guitarmann

method

Excerpt

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Musical Alphabet

❖ The musical alphabet is foundational in understanding music principles such as how chords fit together, how to create new chords, scales, transposing, etc. Because you already know the regular alphabet, you already have a head start in learning the musical alphabet.

❖ The musical alphabet is just like the regular alphabet but stops at the letter G. It also has new letters that fall in between the regular letters. These new letters get their name from their placement between the regular letters. Each new letter will be "higher than" one letter and "lower than" another letter. The musical term for "higher than" is *sharp*, and the musical term for "lower than" is *flat*.

❖ For instance, the letter between A and B is called "A sharp" or "B flat." You may call it by either name since it is the same note. Notice that this new letter is higher than A and lower than B. The name of the letter between C and D is called either a C# or a Db.

❖ "**B**ig **C**ars **E**at **F**uel," will help you remember that B and C are stuck together and E and F are stuck together. In other words, there is no sharp or flat note between them.

❖ Study the musical alphabet until you can easily locate each letter. Other music principles will reference the musical alphabet time and time again.

A B C D E F G

"**Sharp**" (**#**) means "higher than"
"**Flat**" (**b**) means "lower than"

A → <u>A#/Bb</u> ← **B**   **C** → <u>C#/Db</u> ← **D**

"**B**ig **C**ars **E**at **F**uel"
BC & **EF** are stuck together.

<u>The 12 notes that exist in the musical alphabet:</u>
A – A#orBb – **B** – **C** – C#orDb – **D** – D#orEb – **E** – **F** – F#orGb – **G** – G#orAb

Quick Quiz:

Which note comes after C?   _____
Which note comes after C#?   _____
What is another name for Ab?   _____

Complete the musical alphabet on your own (don't peek!):

<u>A</u>__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __
Answers on page 87

Exercise Answers

Musical Alphabet (Quick Quiz)

1. Which note comes after C? ___C# or Db___
   Which note comes after C#? ___D___
   What is another name for Ab ?___G#___

Complete the musical alphabet:
A A#orBb _B_ _C_ _D_ D#orEb _E_ _F_ F#orGb _G_ G#orAb

Naming Every Note on the Guitar
1. Fill in the blanks to complete the musical alphabet:

A A#orBb B _C_ _D_ D#orEb E F F#orGb G G#orAb

2. Name the following positions:

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e-----------------------------4-------------------------------------------------------------
B-----------------------------------------------------------------3-------------------------
G--------------------------------------------------------------------------4----------------
D--------------------------------------------2----------------------------------------------
A------------------2------------------------------------------------------------------------
E-------**3**------------------------------------9-------------------------------12--
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   __G__   __B__   __G#__   __E__   __C#__   __D__   __B__   __E__

Transposing with a Capo:
Exercise 1
The key of F is the answer. When you move D up three half steps (placing a capo on the 3rd fret), it becomes F. (D, then D#, then E, then F).
Exercise 2
 1. Place a capo on the 3rd fret.
 2. Place a capo on the 2nd fret.
Exercise 3
If you see a chord chart that reads: Eb Bb Ab Bb/D   Fm Cm Bb Eb

   1. What key is the song in? ___**Eb**___
   2. On which fret should you place the capo? ___**1**___
   3. Which new chord family should you use? ___**D**___

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