

Rockin' Resources to Take Home!

Online:

Ultimate-guitar.com – My go-to site for tabs and lead sheets. There are numerous lessons (including advanced playing concepts and techniques) and articles to broaden your class discussions if needed. Create a free profile to keep your tabs/songs organized and to offer students a list to choose from.

GuitarAlliance.com—excellent resource for hybrid tabs/sheet music, as well as discussions, articles, etc.

Lead Sheets (rated out of 5 stars)

Ultimate-guitar.com ★★★★★
GuitarETab.com ★★★★★
JellyNote.com ★★★
Chordify.com ★★★★★ ***Paid subscription required

Additional resources:

Riffstation (website) – A Fender-sponsored website that combines chord symbols and the actual recording of the song. The chords are calculated by a computer program, so rhythm/timing or chord names are only ~80% accurate. However, new players like how visible it makes the chord progression. Can transpose with a capo and reduce song speed to 75% or 50%.

Rocksmith 2014 Remastered (computer program) – Developed by Ubisoft, it is “Guitar Hero with a real guitar”. Requires medium-quality PC and \$20 software. It works best if you purchase one or two \$40 instrument cables, but Remastered edition can be played “acoustic”. Features include dynamic difficulty, playing lessons, technique building mini games, jam session mode, variable song speed, and “nonstop play” (randomly selected setlist).

Can purchase additional songs (DLC) or visit customsforge.com for free ones

[YouTube channel “The Riff Repeater”](#) – This guy plays through many of the popular songs on Rocksmith and posts them at 100% difficulty. Great for getting the Rocksmith experience without purchasing anything.

[YouTube channel “CWZ Video”](#) – Synced video with popular tabs

[YouTube channel “Tab Sheet Music”](#) – “Bouncing ball” play along video with simple tabs.

Not too many popular tabs, unless you're really into Anime

Basic versions of common chords

(there is no basic version of D)

	G	D	Em	C	F	Bm	Am	
e		--3--2--0--0--1--2--0--						
B		--0--3--0--1--1--3--1--						
G		--0--2--0--0--4--2--						
D		----	0-----					
A		-----						
E		-----						

My road map for incorporating lead sheets

- Once the foundation for players' technique and coordination are established, introduce basic G C D Em
- Play lead sheets when chords are ready (usually same day or next day)
- Expand to fully-voiced G C D Em when students have them fast and correct (D chord usually tells the best)
- Add Am and E (fully-voiced, very similar to C chord), F basic voicing
- Add full Dmi, basic Bmi, and intermediate F (xx3211)
- From there, it's your call—ask students what they want?

Challenges to teaching/learning tabs

Terminology—make sure everyone is clear as to what “up, down, over, switch, etc” means to avoid confusion. Perhaps use guitar parts as reference (“slide closer to the bridge”).

Visual obstacles—the top line in tab is actually the bottom string when playing. Emphasize two things:

- 1) Tabs are displayed as if looking directly at the fingerboard (hold up guitar for reference)
- 2) Tabs are displayed as if you are looking down over your fingers/hands
- 3) Treble clef vs playing position: EGBDF and FACE go bottom to top, but string names go “top to bottom”, but string numbers go “bottom to top”.

Dexterity and strength—It's not natural to most and until calluses are developed, it will be slightly painful. Stick with the 1e and 2B strings in the first week.

Lead Sheets—Frustrating if they don't know the song, especially when to change chords. Make sure to give practice time during class to figure out the mechanical details.

Musical Experience—You have 10-30 years more experience than them. Remember that when estimating time required to learn a song, technique, or develop awareness. (This was my biggest downfall at first)

Extended learning opportunities

Learning Unit: Decades—Learn a song from the 60s/70s/80s and play in the appropriate style

Song writing—As a class, as individuals, etc. Simple melody on guitar or create lyrics over a generic chord progression (I V vi IV)

Learning Unit: The Blues—Take as much time as you'd like to dig in to the blues. There will be no shortage of materials (tabs, lead sheets, historical videos, audio samples)

Performances—Create mini concerts, open mics, or book venues to have students play and develop their skills for an audience. Play in the lobby of band/choir/orchestra concerts?

Learning Unit: Form—

Cultural Diversity Unit—Mexican, Irish, Slavic, American, English folk songs are awesomely applicable on guitar

Additional notes:

Tab ideas/practice

(font— Courier New)

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Tab ideas/practice

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