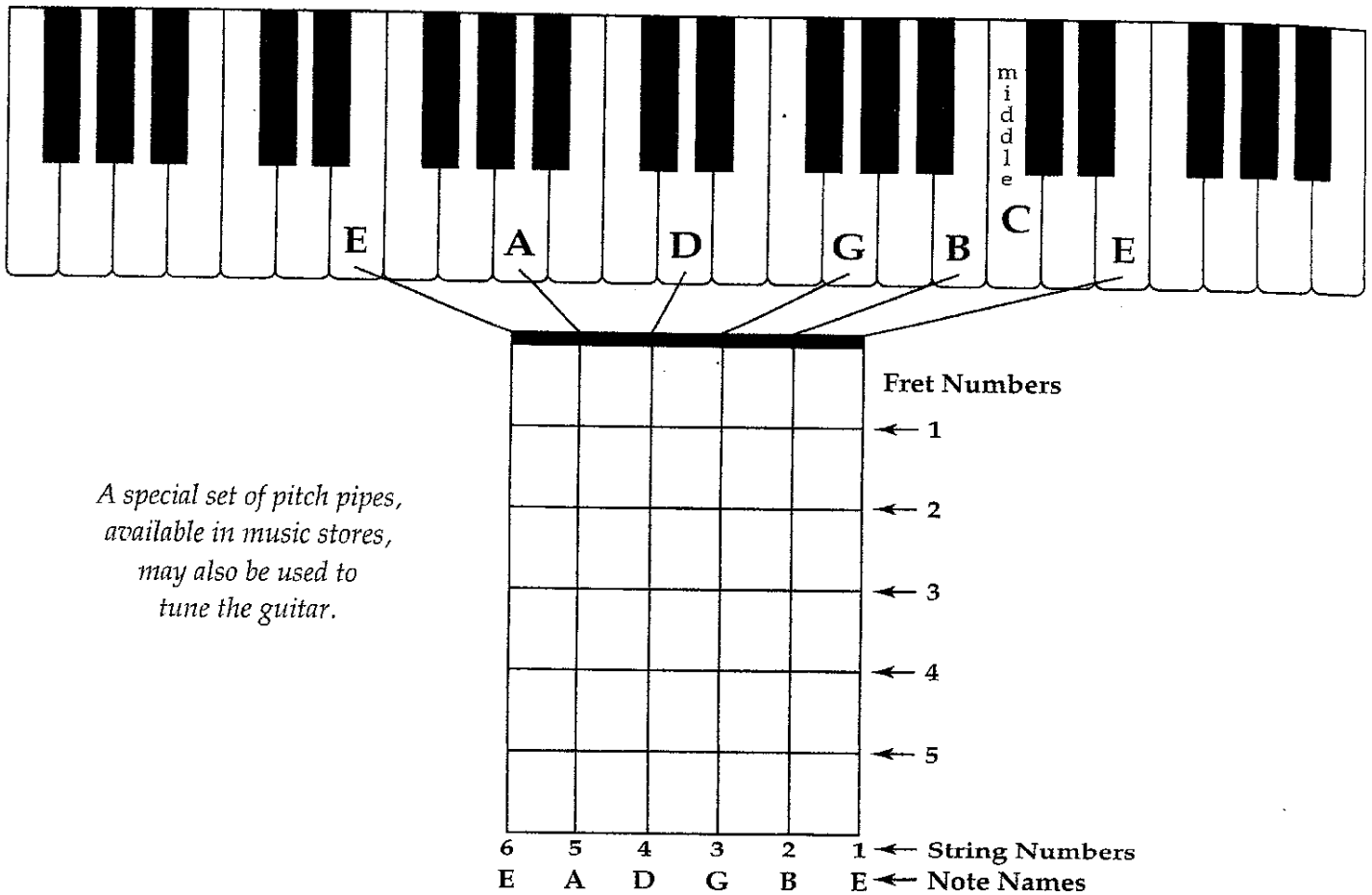


# TUNING THE GUITAR

To tune the strings of your guitar, twist the tuning pegs to raise or lower the pitch. The six strings of your guitar should match the pitch of the six keys shown on the piano.



## TUNING THE STRINGS

If you have the correct pitch for the 6<sup>th</sup> string (E), then you may tune the rest of the strings this way:

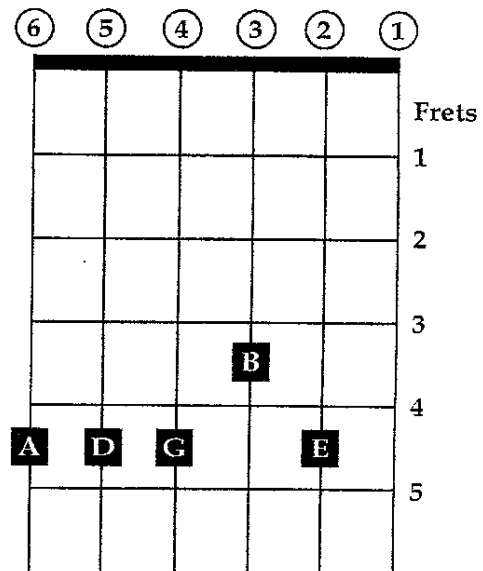
Place a finger on the fifth fret of the 6<sup>th</sup> string and Match pitch with the 5<sup>th</sup> string open.

The 4<sup>th</sup> string open should give the same pitch as the 5<sup>th</sup> string, fifth fret.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> string open should give the same pitch as the 4<sup>th</sup> string, fifth fret.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> string open should give the same pitch as the 3<sup>rd</sup> string, fourth fret.

The 1<sup>st</sup> string open should give the same pitch as the 2<sup>nd</sup> string, fifth fret.



# Basic Hand Positions, Styles & Tips

## Right Hand Position

The two main methods of playing chords are (1) using a pick (plectrum) and (2) using the fingers of your right hand

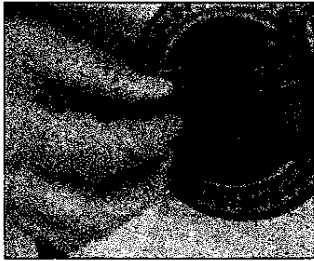
### Pick Style

The pick (plectrum) is placed between the thumb and the first (index) finger. Place the pick between the knuckle of the thumb and the edge of the thumb. Do not place the pick at the edge of the thumb.



### Fingerstyle

The fingers of the right hand are to be placed approximately 2 inches to the left of the bridge of the guitar. If your guitar has a round sound hole, place the fingers above the sound hole. The third finger usually plays the note on the first (smallest) string; the second finger usually plays notes on the second string; the first finger usually plays notes on the third string; and the thumb usually plays notes on the last three strings (bass strings).



## Left Hand Position

The thumb is to be directly in back of the guitar neck, pointing toward the top of the neck. Do not hook the thumb over the side of the guitar neck. The thumb is never used to stop the strings.

The fingers are to be placed above the fingerboard. Do not squeeze the guitar neck with the palm of your hand. Only the thumb and whatever fingers are currently stopping the strings should touch the guitar. The fingers should touch the strings at right angles to the fingerboard with the knuckles arched.



## Tips for Better Playing & Practicing

Do not use the palm of your hand to support the neck of the guitar.

Keep fingers arched.

The thumb of the left hand is never used to stop the strings, and should be kept directly in back of the guitar neck.

Do not squeeze the guitar neck with the palm of your hand.

The fingers should touch the strings at right angles to the fingerboard with the knuckles arched.

Make sure your fingers are ~~positioned in the middle of the fret bars; not on~~ the fret. *just behind but not touching*

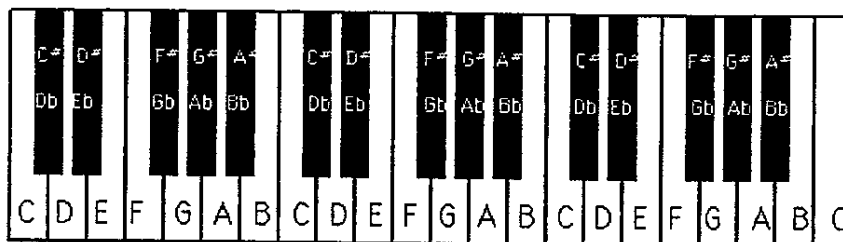
Start out practicing songs you are familiar with.

Tuning is very important.

Start out playing slowly. Concentrate on playing the correct notes, and work on the rhythm when you are more comfortable with the notes.

# Music Theory Reference Sheet

1. There are only **12 notes** in Western Music:



2. The **Major Scale** is the basis of most of Western Harmony. It is a 7-note scale made up of whole-step and half-step intervals. A half step is 2 adjacent notes. (Ex: C & C# are a half step apart). A whole step equals two half steps (Ex: C & D are a whole step apart).

The Major Scale Formula is: **W W H W W W H** (W=whole step; H=half step)  
 (The C major scale, therefore, is: C D E F G A B C)

3. A **chord** is the simultaneous sounding of 3 or more notes.  
 Chords are usually built from triads, which are three notes identified as a root, a 3rd, & a 5th.

The **root** is the starting note indicated by the chord name.  
 (The note 'c' is the root of a C Major chord.)

The type of **3rd** determines the quality of the chord.

A major third is 2 whole steps above the root.

(E is a major third above C)

A minor third is found 1 and 1/2 steps above the root.

(Eb is a minor third above C)

The **5th** is found using the major scale formula starting on the first degree of the scale and counting up the first 4 intervals, W W H W, to bring us to the 5th note. (G is the 5th of C).

(Therefore, the C Major chord is spelled C E G, and the C Minor chord is C Eb G.)

4. Four-note chords usually contain a triad plus a **7th**.  
 There are 3 main types of 7ths: major, dominant, and minor.

A major 7th is called the "major 7th."

The major 7th found a half-step below the root note of the chord.

(The major 7th of C is B. Therefore the Cmaj7 chord is spelled C E G B.)

A dominant 7th is simply called the "7th." Minor 7ths are simply called "minor 7th."

Both the dominant and minor 7ths are found a whole step below the root.

(The 7th of C is Bb. Therefore the C7 chord is spelled C E G Bb.

The Cm7 chord is spelled C Eb G Bb.)

Major Chords

C

Diagram of a guitar fretboard showing the C major chord. The strings are labeled from top to bottom: st (string), H (high E), H (high D), F (high C), F (low C), and P (low G). The notes are: 1st fret (H), 2nd fret (H), 3rd fret (F), 3rd fret (F), 3rd fret (F), and 3rd fret (P). The 5th and 6th strings are muted (marked with 'x').

D

Diagram of a guitar fretboard showing the D major chord. The notes are: 2nd fret (H), 2nd fret (H), 3rd fret (F), 2nd fret (F), 2nd fret (F), and 2nd fret (P). The 5th and 6th strings are muted (marked with 'x').

E

Diagram of a guitar fretboard showing the E major chord. The notes are: 1st fret (H), 2nd fret (H), 2nd fret (F), 2nd fret (F), 2nd fret (F), and 2nd fret (P). The 5th and 6th strings are muted (marked with 'x').

F

Diagram of a guitar fretboard showing the F major chord. The notes are: 1st fret (H), 2nd fret (H), 3rd fret (F), 3rd fret (F), 3rd fret (F), and 3rd fret (P). The 5th and 6th strings are muted (marked with 'x').

G

Diagram of a guitar fretboard showing the G major chord. The notes are: 3rd fret (H), 3rd fret (H), 2nd fret (F), 3rd fret (F), 3rd fret (F), and 3rd fret (P). The 5th and 6th strings are muted (marked with 'x').

A

Diagram of a guitar fretboard showing the A major chord. The notes are: 2nd fret (H), 2nd fret (H), 2nd fret (F), 2nd fret (F), 2nd fret (F), and 2nd fret (P). The 5th and 6th strings are muted (marked with 'x').

Dm

Diagram of a guitar fretboard showing the D minor chord. The notes are: 2nd fret (H), 2nd fret (H), 3rd fret (F), 2nd fret (F), 2nd fret (F), and 2nd fret (P). The 5th and 6th strings are muted (marked with 'x').

Minor Chords

Em

Diagram of a guitar fretboard showing the E minor chord. The notes are: 1st fret (H), 2nd fret (H), 2nd fret (F), 2nd fret (F), 2nd fret (F), and 2nd fret (P). The 5th and 6th strings are muted (marked with 'x').

Am

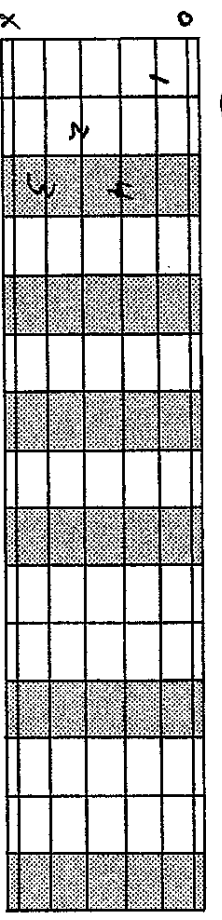
Diagram of a guitar fretboard showing the A minor chord. The notes are: 1st fret (H), 2nd fret (H), 2nd fret (F), 2nd fret (F), 2nd fret (F), and 2nd fret (P). The 5th and 6th strings are muted (marked with 'x').

Bm

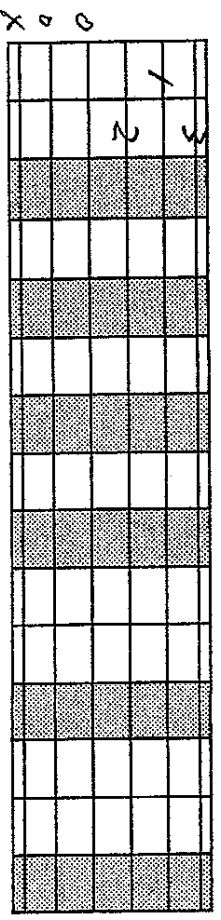
Diagram of a guitar fretboard showing the B minor chord. The notes are: 2nd fret (H), 2nd fret (H), 3rd fret (F), 3rd fret (F), 3rd fret (F), and 3rd fret (P). The 5th and 6th strings are muted (marked with 'x').

C<sup>T</sup>

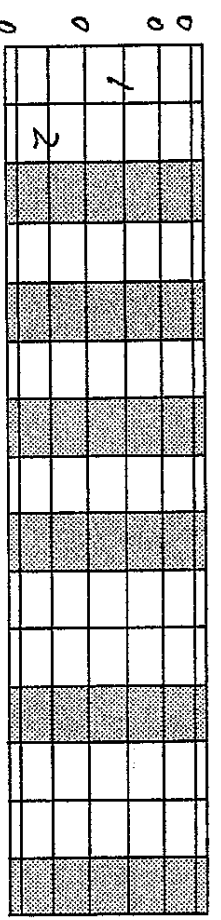
Seventh chords



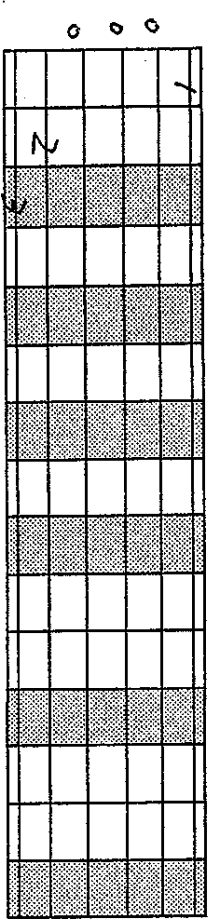
D<sup>7</sup>



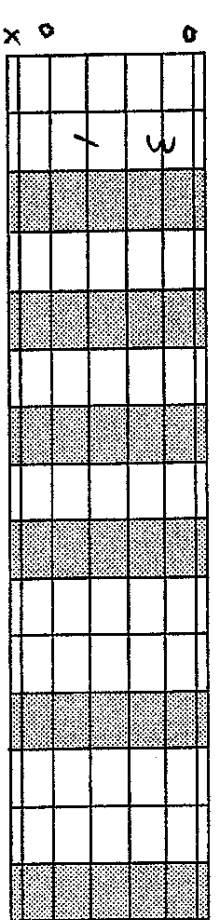
E<sup>7</sup>



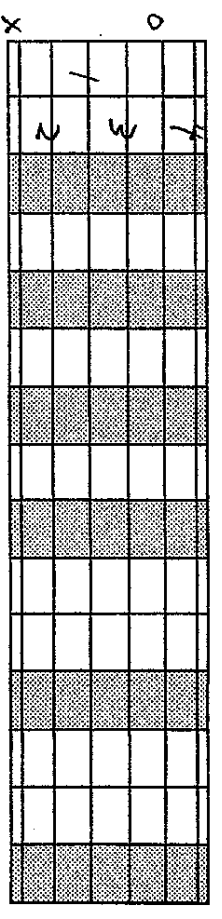
G<sup>7</sup>



A<sup>7</sup>

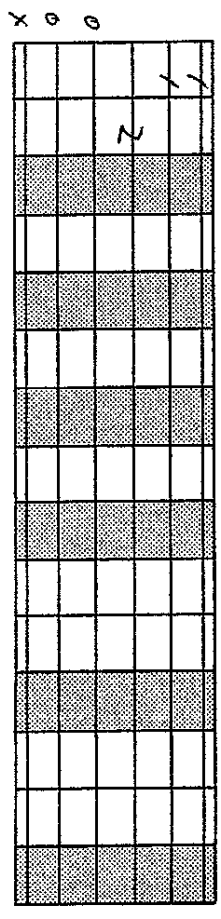


B<sup>T</sup>

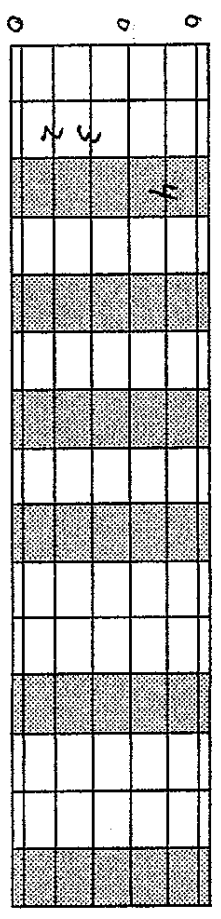


D<sub>M</sub><sup>7</sup>

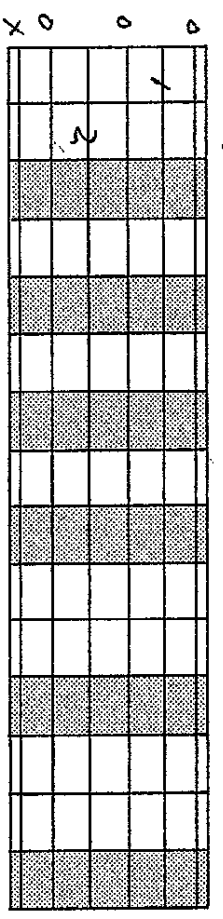
minor seventh chords



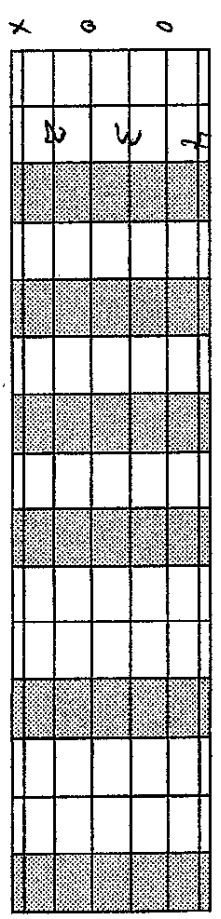
E<sub>M</sub><sup>7</sup>



A<sub>M</sub><sup>7</sup>

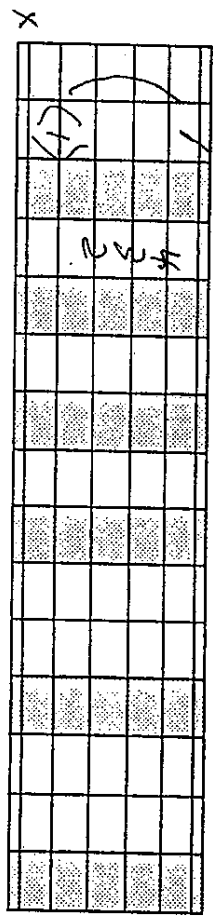


B<sub>M</sub><sup>7</sup>

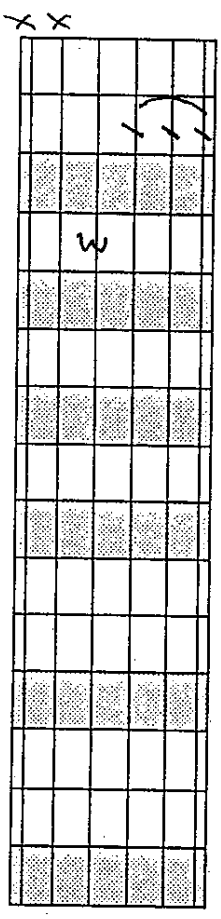


B

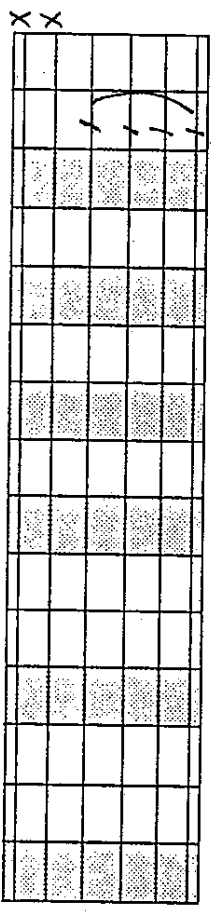
New chords



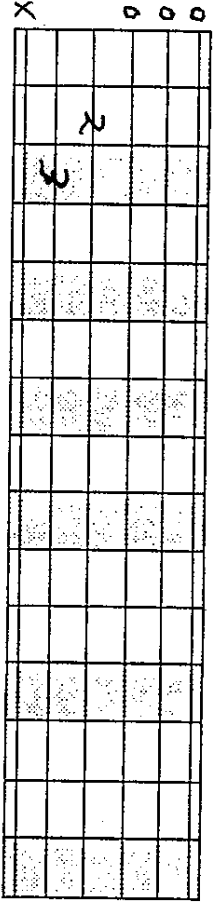
BΔ7



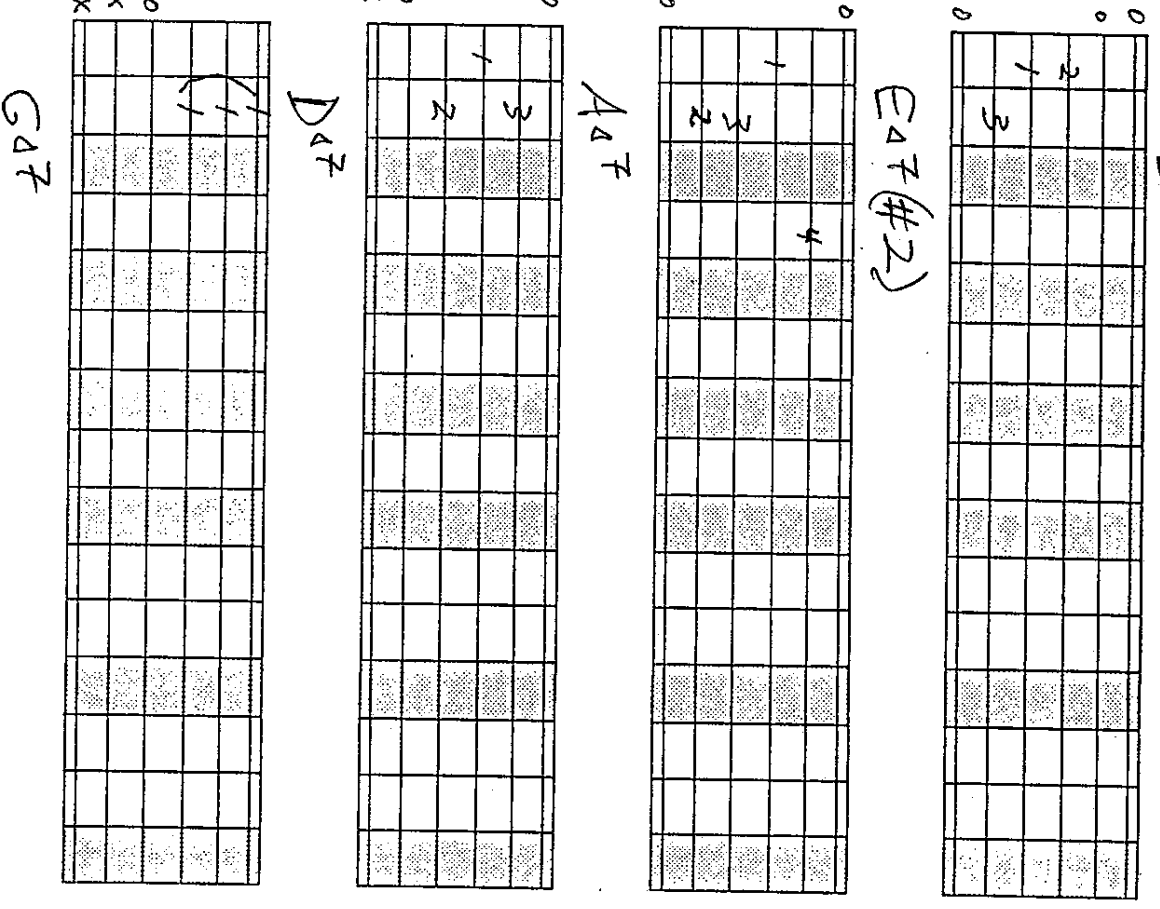
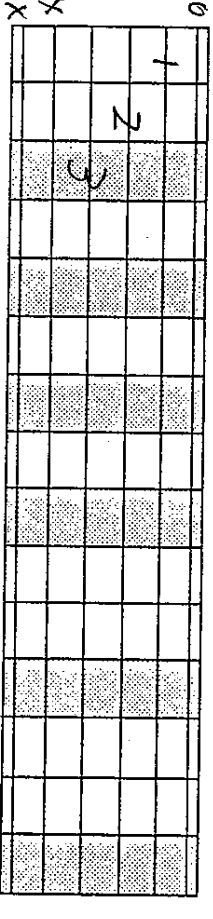
B#m7



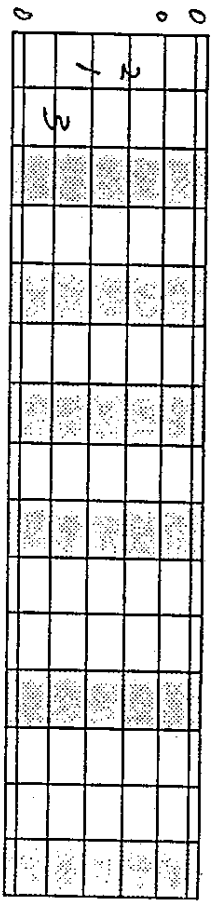
CΔ7



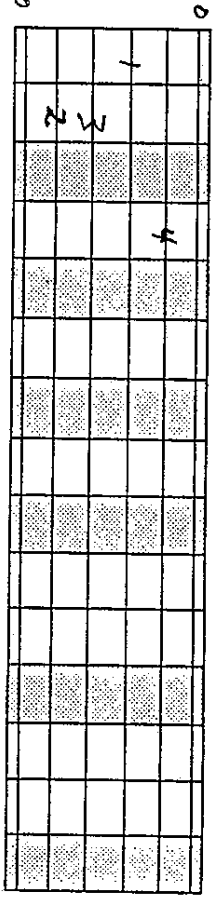
CΔ7



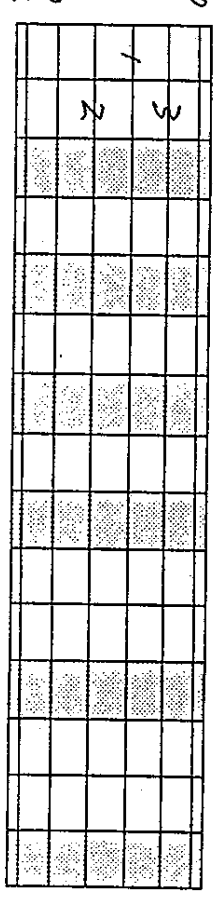
EΔ7



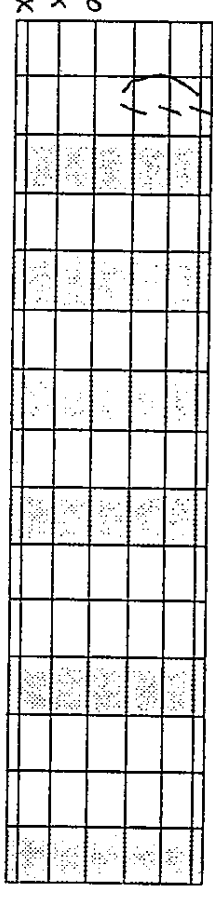
EΔ7 (#2)



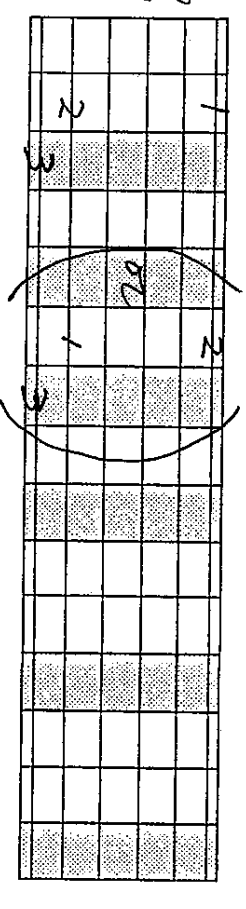
AΔ7



DΔ7



GΔ7



GΔ7

# Notes on the Fretboard

E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F
B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A
D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B
E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F

## Things to notice

- notes at 5th fret = next open string
- tuned in 4ths except for "B" string
- notes repeat at 12th fret and beyond
- location of octaves (same notes)