

Contents

Selecting Your Guitar	3	Getting Acquainted with Music Notation	24
Steel Strings and Nylon Strings		Notes	
Acoustic Guitars and Electric Guitars	4	The Staff	
Caring for Your Guitar		The Music Alphabet	
Tuning Your Guitar	5	Clefs	
Tuning with the CD		The Quarter Note	
Tuning without the CD		<i>Clap and Count out Loud</i>	
How to Hold Your Guitar	6	Notes on the First String: Introducing E	26
Strumming the Strings	7	<i>Elizabeth, the Elephant</i>	
Strumming with a Pick		The Note E with Chords	27
Strumming with Your Fingers		<i>Note and Strum</i>	
<i>Time to Strum!</i>		Notes on the First String: Introducing F	28
Strumming Notation	8	<i>Up-Down-Up</i>	
Beats		The Notes E and F with Chords	29
The Quarter-Note Slash		Notes on the First String: Introducing G	30
The Staff and Treble Clef		<i>The Mountain Climber</i>	
Bar Lines, Measures, and Time Signatures		The Notes E, F, and G with Chords	31
<i>More Time to Strum</i>		<i>Brave in the Cave</i>	
Using Your Left Hand	9	<i>Single Notes, Then Chord! Chord! Chord!</i>	32
Hand Position		<i>Pumpkin Song</i>	33
Placing a Finger on a String		Notes on the Second String: Introducing B . . .	34
How to Read Chord Diagrams		<i>Two Open Strings</i>	
The Three-String C Chord	10	<i>Two-String Melody</i>	
<i>My First Chord</i>		<i>Jumping Around</i>	35
The Quarter Rest	11	Notes on the Second String: Introducing C . . .	36
<i>Three Blind Mice</i>		<i>Ping Pong Song</i>	
The Three-String G⁷ Chord	12	<i>Soccer Game</i>	
<i>My Second Chord</i>		The Half Rest	37
<i>Troubadour Song</i>	13	<i>When I Feel Best</i>	
<i>Skip to My Lou</i>	14	Notes on the Second String: Introducing D . .	38
<i>London Bridge</i>	15	<i>A-Choo!</i>	
The Three-String G Chord	16	The Half Note	39
<i>My Third Chord</i>		<i>Ode to Joy</i>	
Three Chords in One Song	17	<i>Jingle Bells</i>	40
<i>Rain Comes Down</i>		<i>Mary Had a Little Lamb</i>	41
The Repeat Sign	18	Notes on the Third String: Introducing G	42
<i>Merrily We Roll Along</i>		<i>Three Open Strings</i>	
<i>Love Somebody</i>	19	<i>Little Steps and Big Leaps</i>	
The Three-String D⁷ Chord	20	<i>Alouette</i>	43
<i>My Fourth Chord</i>		Notes on the Third String: Introducing A	44
Using D⁷ with Other Chords	21	The Whole Note	
<i>When the Saints Go Marching In</i>	22	<i>A Is Easy!</i>	
<i>Yankee Doodle</i>	23	<i>Taking a Walk</i>	
		<i>Aura Lee</i>	45
		<i>She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain</i>	46
		Music Matching Games	47
		Diploma	48

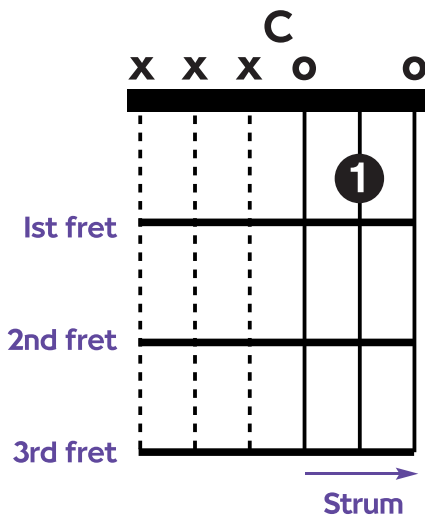
The Three-String C Chord

Hear
this chord!



Track 5

Use finger 1 to press the 2nd string at the 1st fret.
Strum strings 3-2-1.



Strumming

Strum the three-string C chord on each quarter-note slash \diagup .
Make sure your strums are even.
Count aloud as you play:

1-2-3-4 | 1-2-3-4.

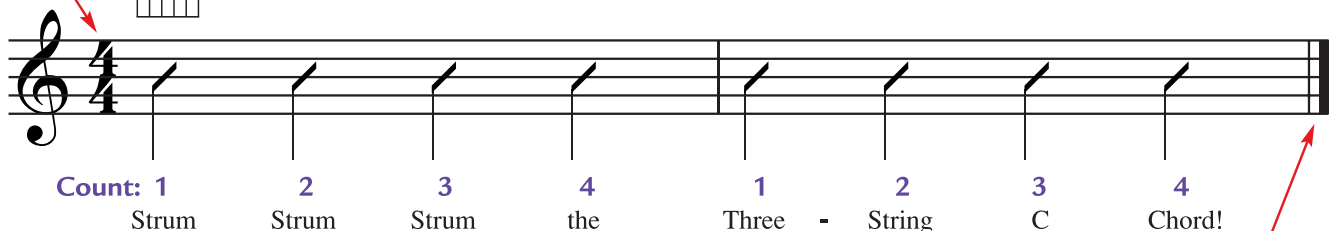
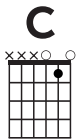
Listen to the song on your CD to hear how it should sound!

My First Chord



Track 6

Remember: This means there are 4 beats in each measure.



This double bar line tells us the music is finished.

The Repeat Sign

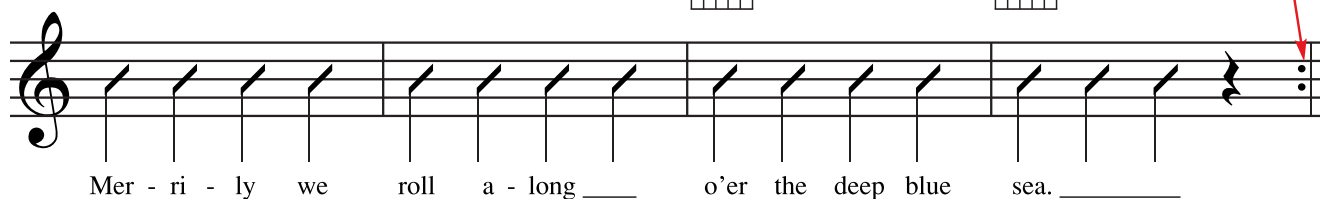
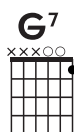
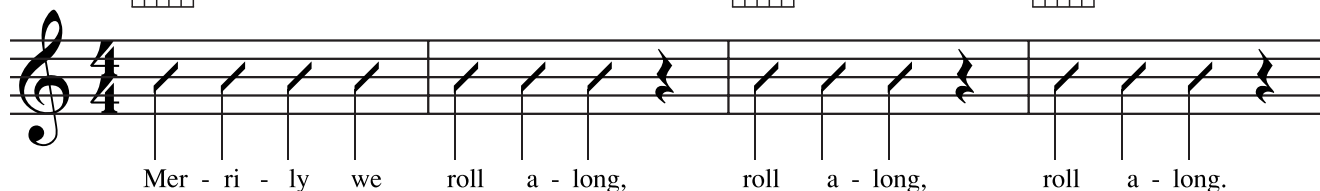
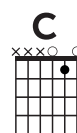
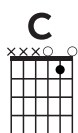
Introducing Repeat Dots :||

Double dots on the inside of a double bar line mean to go back to the beginning and play again.

Merrily We Roll Along



Track 17



Repeat from the beginning