

# Easy note finder on the guitar neck

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If you're serious about being a good guitar player, you have to know the notes on your neck. The sooner you realize this and the sooner you get to it, your understanding of the instrument and music in general will change drastically. It's a must if you're trying to break out of an E minor pentatonic box shape, to figure out chord voicings, to learn about music theory etc...

Chances are you might already know the notes on your low E string. It's particularly useful for moveable bar chords (that F shape voicing proves to be quite popular), as well as scales with roots on the E strings. If you don't know the notes on your low E string, memorize the following RIGHT NOW!!

Each fret represent a half step. So starting with the open E, 1st fret on the E string will be F (only a half step between E and F), 2nd fret will be F# (or Gb depending on the key/direction), 3rd fret will be G etc....

B and C are separated by a half step so don't be mistaken.

Once you reach the 12th fret, you have an E again, and everything starts over : 13th fret is F, 14th is F# and so on.

Check out Figure A.

Fig A

The diagram shows a musical staff for the low E string in 4/4 time. The notes are: E (open), F (1st fret), F#/Gb (2nd fret), G (3rd fret), G#/Ab (4th fret), A (5th fret), A#/Bb (6th fret), B (7th fret), C (8th fret), C#/Db (9th fret), D (10th fret), D#/Eb (11th fret), E (12th fret), F (13th fret), and F#/Gb (14th fret). Below the staff is a fretboard diagram with strings labeled T, A, and B, and frets numbered 0 to 14.

T															
A															
B	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

Consequently, the same concept applies on every string of the guitar.

You might also be familiar with the notes on the A string if you have experimented with "A shape" bar chords. If you haven't, MEMORIZE THIS AS WELL!!!

Open A, 1st fret is A#/Bb, 2nd fret is B, 3rd fret is C and so on.

Check out Figure B.

Fig B

The diagram shows a musical staff for the A string in 4/4 time. The notes are: A (open), A#/Bb (1st fret), B (2nd fret), C (3rd fret), C#/Db (4th fret), D (5th fret), D#/Eb (6th fret), E (7th fret), F (8th fret), F#/Gb (9th fret), G (10th fret), G#/Ab (11th fret), A (12th fret), A#/Bb (13th fret), and B (14th fret). Below the staff is a fretboard diagram with strings labeled T, A, and B, and frets numbered 0 to 14.

T															
A															
B	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

Those are two mandatory steps for fretboard knowledge.

The high E string, will have the exact same notes as the low E string.

So, low E and A strings and high E string, that's 50% of the neck covered already. Time for a cookie break? No, not quite.

For the rest of the strings, you could apply the same concept although it will get a little tedious to go up and down the strings counting half steps.

This is when you make friends with the octave interval!! (shaking hands)

The following finger shape/interval stays the same for notes between the E and D strings (up and down the neck), as well as notes between the A and G strings (up and down the neck).

Fig C

T				
A	5	6	5	6
B	3	4	3	4

You're asking yourself "does this mean what I think it means?". Well, it depends if you're thinking what I'm thinking. If that's the case, then yes.

You can take any note on the D or G string, drop it down the octave on the familiar E or A string respectively, and you'll have the name of the note!

Fig D

T				
A	5	6	7	8
B	3	4	5	6

The octave shape between the D and B string is different, but you can still move it up and down the neck. Now you can take any note on the B string, drop it down the octave onto the D string and drop it down another octave onto the E string.

Can we call this magic? Well, yes we can! Actually, it's not magic. Never mind.

Fig E

T	7	8	7	8
A	4	5	4	5
B			2	3

And here you have it, all 6 strings are covered.

Like pretty much anything else in music, the more you do it, the faster and the better you get at it. After doing this for a while, you will be able to take shortcuts and eventually you'll just "know" the notes on the neck.