

Tab:

- 1st octave -

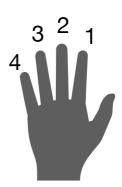
Tab (tablature) is the oldest form of notation for string instruments, pre-dating the stave or staff by several centuries. The lines represent the strings, string 1 being known as *top e* even though it's the one *nearest the ground* when you play. Called "top" because it plays the highest note of the open strings. String 6 is bottom e. *Note:* in my system single notes are written in lower case and chords in capitals.

- 2nd octave - -

The numbers on the lines are the *fret positions*, 0 = open string.

Fingering:

Playing both octaves requires 2 hand positions. Play with one finger per fret except as indicated in 2nd position. The move to second position occurs between f and g in the 2nd octave, both these notes being played with finger 1.



Intervals (gaps between notes): t = tone = 2 frets, *st* = semitone = 1 fret All major scales follow this intervals rule, no exceptions!

There are lots of scales but in Western music major scales are fundamental. The clue is in the name: MAJOR scales! All musicians should start by getting familiar with major scales, particularly as related to their own instrument. The Scale of C (the "Major" is often implied and not stated) is the "default" scale, the only one with no sharps (#) or flats (b) and from which all others spring. That should be your starting point. Scales are also excellent finger exercises.