



Guitar Fretboard Challenge

Learning the notes of our fretboard is one of the most useful skills we can learn as guitarists as it helps unlock our entire guitar neck rather than just playing in only one position

Most of you will probably already know the names of your open strings, going from the lowest sounding string (the closest one to you when you're playing) they are:

E (String 6) A (String 5) D (String 4) G (String 3) B (String 2) e (String 1)

A useful rhyme for remembering them if you ever forget is:

Eddie Ate Dynamite Good Bye eddie

Now that we know these open strings we need to know what pattern to count for each fret on our guitar's neck in order to find out our notes.

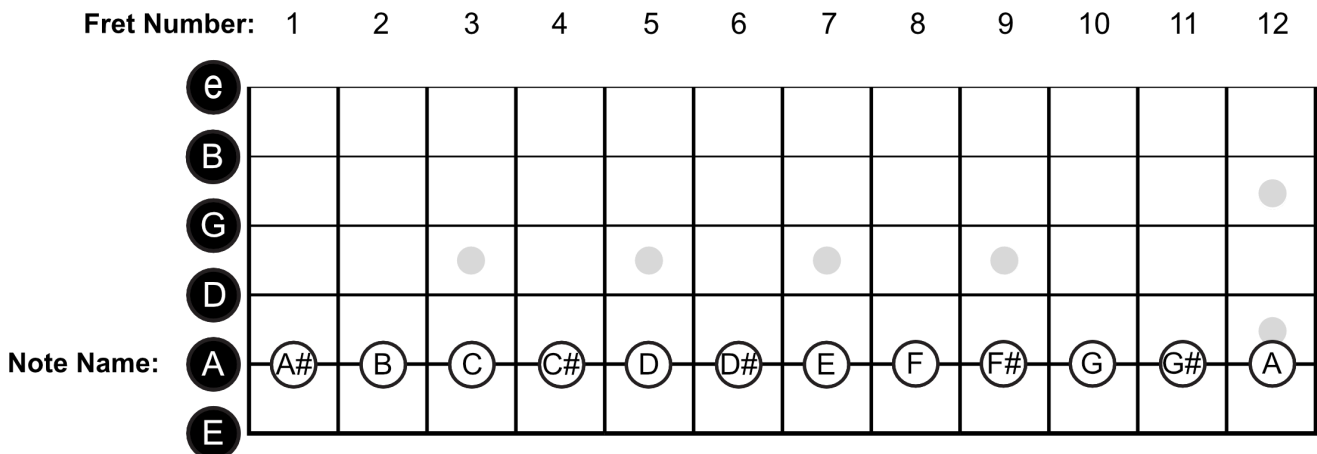
For those of us that don't know, we only have 12 different musical notes in western music, they look like this:

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

Notice that we have a "sharp" (#) note for nearly every note apart from B, and E.

Each one of our frets is one note, so using the diagram below starting on the 5th String "A" we know that the open string will be **A**, and then the 1st fret will be **A#**, the 2nd will be **B**...

All the way up to fret 12 where the cycle repeats and we go back to A again! So if we start on a different string like "D" we simply find **D** and go from there: **D# = 1, E = 2, F = 3** etc!

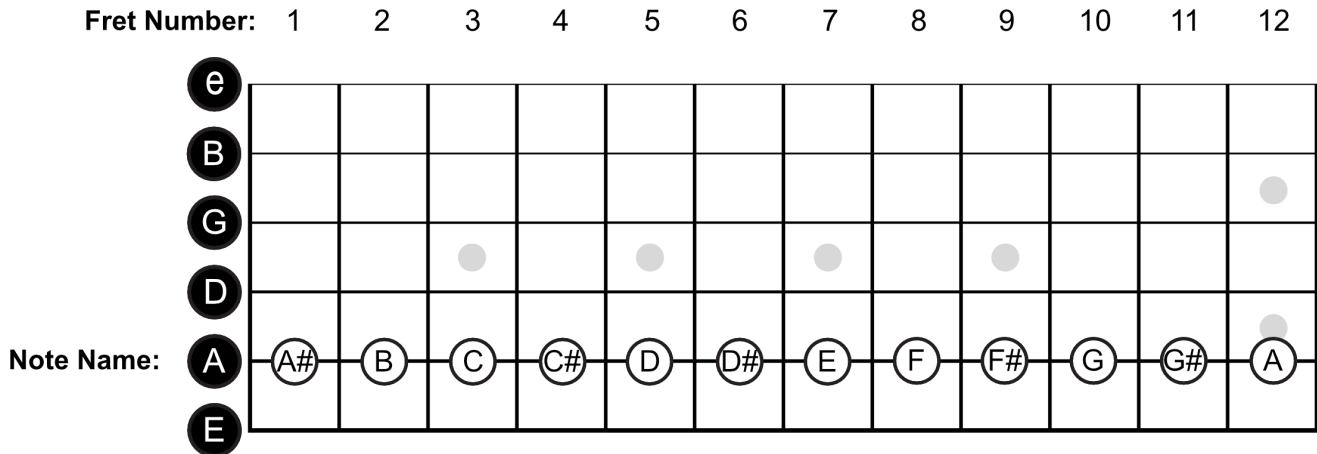




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Now that we know how our fretboard works, it's time for a quiz!

See if you can work out what notes are at which frets using the guitar diagram below. Remember to count the frets from whatever note (letter) the string starts on, good luck!



- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) 5th String — Fret 5 = _____ | 2) 2nd String — Fret 2 = _____ |
| 3) 3rd String — Fret 6 = _____ | 4) 6th String — Fret 3 = _____ |
| 5) 1st String — Fret 9 = _____ | 6) 4th String — Fret 1 = _____ |
| 7) 3rd String — Fret 7 = _____ | 8) 2nd String — Fret 8 = _____ |
| 9) 1st String — Fret 11 = _____ | 10) 4th String — Fret 12 = _____ |

Now let's try it slightly different! Find the fret that this note is on!

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) 1st String — A = Fret _____ | 2) 5th String — G = Fret _____ |
| 3) 4th String — D = Fret _____ | 4) 6th String — F# = Fret _____ |
| 5) 3rd String — C# = Fret _____ | 6) 2nd String — A# = Fret _____ |
| 7) 6th String — B = Fret _____ | 8) 4th String — E = Fret _____ |
| 9) 2nd String — G# = Fret _____ | 10) 3rd String — D# = Fret _____ |

Bonus Challenge!

How many TOTAL E notes can you find on the guitar between Frets 0 and 12 across all strings? (Don't forget open strings!): _____



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If you found the first part relatively easy then try this harder challenge!

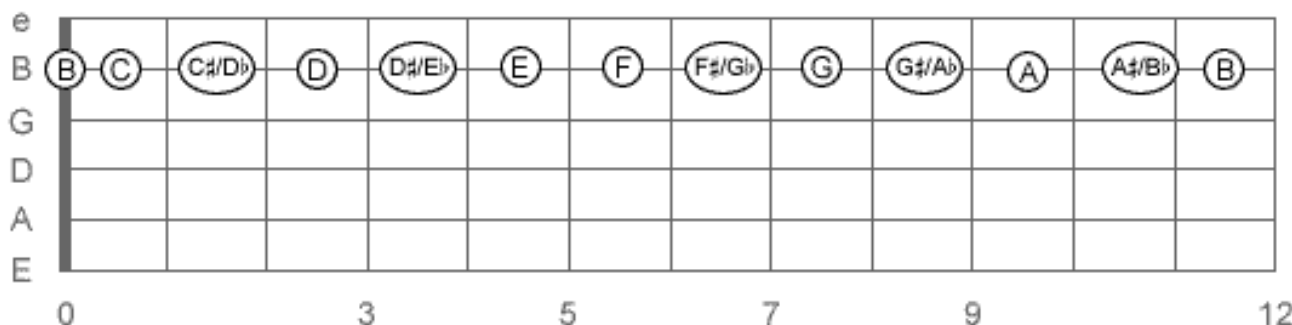
You might know that we also have notes called “flats” (b) in our music. Believe it or not, we’ve already played these notes when we learnt our “sharps” (#)! They’re the same notes but just with different names. For example, before we had these notes for our sharps:

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

For our flats it would look like this:

A Bb B C Db D Eb E F Gb G Ab

So A# and Bb for example are actually both the same note! Let’s see what that looks like on our guitar fretboard, this time on the 2nd String!



You should be able to see that some frets share the names of 2 notes (A#/Bb) but the important thing is that they sound the same. Try some of these harder questions — either giving the note names with both the sharps AND flat names, or what fret they’re at.

- 1) 2nd String — Fret 4 = _____
- 2) 6th String — Fret 9 = _____
- 3) 5th String — Eb = Fret _____
- 4) 3rd String — Fret 3 = _____
- 5) 4th String — G# = Fret _____
- 6) 1st String — Gb = Fret _____
- 7) 3rd String — Fret 11 = _____
- 8) 6th String — Fret 4 = _____
- 9) 4th String — Db = Fret _____
- 10) 2nd String — Fret 14 = _____