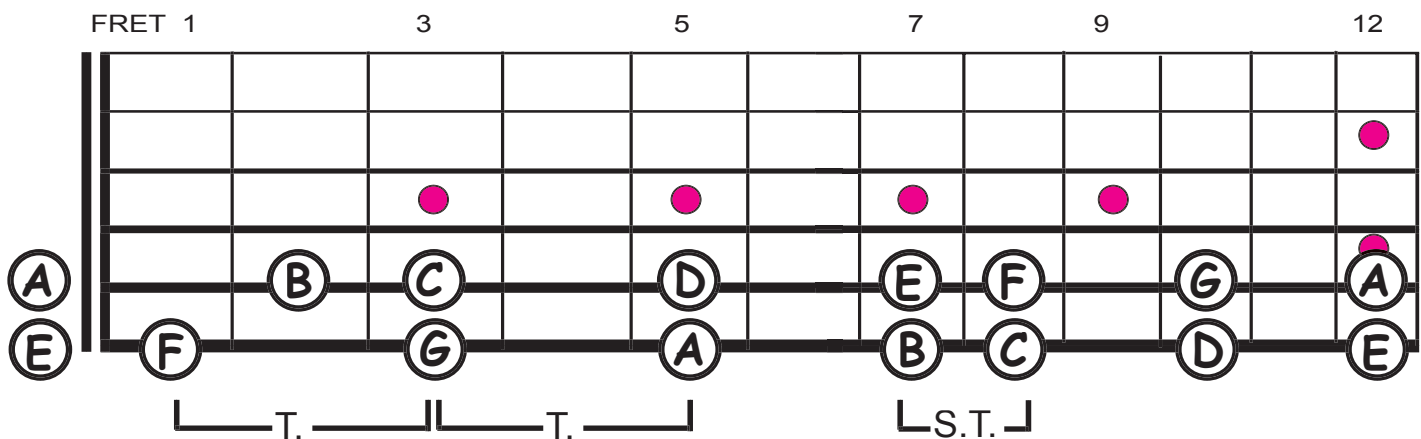


## NATURAL NOTES ON THE E AND A STRINGS

Knowing the notes along the E and A strings are critical for any player on any level. They serve as root notes for chords, scales and arpeggios that move up the neck. They are also a platform for eventually knowing all the notes on all the strings. This knowledge naturally facilitates music reading - if that's a goal of yours.

I'm a believer in taking minimal amounts of information and stretching it as far as you can. If you see a guitar method book that shows you all the notes on all the strings - burn it! If you take the time and effort to simply learn the natural notes on the E and A string, that's enough.

Natural means not sharp (#) or flat (b). The white keys on a keyboard are natural the black are sharp or flat.



The notes on both strings follow an alphabetical order. After the G note the next natural note goes back to A then B etc.

The 12th fret note is a higher version of the open string note (one octave higher).

The entire sequence is contained within 12 frets. For electric guitars, the notes occurring past the 12th fret, are an exact repetition of the same notes (an octave higher).

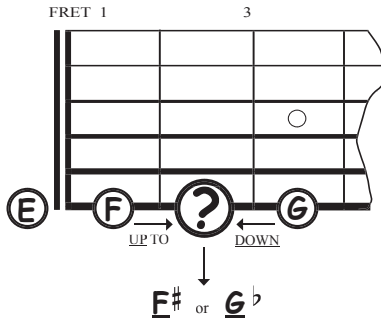
**TONE = 2 FRETS APART. SEMI-TONE = 1 FRET APART.**

These terms are universal to any pitched (note producing) instrument. A tone manifests itself on the guitar as 2 frets apart and a semi-tone as 1 fret apart.

The following rule is true for any pitched instrument – **ALL NATURAL NOTES** are a **TONE APART** except for **B to C** and **E to F** which are always a **SEMI - TONE** apart. If you have a keyboard the 2 pairs of white keys side by side are B to C and E to F.

## NATURAL NOTES ON THE E AND A STRINGS

# SHARPS go UP in pitch. ♭ FLATS go DOWN in pitch. (Like a flat tyre).  
 The gaps between natural notes are seen as either sharp or flat



The note on fret 2 on the E string looks and sounds a semi-tone higher than the note F on fret 1 therefore it can be called F# (F sharp). It also looks and sounds a semi-tone lower than the note G on fret 3 so it can also be referred to as G♭ (G flat). They're both fundamentally the same note.

Understanding the concept of sharps and flats means that you only need to focus on memorising the natural notes then you can figure out the sharps and flats off the natural notes as you're going along.

7 natural notes and 5 sharp/flat notes. 7 + 5 = 12 notes. In western music there are only 12 notes.

### E AND A STRING NOTE WORKOUTS

In the following examples name and play each of the notes. Don't write out the note names.

①

T																
A																
B	0	0	1	1	3	3	5	5	7	7	8	8	10	10	12	12

↑      ↑  
 NAME AND PLAY      etc.....

②

T															
A															
B	0	2	1	3	3	5	5	7	7	9	8	10	10	12	12

③

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

④

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