

LESSON 15

Learning B and C on the First String

A = first finger fifth fret B = third finger seventh fret C = fourth finger eighth fret

The diagram shows a single treble clef staff representing the first string. Three notes are marked with fingerings and fret numbers: note A at the 5th fret with the first finger (1), note B at the 7th fret with the third finger (3), and note C at the 8th fret with the fourth finger (4).

We have already learned to play the high **A** on the first string. To this we will add the high **B** and High **C**. Notice that if we play one note after the other, it can be said that we are playing in the 5th Position. That simply means that the index finger is located at the fifth fret. Indeed, when we talk about playing in 2nd Position, or 3rd Position or 7th Position for example, we are always referring to the fret at which the index finger of the left hand is located. This idea of playing in different positions on the fretboard will become very important as we play more and more notes higher up on the fretboard. In future lessons we will talk at length about how awareness of the position in which we find ourselves will enable us to shift between positions with ease and confidence.

Exercise 17

Pos. V

The exercise is written in 4/4 time. The first staff (I) contains a sequence of notes on the first string with fingerings: *i* (open), *m* (3rd fret), *i* (4th fret), *m* (3rd fret), *i* (1st fret), *m* (open), *i* (1st fret), *m* (open), *i* (1st fret), *m* (open), *i* (1st fret), *m* (open), *i* (1st fret). The second staff (II) contains a continuous eighth-note pattern on the first string, starting from the open string and ascending to the 8th fret.

Little Dance

Musical staff 1: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes with fingerings 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm'. The bass line features chords and single notes.

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The melody continues with fingerings 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i'. The bass line features chords and single notes. The word *Fine* is written at the end of the staff.

Musical staff 3: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The melody starts with a measure of rest, then continues with fingerings 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm'. A *Pos.V* bracket is above the 5th measure. The bass line features chords and single notes.

Musical staff 4: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The melody starts with a measure of rest, then continues with fingerings 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm', 'i', 'm'. A *Pos.V* bracket is above the 5th measure. The word *D.C. al Fine* is written at the end of the staff. The bass line features chords and single notes.

The Minstrel's Lament

The musical score consists of six staves of guitar notation. The first five staves are in treble clef with a common time signature. The sixth staff begins with a C-clef (soprano clef) and a common time signature. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 above notes, and dynamics like *i* (accents) and *m* (mezzo-forte) are placed above notes. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and repeat signs. Specific performance instructions are written above the staves: "Pos. V" and "Pos. III" above the fifth staff, and "To Coda" above the third staff, and "D.C. al Coda" above the sixth staff.

Nocturne

Pos. V

Pos. V

Pos. V

Fine

Pos. III

Pos. V

D.S. al Fine

Song Without Words #2

In this piece we encounter a new symbol: a circled number (Ⓜ). In guitar music a circled number indicates on which string to play a certain note. Observe that the first section of this piece can be played entirely in the 5th Position. In order to accomplish this the **E**, **F** and **G** which are normally played in 1st Position on the 1st string are now to be played in 5th Position on the second string. The left-hand fingering will tell you in which fret to play these notes in 5th Position since each finger relates to one fret.

Pos.V

The score is written in 4/4 time and consists of five systems of music. The first system is labeled 'Pos.V' and contains three measures. The second system contains four measures, with a circled '2' (Ⓜ) above the first measure. The third system contains four measures, ending with the word 'Fine'. The fourth system is labeled 'Pos.III' and contains four measures. The fifth system is labeled 'Pos.III' and 'Pos.V' and contains four measures, ending with 'D.C. al Fine'. The notation includes treble clefs, stems with flags, and various guitar-specific symbols like 'i' (index), 'm' (middle), and circled numbers (Ⓜ) indicating string numbers. Fingering numbers (1-4) are placed below notes. Chords are indicated by vertical lines with dots on the staff.

Fine

D.C. al Fine

A Lazy Two-Step

Note the use of the 5th position in measures 13 through 16 and the use of the E, F and G on the second string in measures 13 and 14.

Pos.V ————— Pos.III

Fine

Pos.III

Pos.V

D.C. al Fine