

Introduction to Reading Music

You don't need to learn how to read standard music notation to play guitar. In fact, many guitarists can't read music. They rely on other forms of notation, and they also learn songs by ear. If you do want to read music, start on this page. What follows is a crash course in standard notation.

Here's how to count the rhythm of a simple piece:

"One Two Three Four One & Two & Three Four"

How long does each note last?

One **whole note** equals 2 **half notes** equals 4 **quarter notes** equals 8 **eighth notes**:

Where are the notes on the guitar?

C1 D1 E1 F1 G1 A1 B1 C2 D2 E2 F2 E2

E2	F2	G2
B1	C2	D2
G1	A1	F1
D1	E1	C1
Fr. 1		Fr. 3

Frets 1 through 3

Note: For many notes, there is more than one place to play the note. For example C1 is found in these places:

- fret 3, string 5
- fret 8, string 6

Learn more about reading standard notation at The Introduction to Reading Music, at www.datadragon.com/education/reading, is an effective primer. Learn treble and bass clefs, how to count rhythms, types of rests, and other elements of standard notation.