

MSA STEEL GUITAR COURSE

BOOK ONE

SteelGuitarForum.com

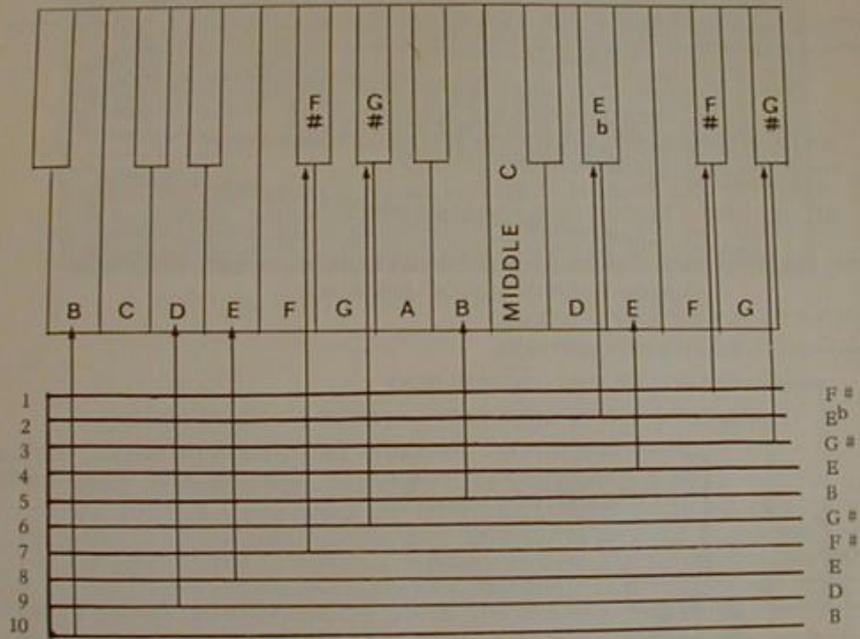


FREEMAN COWGAR

FOR THE HONORABLE GEORGE

TUNING OPEN BY USE OF THE PIANO

IF YOU HAVE A PIANO AVAILABLE, THIS IS ONE OF THE EASIEST WAYS TO TUNE THE STEEL GUITAR. EACH STRING IS MATCHED WITH THE NOTE ON THE PIANO, INDICATED BY AN ARROW, WITH REFERENCE TO MIDDLE C ON THE PIANO KEYBOARD.



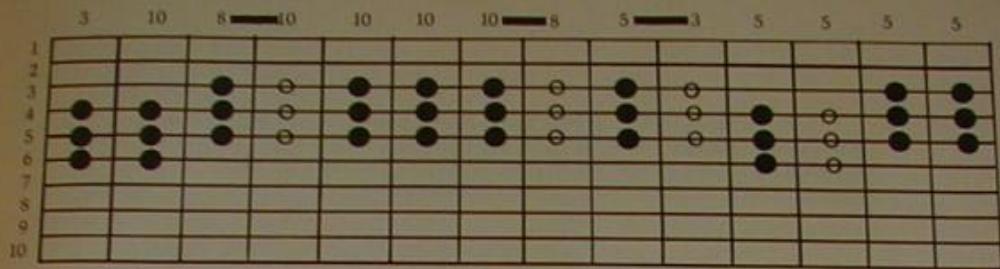


MAURICE ANDERSON

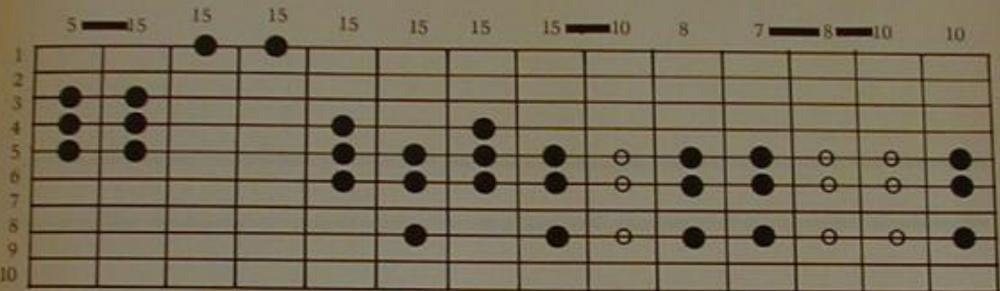
YOU SHOULD, AT THIS POINT, BE FAMILIAR WITH YOUR GUITAR AND HAVE LEARNED HOW TO PLAY SOME SONGS. NOW YOU CAN GO FORWARD TO BOOK II AND BE INTRODUCED TO THE USE OF SPLIT PEDALS, KNEE LEVERS, AND MORE CHORD GROUPS.

NOW YOU ARE READY FOR

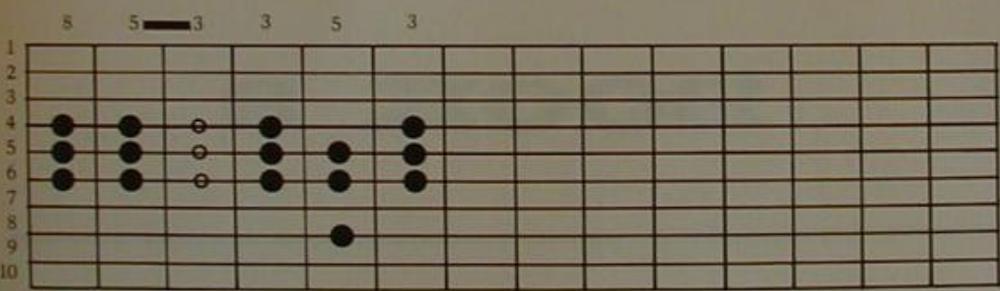
BOOK 2



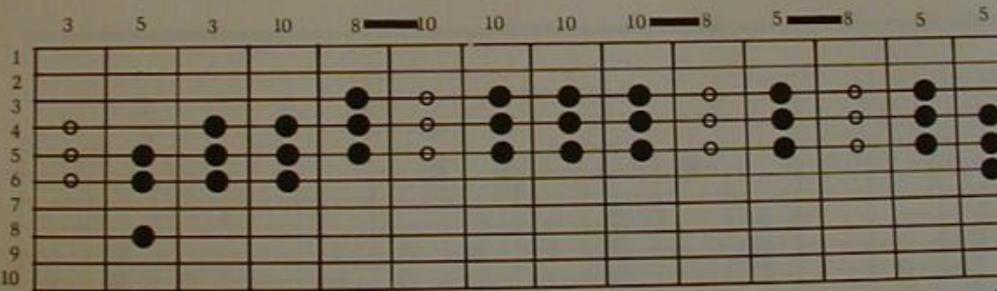
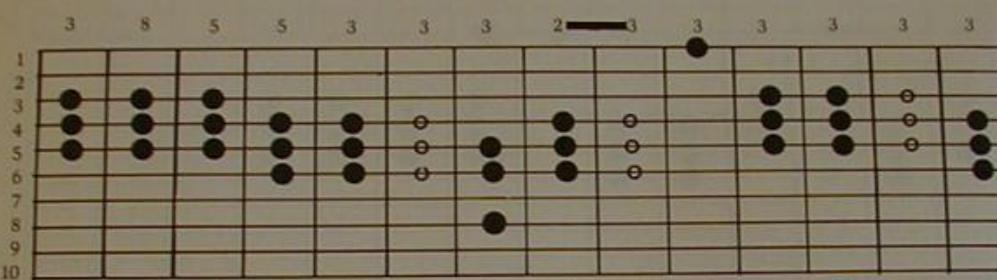
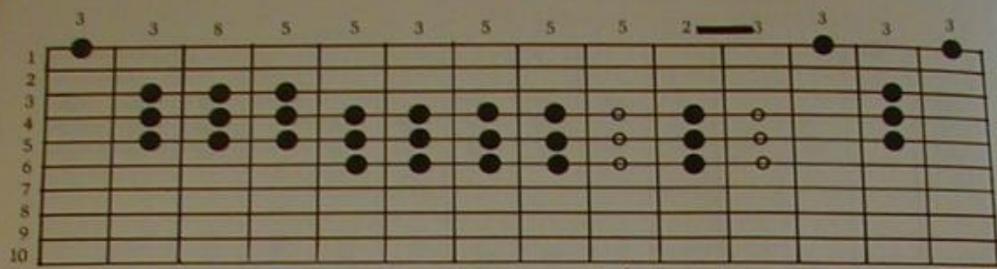
A B A B B C A B B C



B C A B A B A B A B A B A B



B C B C A B A B



5 5 5 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 3 3 10 10

A B B C B C B C

10 10 5 5 10 10 11 12 11 10

REPEAT BEGINNING

B C B C B C B C B C

KEY of G

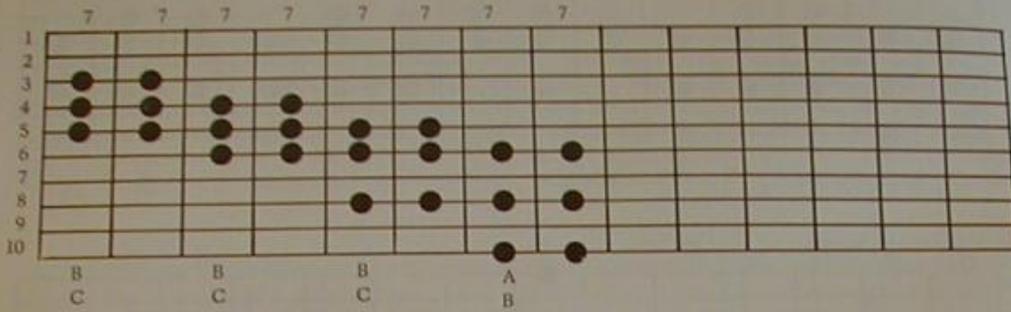
LONDONDERRY AIRE

2 3 3 3 3 8 5 5 3 3 3 2 3

A B A B A B B C B C B C A B A B A B

CONT

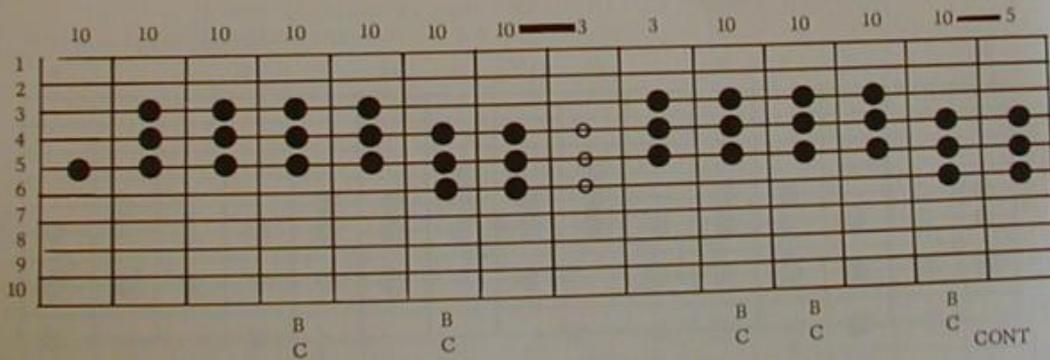
AT THIS POINT, YOU ARE READY TO BEGIN USING YOUR B & C PEDALS. PRACTICE THE FOLLOWING EXERCISES USING THESE PEDALS AND GET USED TO THE SOUND OF THE CHORDS. NOTICE HOW IT DIFFERS FROM THE A & B PEDAL SOUND.

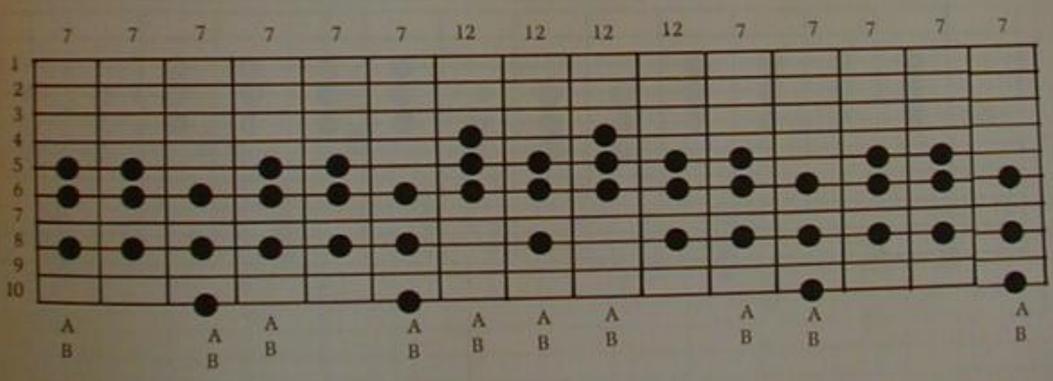
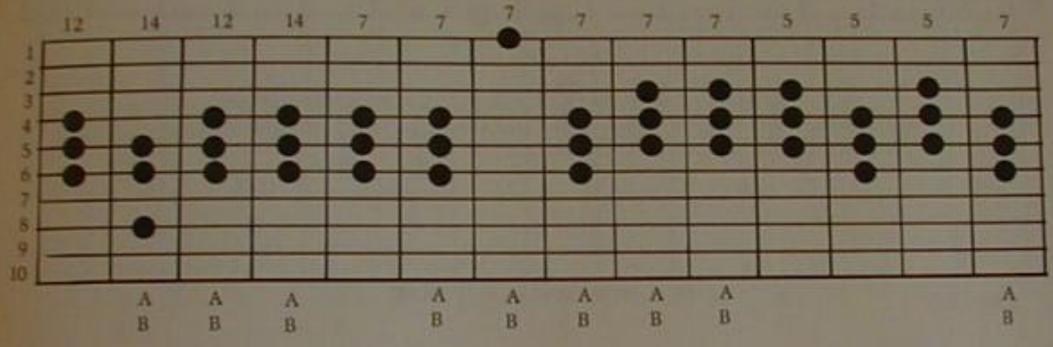
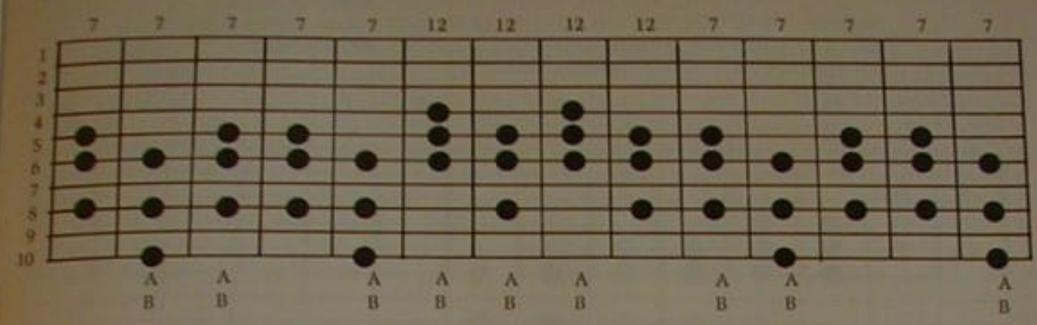


YOU ARE NOW READY TO DO YOUR FIRST SONGS USING B AND C PEDALS. TAKE YOUR TIME AND FOLLOW ALL THE SYMBOLS NOTED ON YOUR DIAGRAMS VERY CAREFULLY.

KEY of D.

NOBODY'S DARLIN BUT MINE





KEY of D

ON TOP OF OLD SMOKY

5 5 5 5 10 10 10 10 10 10 5 5 5 5

A B S A B S A B S A B S A B S A B S
 (REPEAT) BACK TO BEGINNING

A B A B A B A B A B A B A B A B

AFTER LEARNING TO PLAY "ON TOP OF OLD "SMOKY" LET'S TRY ANOTHER SONG USING OUR A & B PEDALS ONLY.

KEY of E

OLD FOLKS AT HOME

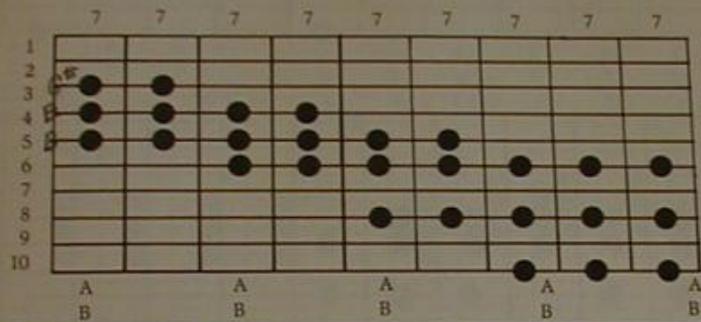
7 7 7 7 7 7 12 12 12 12 7 7 7 7

A B A B A B A B A B A B A B A B

CONT

WE HAVE, AT THIS POINT, LEARNED HOW TO HOLD OUR BAR AND POSITION OUR FINGERS, AS WELL AS HOW TO TUNE THE GUITAR AND PLAY 4 BASIC GROUPS. NOW LET'S TRY OUR PEDALS AND SEE WHAT THEY DO. THE PEDALS RAISE AND LOWER PRE-SELECTED STRINGS AND CHANGE OUR CHORD STRUCTURE BY CHANGING NOTES WITHIN THE CHORD.

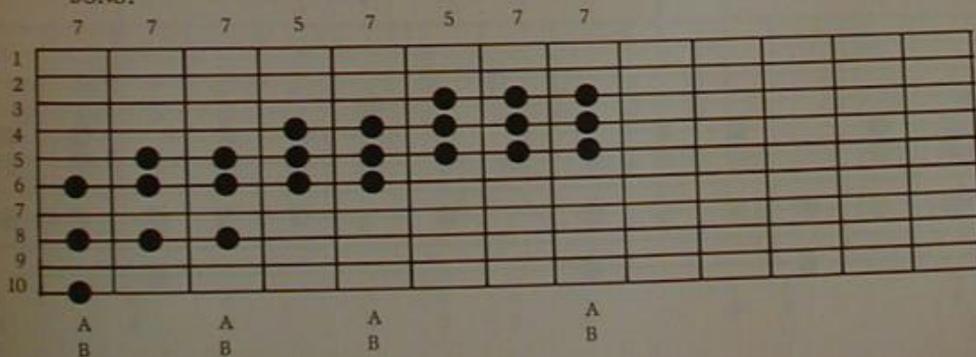
WE ARE NOT CONCERNED WITH TEACHING NOTES IN BOOK I. YOU CAN CONCENTRATE ON GETTING THE FEEL OF THE INSTRUMENT BY BECOMING FAMILIAR WITH THE MECHANICS OF THE STEEL GUITAR.



WE CAN NOW LEARN THE SCALE IN MAJOR CHORDS. YOU ARE GOING TO PLAY:

DO RE ME FA SO LA TE DO

AFTER LEARNING THIS, YOU WILL BE READY TO PLAY YOUR FIRST SONG.



RIGHT HAND POSITION

ONE PLASTIC THUMB PICK AND THREE METAL FINGER PICKS ARE USED. THIS COURSE DOES NOT UTILIZE THE 3RD METAL FINGER PICK, BUT BY BECOMING USED TO IT BEING ON THE FINGER, IT WILL MAKE FUTURE APPLICATION SIMPLE. STUDY CAREFULLY THE POSITION OF THE FINGERS AND PICKS IN THE PICTURE BELOW.

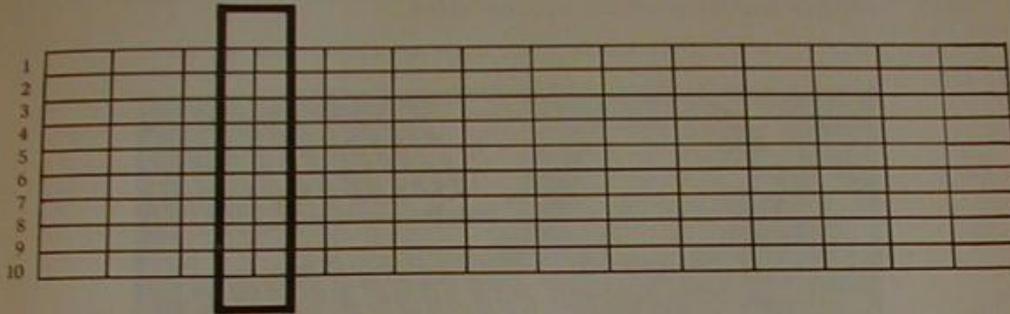


BLOCKING OR MUTING THE STRINGS

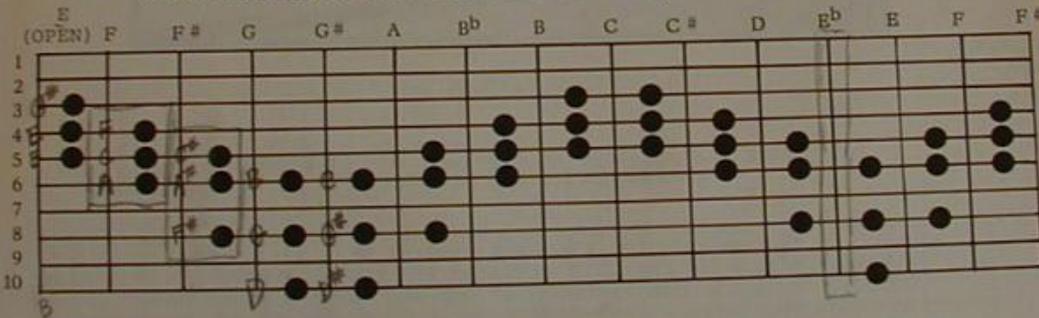
IT IS IMPORTANT TO KILL THE RINGING OF A STRING OR STRINGS AS SOON AS THE NOTE SUSTAINS THE PROPER NUMBER OF COUNTS. THIS IS DONE BY ALLOWING THE HEEL OF THE RIGHT HAND TO TOUCH THE STRINGS JUST BEFORE THE NEXT STRING OR GROUP OF STRINGS IS TOUCHED.

WHEN LEARNED PROPERLY, BLOCKING BECOMES A NATURAL PART OF YOUR PLAYING. DO NOT ALLOW YOUR PLAYING TO BECOME CHOPPY BY OVER BLOCKING.

THE BAR SHOULD BE HELD DIRECTLY OVER THE FRET THAT IS BEING PLAYED AS ILLUSTRATED BELOW.



THE GUITAR FRETS ARE POSITIONED SO THAT WHEN THE BAR IS HELD OVER THE FRET, IT WILL RING A TRUE CHORD WHEN PROPER STRINGS ARE PICKED. MEMORIZE THESE CHORDS AT EACH FRET WITH PEDALS UP. PRACTICING PLAYING DIFFERENT GROUPS AT EACH FRET AS YOU PROGRESS UP THE NECK USING YOUR BAR.



FROM THE NUT OR OPEN TO THE 12TH FRET IS ONE OCTAVE.
FROM THE FIRST FRET TO THE 13TH FRET IS ONE OCTAVE AND ETC.
THIS WILL BE EXPLAINED IN DETAIL AS WE PROGRESS.

*Note - Note above how chords form a pattern such as fret # 0 same as #7
" # 1 " " #6
" # 2 " " #5
" # 3 " " #4*

CHORD GROUPS

NOW THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED HOW TO POSITION YOUR PICKS, LET'S LEARN THE FOLLOWING CHORD GROUPS. THESE GROUPS ARE VERY IMPORTANT AND WILL BE USED IN MOST EVERYTHING YOU WILL EVER PLAY, SO TAKE YOUR TIME AND LEARN THEM WELL. DOTS ARE PLACED ON THE STRINGS TO BE PICKED. ALL STRINGS SHOWN IN EACH GROUP ARE PLAYED TOGETHER.

T - THUMB
I - INDEX FINGER
M - MIDDLE FINGER

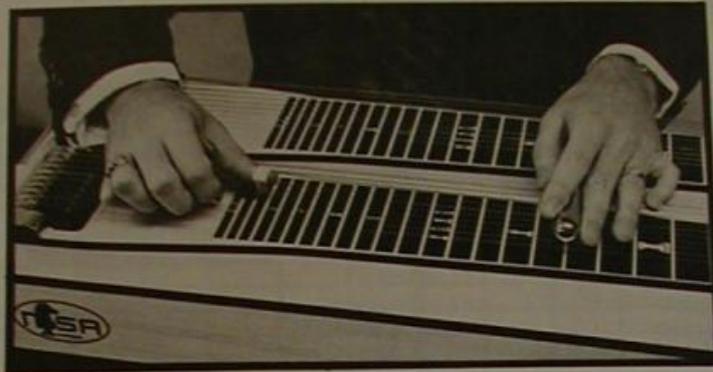
BE SURE TO PICK EACH STRING WITH THE PROPER FINGER, FOLLOW THE DOTS VERY CAREFULLY. THESE GROUPS ARE NUMBERED ONE THROUGH FOUR, MEMORIZE THEM BY NUMBER AS THEY WILL BE USED IN YOUR FOLLOWING BOOKS OF INSTRUCTION.

Groups

	1	2	3	4															
1																			
2																			
3	M																		
4	I	M																	
5	T	I	M																
6		T	I	M															
7																			
8			T	I															
9																			
10								T											

LEFT HAND POSITION

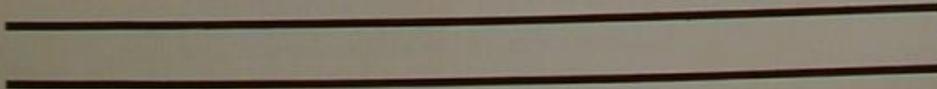
STUDY CAREFULLY THE POSITION OF THE BAR AND LEFT HAND AS NOTED BELOW. THE THREE FINGERS ON THE LEFT HAND ARE ALLOWED TO REST ON THE STRINGS. THIS ELIMINATES STRING BUZZ.



LEFT AND RIGHT HAND IN READY TO PLAY POSITION.

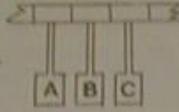
MOST BEGINNERS FIND THE LEFT HAND STARTS CRAMPING AFTER HOLDING THE BAR A FEW MINUTES. THIS IS BECAUSE YOU ARE PUTTING THE HAND IN AN UNFAMILIAR POSITION. TO HELP ELIMINATE THIS, HOLD THE BAR AS RELAXED AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN THE INDEX AND MIDDLE FINGER WITH THE THUMB PRESSING SLIGHTLY ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE BAR. PRESSURE WILL BE REQUIRED ON TOP OF THE BAR WITH THE INDEX FINGER, BUT ONLY ENOUGH TO OBTAIN A CLEAR SOUND FROM THE STRINGS.

KEEP THE LEFT HAND RELAXED.



INFORMATION SHEET FOR STEEL GUITAR COURSE BOOK 1

- A - FIRST PEDAL
- B - SECOND PEDAL
- C - THIRD PEDAL
- K - KNEE PEDAL



IF A PEDAL SYMBOL DOES NOT APPEAR UNDER THE GROUP OR STRINGS PICKED, NO PEDALS ARE USED.

SLURS OR EXPRESSION WITH THE PEDALS

- (A) PEDALS OR PEDAL DEPRESSED IMMEDIATELY AFTER STRINGS ARE PICKED.
- (B)
- (A) PEDALS OR PEDAL RELEASED AFTER STRINGS HAVE BEEN PICKED.
- (B)
- (A) COMBINATION OF ABOVE OR THIS WOULD BE A COMPLETE CYCLE OF THE PEDALS.
- (B)

PICKING ORDER

- M MIDDLE FINGER - PICKS STRING IN GROUP FARTHEST AWAY.
- I INDEX FINGER - MIDDLE STRING IN GROUP
- T THUMB - STRING NEAREST PLAYER IN GROUP. THIS ORDER OF PICKING WILL BE USED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

STRING NUMBER - NUMBER ONE STRING IS THE STRING FARTHEST FROM THE PLAYER WHEN IN PLAYING POSITION.

GROUP OR STRING THAT IS PICKED.

FRET NUMBER (BAR POSITION)

SUSTAIN (LET RING - DO NOT PICK)

SLIDE BAR TO NEXT FRET - STRINGS CONTINUE RINGING.

WHEN THIS SYMBOL CONNECTS TWO CHORDS OR NOTES, THEY ARE TO BE PLAYED QUICKLY, TOGETHER, THEY RECEIVE ONLY ONE COUNT. THEY WOULD BE 1/8 NOTES.

A
B PEDALS

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE NECK OF THE GUITAR. AS YOU LOOK DOWN AT THE STRINGS, YOU SEE THE FRET BOARD. THIS IS NAMED SO BECAUSE THE LINES RUNNING UP AND DOWN ARE CALLED FRETS.

THESE ARE COUNTED FROM THE LEFT TO RIGHT BEGINNING WITH ONE ON THROUGH TO THE END OF THE FRET BOARD. THESE FRETS BECOME POSITION MARKERS FOR YOU.

	E	F	F [#]	G	G [#]	A	B ^b	B	C	C [#]	D	E ^b	E		
1															
2															
3															
4															
5															
6															
7															
8															
9															
10															
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

EACH FRET ON THE GUITAR IS ONE HALF (1/2) STEP. THEREFORE, IT TAKES TWO FRETS TO MAKE A WHOLE TONE. THERE IS ONLY ONE HALF (1/2) STEP OR TONE BETWEEN E AND F AND B AND C. LOOK AT A PIANO KEYBOARD AND NOTICE A BLACK KEY DOES NOT APPEAR BETWEEN THESE NOTES.

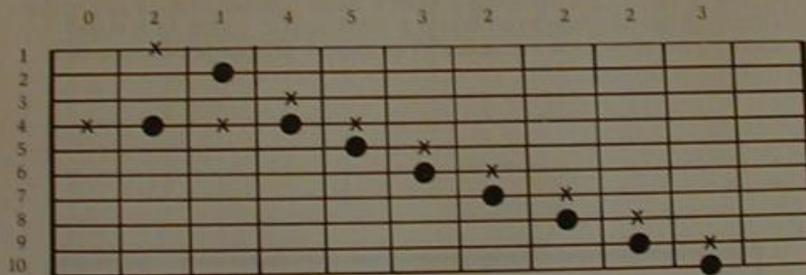
STUDY THE POSITIONS OF YOUR FRETS AND LEARN THEM WELL, AS THIS WILL IMPROVE YOUR PLAYING SPEED TREMENDOUSLY.

THE TUNING IN THIS COURSE IS THE E 9TH CHROMATIC.
 IT IS THE ONE USED BY MOST STEEL GUITARISTS TODAY. TUNING
 YOUR GUITAR SHOULD BE DONE AS FOLLOWS:

TEN STGS	PEDAL BY NOTE				STRING GAUGE
	A	B	C	KNEE	
1	F#				.013
2	E \flat			D	.015
3	G#	A			.011
4	E		F#		.014
5	B	C#	C#		.017
6	G#	A			.020
7	F#			E \flat	.026W
8	E				.030W
9	D				.034W
10	B	C#			.036W

F. steel

TUNING BY EAR



TUNE E OR THE 4TH STRING OPEN, USING A PITCH PIPE OR TUNING FORK.
 THEN PLACE THE BAR ON THE DOT AT THE PROPER FRET INDICATED AT TOP
 OF STAFF AND MATCH WITH OPEN STRING INDICATED WITH "X".