

## Presented by Marius Vosloo

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## Getting To Know Guitar Tabs

By Maxine Schel

In the simplest terms, a guitar tab is a word that is used to describe a musical notation, which may contain either numbers or letters and explains to the musician where to place his/her fingers on the instrument. Guitar tabs consist of multiple lines and is often called a 'staff notation.' These lines, which are present in guitar tabs, each represent one of the guitar strings.

New musicians often find guitar tabs to be especially baffling in that the strings are written backwards. The highest string is found at the top of the guitar tabs, which is often difficult to learn since most people would expect that guitar tabs would be written from top to bottom instead of the other way around. In actuality, guitar tabs are written from the highest to lowest and the numbers on each line represent the guitar fret. In order to understand guitar tabs, all new guitarists need to learn string placement and how to correctly read frets.

Generally written in standard format, guitar tabs may slightly vary depending on the sheet music publisher. Even still, guitar tabs are easier to read than learning staff notation. Because of it's visual representation, new musicians are often more comfortable reading guitar tabs than any other kind of music.

When learning the guitar, musicians will become familiar with the instrument and how it works. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways, including private instruction, informational reference books and videos. In some cases, classroom lessons may even be used to help better equip the musician to learn guitar and how to read guitar tabs. As the musician becomes familiar with the terms used to describe a guitar, including the neck, fret, string, chord, etc., he/she will also begin to easily read guitar tabs.

In the beginning, guitar tabs can be intimidating. Multiple lines and letters, numbers or other symbols may seem quite confusing. With practice and time, a guitar tab will be as easy to understand as the links found your favorite website. Few musicians can play by ear without first learning a song via sheet music, which is why reading guitar tabs is the first step that a guitarist must take before learning how to play.

If you need further information on finding a guitar instructor, check the local yellow page listing or stop by your local high school or college and ask the music director for a recommendation.

To get more facts about guitar tabs, check out our website at <http://www.guitartabsreport.info> for lots of free guitar tabs information and reviews.

## Where To Find Guitar Tablature On The Internet

By Chad Taylor

Guitar tablature (for those who don't know) is a notation that looks somewhat like sheet music, but it is actually a six-line staff that represents the guitar fretboard. A note is represented on the staff by a number. Combined with actual music notation, guitar tablature makes sight reading a breeze, and you can learn songs much more quickly than by trying to sight read music on its own.

Here are some of my favorite places to find guitar tablature. For the most part, you have 3 different options.

### 1) Downloading individual guitar tablature songs or albums.

I prefer this method because you can download individual songs with guitar tablature one at a time as opposed to buying the whole songbook.

Musicnotes has a pretty decent selection. To view their selection of guitar tablature, you'll need to download the music notes viewer which allows you to preview and browse the store. Then, when you find the sheet music you're looking for, you can download the Musicnotes player which gives you MIDI playback that allows you to adjust the tempo.

Sunhawk.com is also another site that is similar and has been around for a long time now.

### 2) Getting guitar tablature songbooks from an online store

The above sites have songbooks too, but for guitar tablature songbooks, SheetMusic Superstore has the best selection...the reason is that they use Amazon's search results...go figure :-). I've found books here that I bought 10 years ago that I've never found anywhere else.

### 3) Find it free on free tab sites

This is probably the most popular method, but I don't like it as much for the main reason is that so many of the tabs are not accurate at all. But if you're interested in finding free guitar tabs, then simply type "free guitar tabs" into Google and you'll find hundreds of sites that host them. You'll see most of the tabs on each site are the same.

Read more articles by Chad Taylor and read hundreds of guitar and gear reviews at <http://www.guitar-resource-center.com>

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