

Fretboard Notes Workbook

Learn the neck through note names, landmarks and octave patterns

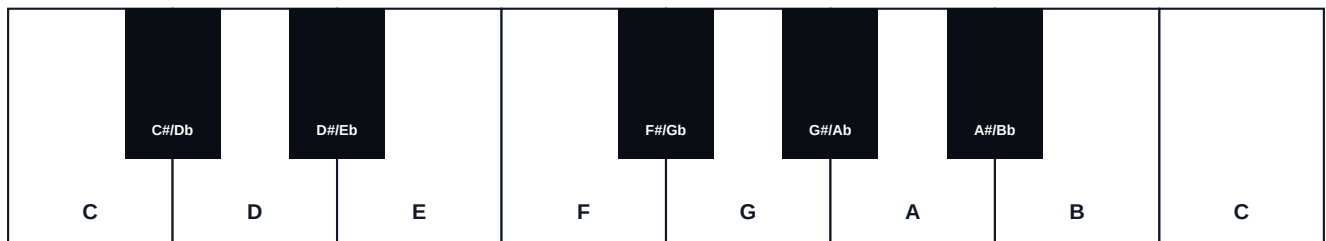
Standard tuning is E A D G B E from the lowest string to the highest. On the diagrams below, the highest E string is shown at the top.

Useful landmarks

- The 12th fret repeats the open-string note one octave higher.
- The 5th fret usually matches the next open string. The G string is the exception: B is at fret 4.
- Natural notes are A B C D E F G. B-C and E-F are already one fret apart.

Piano keyboard reference

The piano makes the pattern easy to see: black keys show the sharps and flats. A guitar has no white and black keys - only frets - but the same sequence of semitones still applies.



SHARPS: EGGS & BACON (E + B)

Breakfast memory: there is no black key immediately after E or B. E-F and B-C are one fret apart.

FLATS: CHOCOLATE FROGS (C + F)

Harry Potter memory: imagine one hopping from the train and getting flattened! There is no black key immediately before C or F.

Exercise 1 - Fill every natural note from frets 1-12

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E												
B												
G												
D												
A												
E												

Try this in three passes

1. Work one string at a time and say every note aloud.
2. Choose one note name and find it on all six strings.
3. Add sharps only after the natural notes feel secure.

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Practical mapping exercises

Exercise 2 - Mark every C, F and G

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E												
B												
G												
D												
A												
E												

Exercise 3 - Choose a root and mark every octave

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E												
B												
G												
D												
A												
E												

Exercise 4 - Test yourself

- [] Find the note at the 8th fret of every string.
- [] Find B and C next to each other across the neck.
- [] Find E and F next to each other across the neck.
- [] Pick a random fret and name all six notes without using a diagram.
- [] Record a one-minute test today and repeat it next week.

Practice tip: five accurate minutes beats twenty minutes of guessing.

Keep this sheet near your instrument and revisit it regularly.

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Answer map - sharps used for chromatic notes

Frets 1-12 answer map

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

Octave shortcuts

- Two strings higher and two frets higher usually gives the same note one octave up.
- If the shape crosses the B string, move the higher note one extra fret.
- Two strings lower and two frets lower reverses the same relationship.
- Open string and 12th fret are the same note name, one octave apart.

A simple weekly routine

Monday: one string. Wednesday: one note across all strings.

Friday: random-fret test. Sunday: repeat anything that was slow.

Free for personal practice and use with Rodaidh Mackay's students.

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