

LEARNING NAMES OF NOTES ON FINGERBOARD - Page 1

Knowing the names of notes on the fingerboard can really speed up your musical progress, especially if you are progressing in musical theory as well. Two of the biggest benefits of this note - name knowledge are : **1) Increased ability to memorize scales, chords, etc by a few hundred percent at least,** and **2) Increased ability to see and understand what you are playing (or could be playing) also by a few hundred percent.**

So the question isn't whether to learn the names of the notes on the neck or not, but one of how to do it, and how much time to spend at it. If you are serious about playing the guitar you've got to do it, it's as simple as that (even if you're not that serious, it's still worth the time for the above-mentioned reason at least)

There are lots ways to approach the subject - we'll try various ones for variety, but first of all, probably the most important way, because of the multiple benefits, is to **LEARN TO READ MUSIC**. It is not one of the easiest task in the world but thousands upon thousands of musicians will shout the praises of learning to read music. It is one of the single best things you can do for yourself. I feel so strongly about it that I've got to say a few more words on the subject.

You play the guitar with at least four parts of your being :

- 1) your hands, 2) your eyes, 3) your ears, and 4) your mind.
- 1) As you learn to read music, especially once you get to some challenging stuff, you will be giving your hands a good workout, increasing their coordination, strength, speed, etc.
- 2) The original purpose of mentioning note-reading on this page was in context of helping you see the names of the notes on the neck (so note-reading increases your "eye" - skills, your visual skills).
- 3) Thru note-reading, you will come in contact with some great music that would not be available otherwise, hence, your ears benefit.
- 4) Naturally, thru note reading, your mind will grow by having to meet new challenges and because your knowledge of the guitar will be increasing, your mind will also be expanding in this way.

Now you don't have to be a great note - reader in order to enjoy these benefits (I'm not a great reader and I don't think I want to be, compared to certain other musical goals I have), but you will reap the above benefits, even if you become an average reader. So if you haven't begun to read yet, **START TODAY!** ; there are not that many good books on the subject for the beginning reading guitarist (there is quite a bit of material available once you can read at an intermediate level) but some of the better ones are: **1) Sight to Sound** by Leon White (great for single notes) **2) Mel Bay Modern Guitar Method Vols 1-7**, newly available, all 7 vols in one big book, (single notes & chords) **3) Berklee Series for Guitar** by William Leavitt (single notes & chords - good reading material, but disregard much of the music "theory") The following while being supposedly for the classical guitar, can be effectively applied to the electric guitar, or steel - string acoustic as well. All of these books deal with single notes & chords and are generally well organized. **4) Solo Guitar Playing** by Fredrick Noad. **5) Aaron Shearer Classic Guitar Technique Vols 1&2.** **6) Mel Bay Classic Guitar Method Vols 1-3.**

There is one drawback of **4), 5) and 6)** - namely, they don't explore reading in the higher registers (around the higher frets) very much, if at all. Nevertheless they are very good for lower register reading, drumming these notes in eventually thru attractive sounding little pieces.

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