

## Common Skills for Guitarists Year 1

**Chords:** C, A, G, E, D, G7, D7, A7, E7, Am, Em, Dm, B7, F, Moveable power chords, Barre Chords with root on E and A

**-Sequence 1:** Simple C, Simple G, D, A, E, C, G, Em, E7, Am, B7, Dm, F (half bar), A5, D5, E5, Moveable power chords, E form Barre Chords, A form Barre Chords

**-Sequence 2:** D, A, G, A7, A, E7, G, C, D7, E, A, B7, Em, Am, Dm, F, Power chords, Barre Chords E and A shapes

**-Sequence 3:** G7, C, A7, D, G, A, C, D7, Em, G, E, Power Chords, Am, B7, Dm, Chord embellishments, E and A Barre Chord forms

\*These sequences are based on progressions. New chords are introduced one or two at a time to add to existing chord knowledge. See sample below for more explanation.

**Notes in standard notation:** Teach 2 strings at a time

-First position notes

-Extended position (A on the 1<sup>st</sup> string)

-pentatonic scale (Em pentatonic, Am pentatonic moveable)

-major scale (moveable pattern)

**Techniques:** Down and up strumming, syncopated strumming, fingerstyle arpeggios, root strum patterns in 3 and 4, tuning the guitar, pentatonic scale pattern, simple improvisation, playing in an ensemble,

**Music Literacy:** Note reading and writing, rhythms to eighth notes and rests, endings, understanding a chord chart, reading a lead sheet, key signatures in C, G, A, D, E, Progressions I-IV-V, vi chord function, 12 bar blues, treble clef staff, tablature,

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## Sequence Example

Chords and melody can be presented in different units or interspersed. Consideration should be made to the music selections in the curriculum that will be studied as to which progression and note series to follow.

Chords:

- C, G, D, A, (I-V progression in C, D, and G) (I-IV-V progression in D)
- E, full C and G (I-IV-V progression in A)
- Em, E7, Am (I-IV-V-vi progressions in G) (i-V in Am)
- B7 (I-IV-V-vi progressions in E and Em) (i-iv-V progression in Em)
- Dm (i-iv-V in Am) (I-vi-ii-V in C)
- F (half bar) (I-IV-V-vi in C) (I-vi-IV-V in C)
- Power chords A5, D5, E5
- Moveable power chords with root on 6
- Moveable power chords with root on 5
- Barre Chords with root on string 6 (E shapes, E, Em, E7, Em7)
- Barre Chord with root on string 5 (A shapes, A, Am, A7, Am7, AM7)

# GUITAR CLASS EDUCATORS

## Notes from 1<sup>st</sup> string:

- String 1 - E, F, G
- String 2 – B, C, D – C and Am melodies
- String 3 – G, A and F# on string 1 (G Maj scale/melodies)(A natural minor scale with extended A)
- String 4 – D, E, F (F#) (Em natural minor scale) (Em pentatonic pattern)
- String 5 – A, B, C (C Maj scale/melodies)
- String 6 – E, F, G (F#)
- Remaining accidentals (note enharmonic)
- Playing in 5<sup>th</sup> position

## Notes from 6<sup>th</sup> String:

- String 6 and 5 - E, F, G, A, B, C
  - Strings 4 and 3 - D, E, F, G, A
  - Strings 2 and 1 - B, C, D, E, F, G
  - Accidentals and enharmonics
  - (\*This method builds natural scale from lowest to highest in sound and on staff. Introducing ledger lines early means students aren't as resistant to learning them if introduced later. Connections can be made between root and chord.)
  - Playing in 5<sup>th</sup> position
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## Strumming Sequence:

- Down strum on beat, especially the chord change
- Down and up strum
- Muting strings during rests on strum patterns
- Syncopated Strumming
- Palm muting

## Pick Sequence

- Down stroke
- Down and up stroke
- Root strumming
- String crossing
- Fingers with pick

## Fingerstyle Sequence for Right Hand:

- Thumb rest stroke
- For fingerstyle melodies, next alternate fingers 1 and 2 rest stroke on melody
- Thumb rest stroke on root, fingers free stroke block chord on strings 3, 2, 1
- Thumb rest stroke on root, fingers arpeggiate remaining strings
- Thumb free stroke
- \*Scales are always played with alternating fingers (no thumb) no matter how low the root is
- Advanced considerations for fingering notes -
- \*When going from a low string to a high string (pitch), start passage so that middle finger moves to higher string
- \*When going from a high string to a low string (pitch), start passage so that index finger moves to lower string