

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Slap

The striking of a string by the thumb. The strike is made by a flick of the wrist and forms the basis of slap bass but can be done on an electric guitar.

Slur

A form of legato in which hammer-ons and pull-offs are used to move smoothly between a series of notes.

Solid Body

A guitar body that does not use hollow cavities to resonate sound (electric guitars). Acoustic guitars never have solid bodies.

Sound Hole

The hole in an acoustic guitar that allows sound to resonate within the hollow body.

Staccato

Cutting a note short to give a percussive effect.

Standard Tuning

The guitar is generally tuned EADGBE low to high.

Static Bridge

A bridge that does not move (has no vibrato system). As opposed to a floating bridge.

Stomp Box

A type of pedal that has its own built in effects (distortion for example) that can be turned on and off by stomping on the switch. Enables effects to be activated easily whilst standing up.

String Winder

A swivel device with a handle with a fixture that fits over the tuning keys.

Strumming

Performed with a pick or the fingers. Generally consists of brushing across 2-6 strings in a rhythmic up and down fashion appropriate to the tune being played.

Suspended Chord

A chord based on the major triad, but with the third replaced with the major second or perfect fourth, known as suspended second and suspended fourth chords.

Sweep Picking

Picking single notes with the fluid motion of a strum whilst sounding like a single-note line. This is achieved by using a series of down- or upstrokes to pick single notes on consecutive strings.

Tablature or Tab

A system of writing music for fretted instruments whereby a number or letter appears on lines representing the strings, indicating the fret to be played.

Transcription

To write a solo, note for note, off of a recording.

Transpose

To change the key of a piece of music by a specific interval.

Travis Picking

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A style where quarter notes are plucked with a plectrum and fingers pluck the other strings. Used in country music.

Treble Clef

A symbol that wraps around the second lowest line of a musical staff. The symbol is also known as the G clef as it dictates the note that the line represents.

Tremolo

A technique performed with either a very rapid down-up movement of the pick or a pami plucking of the fingers.

Tremolo Bar

The removable metal bar that can be attached to the bridge. The bar is depressed to cause a drop in pitch and raised to cause a jump up in pitch. Also can be used for vibrato.

Tremolo Picking

A technique where a note is picked as rapidly as possible for a set duration of time. A tremolo picked note is notated as normal but with three diagonal lines below the number on the tab.

Triad

A three-note chord.

Truss Rod Cover

Thin plate that covers the entrance to the truss rod. Usually located just above the nut.

Tuner

An electronic tuning device.

Vibrato

To vibrate by slightly altering a pitch higher and lower.

Voicing

The arrangement of the member notes of a chord, or placement of the melody or bass line within a harmonic progression.

Whammy Bar

The removable metal bar that can be attached to the bridge. The bar is depressed to cause a drop in pitch and raised to cause a jump up in pitch. Also can be used for vibrato.