots but they can be dark dots on a light fretboard.



**Using Graphics To Diagram The Fretboard.** Once you understand how graphics diagram the fretboard, you can map out the chords, scales and keys easily. Make sure you understand how to read the graphic. The circles show the note on the string at a fret (shown below). Usually we are showing only the notes in a key.

## Steps - The Distances Between Frets

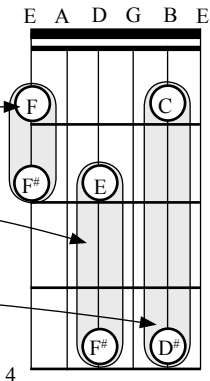
There are a couple of different ways to talk about distances. You can talk about the distance between frets as a half step or a whole step. Or you can reference the degrees of the key. Degrees of the scale are referred to by numbers.

**Notes C D E F G A B C**  
**Degrees 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1**

Moving one frets is one half step.

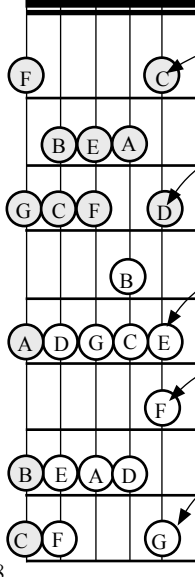
Moving two frets is one whole step.

Moving three frets is one and one half steps.



## Intervals - The Distances Between Notes In A Key

E A D G B E



C is the first degree in the key of C.

The distance between C and D is called a second.

The distance between C and E is called a third.

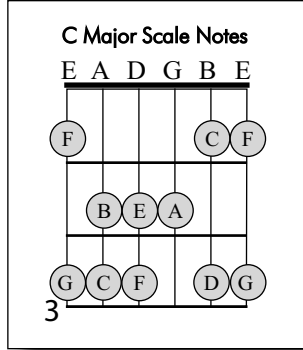
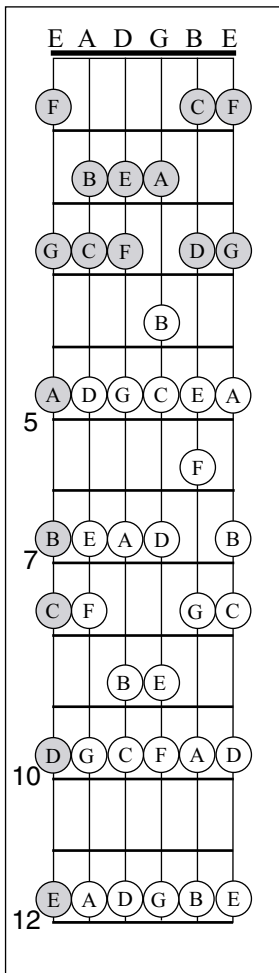
The distance between C and F is called a fourth.

The distance between C and G is called a fifth.

# The Fretboard

## Movement On The Fretboard

If you look in my other books you will see a page like this page in every one. Movement across the fretboard is the essence of playing a guitar. When you play a guitar, one of your hands is always moving. You change chords by moving your fingers. Let's start by noting that there are only twelve notes to play on a guitar. But there are several places to play these twelve notes. Here is what you should know. Look at the graphic on the left. Using the left hand E string only (the lowest), notice the notes are E, F, G, A, B, C, D and E. They are shaded. Now look to the graphic to the right side. Notice that the progression of notes from left to right is the same. Start with the low E string, play the F and G notes. Switch to the A string, play the A open then the B and C notes. On the D string play the D open then the E and F notes. On the G string play the G open then the A note. On the B string play the B open then the C and D notes. Switch to the high E string (all the way to the right) and play the open E then the F and G notes. Look at the notes you just played, they are E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F and G. Open strings are underlined. You climbed the scale just like when you played the notes on the lower E string. There is one difference, by playing across the strings you were able to play two octaves and three notes. By playing the E string you can only play one octave in twelve frets.



Both paths are important. For the first year we stay around the first five frets. However you will have need to climb up the strings at times. For now just realize there are several ways to move around, we will explore them as we play the chords and scales later.

## What Happens When You Change Keys?

Each key will use slightly different notes to make up the key. By selecting only the notes in the key you are working in that key. Notice the white notes are the notes in each key. All twelve notes are shown in each example, but the notes in each key are shown in white. All of these examples use the open string notes.

