Lesson 8a.

The "FLAT" Sign (♭)

The "flat" is the opposite to a "sharp." In other words, it lowers the following note by one fret which in musical terms is a distance of a "half tone" or "semi-tone." Usually, the flat causes no great problem if it is used on a note that is a fingered note.

For example, the note "G flat" is at the 2nd fret on the first string because the note "G" is at the third fret. Similarly, "D flat" is at the 2nd fret of the second string. The note "A flat" is at the 1st fret of the thirds string.

An interesting problem arises when the flat sign is in front of a note which normally would be an open string. Because the open string is the lowest note that can be played on that particular string, the flat sign now moves the note to the next lower pitched string. If you remember the tuning procedure of the guitar, this should pose no real difficulty.

The above explanation may seem confusing at first but take some time to think about it and things should become clear. This is related to the subject of tuning the guitar.

Progress Report: