

# FRETBOARD NOTES

In music we use the letters A, B, C, D, E, F and G to name the notes. The notes go up in the sequence A, B, C, D, E, F, G and then the letters just repeat again as you go higher – so after G you go back to A again, and so on.

There are also notes called “sharps”, using the symbol #, and “flats”, using the symbol b. If a note is “sharp” it is one fret higher than the normal note; so A# is one fret above A. If a note is “flat” it is one fret lower than the normal note, so Ab is one fret below A.

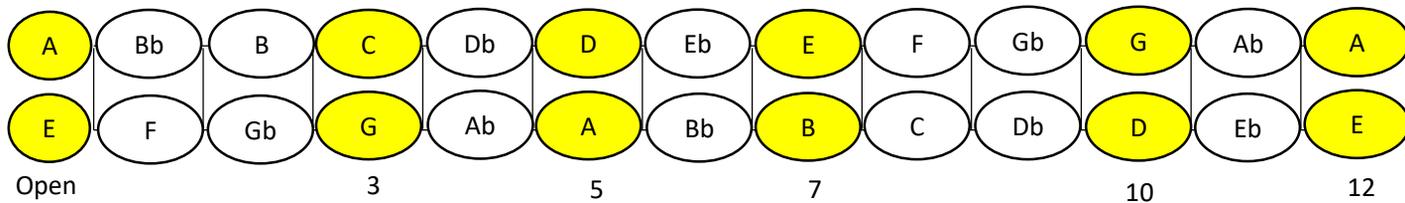
Here are all the notes laid out one after another:

C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B
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Look – some of the notes have two names. C and D for example are two frets apart, so with C# being one fret above C and Db being one fret below D, they’ll end up both being the same note. Same note – different names. You can use either name; they’re both correct.

You’ll notice that there isn’t an E#/Fb – this is because E and F are only a semi-tone apart, so there isn’t any room for an extra note between them! The same applies to B#/Cb – the note doesn’t exist.

Here are the notes on the low E string and the A string, up to the 12<sup>th</sup> fret:



Learn these first; then we’ll use them to figure out the rest.

Here’s how you learn them easily: learn the ones that are **open, 3<sup>rd</sup> fret, 5<sup>th</sup> fret, 7<sup>th</sup> fret, and 10<sup>th</sup> fret** (these are the **yellow** ones above).

The others can be figured out from these on-the-fly – so if you wanted to know the note on the 8<sup>th</sup> fret of the low E string, you’d look at the 7<sup>th</sup> fret (which is B) and then work out that the 8<sup>th</sup> fret is one fret above, so it must be C. The pattern then repeats itself every 12 frets, so the 13<sup>th</sup> fret on the E string is F, for example.

So, on the low E the open string is E (obviously), the 3<sup>rd</sup> fret is G, the 5<sup>th</sup> fret is A, the 7<sup>th</sup> fret is B and the 10<sup>th</sup> fret is D. Think of a mnemonic to remember it, like **“Every Gorilla Always Bathes Daily”**. The weirder the better!

Then, do the same for the A string – so the notes on the A string are 0=A, 3=C, 5=D, 7=E, 10=G **“Albino Cats Don’t Eat Greens”**. The weirder it is, the easier it’ll be to remember it.

Memorise these two shapes and you’ll be able to use the notes on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> strings to figure out the notes on all of the other strings. The red note is the one you start on, and the rest are where you’ll find notes with the same name – so start on A, and all of the other notes in that pattern will also be A. Get used to these patterns and go through them until you instinctively know where the notes are.

**Every Gorilla Always Bathes Daily**  
**Albino Cats Don’t Eat Greens**

