

(Book 4) Lesson 33a.

Reading

A study of the Italian solfeggio system was very helpful to me. However, in trying to teach it, I was not too successful. It seems that at that particular time, study away from the guitar was not acceptable. While reading ability may indeed be mostly garnished through experience, I do believe that the drummer's approach that I will show you, will go a long way to help speed the reading process. You will use your left foot, the right hand and your ability to speak letter names. In common or 4/4 time, your foot is always the same.

A musical staff with a treble clef and a common time signature. Below the staff, there are four groups of foot directions. Each group consists of a downward-pointing 'V' and an upward-pointing '^'. The groups are numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4. The first group has 'down' and 'up' written below the 'V' and '^' respectively. The second group has 'down' and 'up' written below the 'V' and '^' respectively. The third group has 'down' and 'up' written below the 'V' and '^' respectively. The fourth group has 'down' and 'up' written below the 'V' and '^' respectively. The word 'foot' is written to the left of the first group.

Be sure that the down and up beats are equal in length.

Your right hand (r.h.) will lightly slap your right thigh.

A musical staff with a treble clef and a common time signature. Above the staff, there are four groups of right hand directions. Each group consists of a downward-pointing 'V' and an upward-pointing '^'. The groups are numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4. The word 'r.h.' is written above the first group.

Foot directions shown below the staff.

If necessary, practice these movements until they feel comfortable.

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Reading will now be practiced using the following steps. Do not skip any and do not move ahead until each one is mastered.

1. Read all of the note names out loud (no tempo)

2. Tap all timings (foot and right hand)

3. Tap, read and speak all letter names in tempo.

4. Talk over the note locations by fret number and string number.

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When this is accomplished, pick up your guitar and play the music just as you have learned it.

It is also a good idea to play the scale you have chosen in the key of the exercise or song is written in. Do this in all positions you decide to play in.

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Editor's Note: This page does not negate any other previous instructions on reading. This is simply another approach to the problems that may occur. Similarly, the suggestions on fingering are not carved in stone. The beauty of the guitar is that many players playing the same tune on similar instruments can sound quite different largely due to their fingering choices.

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