# Guitar Classroom Mini Masterclass Series

# **5 Ways to Read Guitar Music**

There are 5 ways to read music for guitar. Here's an overview of each:

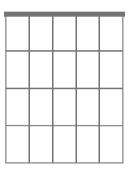
### 1. TAB (tablature)



TAB is by far the most common and most often used way to read guitar music. It is incredibly easy to follow, allowing students to read music from day one. It is used by guitarists of every level.

## 2. Chord Diagrams

Chord Diagrams are a visual representation of the guitar fretboard that show you where to place your fingers when learning chords. It's quick and easy to read once you've gotten the hang of it.



### 3. Lead Sheets

[Chorus]

Am G C

Lady, running down to the riptide, taken away

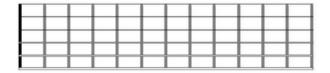
Am G C

To the dark side, I wanna be your left hand r

Lead sheets are a simple way to show lyrics of a song along with the chords that go with it. These are very common amongst all guitarists and especially for anyone who enjoys singing along to the lyrics of a song while playing.

## 4. Fretboard Diagrams

Similar to Chord Diagrams, Fretboard Diagrams are a visual representation of the guitar neck that are typically used to show and provide a visual overview of scale or arpeggio shapes.



### 5. Notation



Notation is the way to read music for many instruments. Some guitarists learn to read notation, however it is not always practical, useful or available for guitar songs. Did you know - many of the most famous and talented guitarist and musicians in the world (Hendrix, Van Halen, Bob Dylan, Taylor Swift, The Beatles) do NOT know how to read notation?!