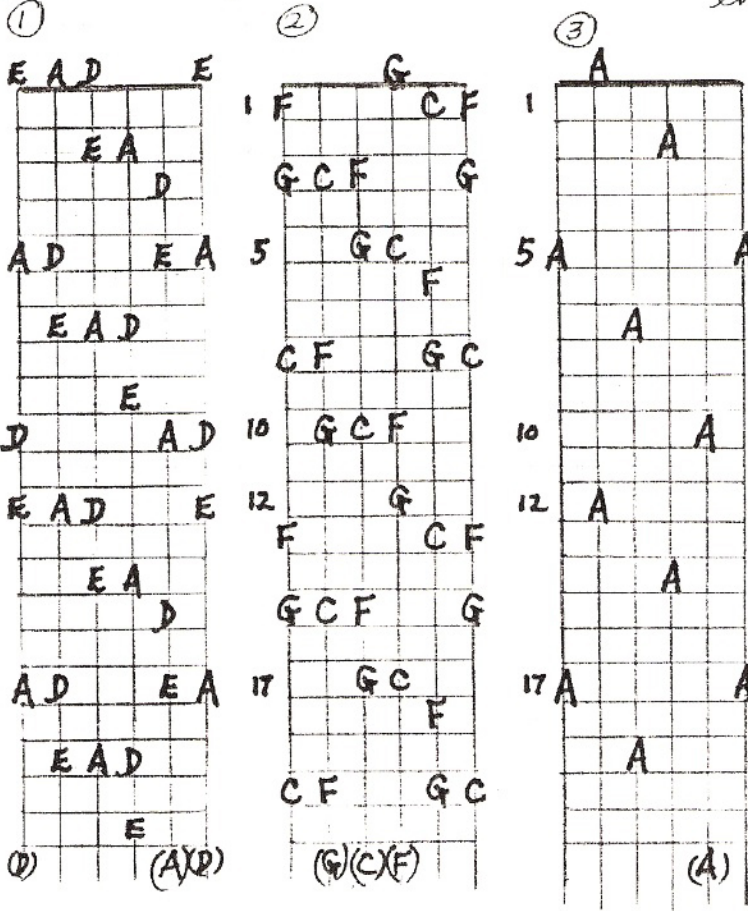


LEARNING NAMES OF NOTES ON FINGERBOARD-Page 2


Another way of learning the names of the notes on the fingerboard is by **ISOLATING ONE NOTE AT A TIME**. For instance, if you tried to find all the A's on the fingerboard, the result would look like diagram ③. If you were to go over this diagram (with the intent to memorize it) every day for say 5 to 10 minutes, it wouldn't be long before you would know where every A on the guitar was, with ease.

Notice that the A's are on each string twice (except for the 2nd string on some guitars). I have found it very helpful to learn the fingerboard by viewing it **ONE STRING AT A TIME**, and finding whatever letter name I am working with (A in this case) on each individual string in both places (if possible).

I sit the guitar down in my lap so I won't be tempted to play (or if my will power seems strong, I just hold it normally), and using the index fingers of both hands, I find the notes and "punch" them in the manner of a typewriter, first in the lower register (with the left hand index finger), then in the higher register (with the right hand index finger).



As weird as it may seem, I can honestly say that this technique has helped me. Naturally, if you have long fingernails on the right hand, you have to modify the angle of your index finger to a degree. You could try this technique with a different note every few days, and pretty soon you're going to know that fingerboard, at least as far as letter names go.

Another approach is to work with **OCTAVES**; notice that there are 4 groups of 2 octaves each, in diagram ③ above, (the angle of these groups is like so: ). You may wish to view the neck in this manner because it, like the one-string-at-a-time method, is a fast way to learn any given letter name.

The 1st 2 diagrams above are given for reference, in case you can use them at this stage of the game.

Summary: Three useful techniques for learning the names of the notes on the fingerboard are: ① **NOTE READING**, ② **ONE LETTER NAME - ONE STRING AT A TIME** and ③ **ONE LETTER NAME BY MEANS OF OCTAVES**

If you remind yourself occasionally, why it is important to know the names of the notes on the guitar, it will be easier to force yourself to do at least one of these 3 techniques every day. Try to stick to a program, and you will get results.

One last technique: ④ **PRACTICE** ② or ③ (or even ①) **AWAY** from the guitar - that is **MENTALLY** - this really helps, once you can do it.