

Shaw Academy  
NOTES

Diploma in Guitar



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## Lesson 5 Notes

### Introduction:

Lesson 5 begins with a recap of Lesson 4, and then I quickly introduce the Agenda for Lesson 5.

### Using Chords:

We start by learning the standard and essential open chords that every guitar player must learn. The following is a list of the chords that we learn in this lesson and a brief description on how to play them.

- **E Minor:**
  - Press your 2<sup>nd</sup> finger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the A string, and
  - Press your 3<sup>rd</sup> finger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the D string
  
- **E Major:**
  - Press your 2<sup>nd</sup> finger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the A string, and
  - Press your 3<sup>rd</sup> finger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the D string,
  - Press your 1<sup>st</sup> finger on the 1<sup>st</sup> fret of the G string
  
- **A Minor:**
  - Press your 2<sup>nd</sup> finger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the D string, and
  - Press your 3<sup>rd</sup> finger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the G string,
  - Press your 1<sup>st</sup> finger on the 1<sup>st</sup> fret of the B string
  
- **A Major:**
  - Press your 1<sup>st</sup> finger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the D string, and
  - Press your 2<sup>nd</sup> finger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the G string,
  - Press your 3<sup>rd</sup> finger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the B string
  - Or
  - Press your 2<sup>nd</sup> finger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the D string, and
  - Press your 3<sup>rd</sup> finger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the G string,
  - Press your 4<sup>th</sup> finger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the B string
  
- **D Major:**
  - Press your 1<sup>st</sup> Finger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the G string, and
  - Press your 2<sup>nd</sup> finger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the high E string, and
  - Press your 3<sup>rd</sup> finger on the 3<sup>rd</sup> fret of the B string,

### Learning How to Count:

After learning our chords, we discuss one of the most important topics for anyone endeavoring to play an instrument. This topic is timing and learning how to count. In western music, every composition/song is divided into segments called measures, which we learned back in Lesson 1. Each measure contains a certain number of beats. The number of beats is determined by the time signature. There exist many different time signatures, but the most common is the time signature 4/4 and called “four-four.” This means that there are four beats per measure, and we count a song that is in 4/4, “one, two, three, four, one, two, three, four, one, two, three, four, etc.” No matter in what time signature we are, we can use a device called a metronome to help us keep time. A metronome is a device that ticks a designated amount per minute. The most common metronome that everybody has already is a clock. There are 60 seconds, or 60 beats, in a minute. A metronome counts these beats per minutes at exactly even intervals, thereby making it a great tool to help you keep even time.

We then learn some of the fundamental timings and rhythms. You can do these examples with any of the chords that we learned. In numbers 1-5, we only use down strums.

1. The first is learning how to play a chord and count 4 beats. We play an E minor on beat 1, and let the chord ring out for the rest of the beats in the measure: E minor (beat 1) – beat 2 – beat 3 – beat 4
2. We then learn how to play a chord on beats 1 and 3, while letting the chord ring out on beats 2 and 4, respectively: A minor (beat 1) – beat 2 – A minor (beat 3) – beat 4
3. We then learn how to play a chord on every beat of the measure: D Major (beat 1) – D Major (beat 2) – D Major (beat 3) – D Major (beat 4)
4. Then we learn how to count “upbeats.” An upbeat is exactly half of a beat. So, in between beats 1 and 2 is the upbeat “and.” So, we count this as “one-and, two-and, three-and, four-and.” The one, two, three, and four are the downbeats. On the downbeats we strum downwards, and on the upbeat, we strum in the up direction. We learn how to play this rhythm using the D Major chord:  
D Major (beat 1) – D Major (beat 1-and), D Major (beat 2) – D Major (beat 2-and) – D Major (beat 3) – D Major (beat 3-and) – D Major (beat 4) – D Major (beat 4-and)
5. The last exercise combines each of the different lengths of notes.
  - a. In the first measure, we play the E major on beat 1 and let the chord ring for beats 2, 3, and 4.
  - b. In the second measure, we play the E major on beat 1, and let it ring for beat 2, and then we play the C major on beat 3, and let it ring over beat 4.
  - c. In the third measure, we play the E Major on beats 1, 2, 3, and 4.

- d. In the fourth measure, we play the E Major on beats 1, and, 2, and, 3, and, 4, and.

### Lesson 5 Songs:

- **Wild Things**
  - **First Measure – A Major**
    - Beat 1      Beat 2      Beat 3      Beat 4
    - Down                      Down
  - **Second Measure – D Major**
    - Beat 1      Beat 2      Beat 3      Beat 4
    - Down      Down
  - **Third Measure – E Major**
    - Beat 1      Beat 2      Beat 3      Beat 4
    - Down                      Down
  - **Fourth Measure – D Major**
    - Beat 1      Beat 2      Beat 3      Beat 4
    - Down      Down
  
- **G-L-O-R-I-A**
  - **Measure One – E Major**
    - Beat 1      Beat 2      Beat 3      Beat 4
    - Down
  - **Measure Two – D Major for beats 1 & 2, A Major for beats 3 & 4**
    - Beat 1      Beat 2      Beat 3      Beat 4
    - Down                      Down
  - **Measure Three – E Major**
    - Beat 1      Beat 2      Beat 3      Beat 4
    - Down
  - **Measure Four – D Major for beats 1 & 2, A Major for beats 3 & 4**
    - Beat 1      Beat 2      Beat 3      Beat 4
    - Down                      Down
  
- **What I Like About You**
  - **First Measure – E Major on beats 1 & 2 &, A Major on beats 3 & 4 &**
    - Beat 1 and Beat 2 and Beat 3 and Beat 4 and
    - Down(E)      Down Up      Down(A)      Down Up
  - **Second Measure – D Major on beats 1 & 2, A Major on the “and” of 2, 3 & 4**
    - Beat 1 and Beat 2 and      Beat 3 and      Beat 4 and
    - Down(D)      Down (A)Up      Down Up      Down Up
  - **Third Measure – E Major on beats 1 & 2 &, A Major on beats 3 & 4 &**
    - Beat 1 and Beat 2 and Beat 3 and Beat 4 and
    - Down(E)      Down Up      Down(A)      Down Up
  - **Fourth Measure – D Major on beats 1 & 2, A Major on the “and” of 2, 3 & 4**

- Beat 1 and Beat 2 and Beat 3 and Beat 4 and
- Down(D) Down (A)Up Down Up Down Up

If you would like to take part of the weekly interaction, please do so at [www.facebook.com/shawacademy](http://www.facebook.com/shawacademy).

If, at any point, you need assistance or have any questions, please feel free to email me. This concludes the summary for Lesson 5.



THANK YOU

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