

TAB Reading

The lower 6 horizontal lines [with the numbers on] are known as Tablature or TAB for short. Each line represents a guitar string the bottom one being the thick string and the top one the thin string. Each guitar string has a letter name, from thick to thin they are E A D G B E.

An easy way to remember this is ;

Elephants And Donkeys Grow Big Ears

The numbers on the string lines refer to the frets [the metal lines along the neck]. So in the first bar you would play the thick E string whilst hold that string down at the 1st fret. In the second bar you would play the 2nd fret of the D string followed by the 2nd of the G. The 0 on the G string in the third bar means you play the string open [unfretted].

Rhythm Reading

4

The top set of 5 lines is called the Stave. The two numbers 4 is the time signature. This tells you there are 4 beats in each bar.

The note in the 1st bar is called a semibreve and lasts for 4 beats.

The notes in the 2nd bar are called minims and last for 2 beats.

The notes in the 3rd bar are called crotchets and last for 1 beat.

The notes in the 4th bar are called quavers and last for half a beat.

Try tapping your foot slowly and playing the melody. Each bar should last for 4 foot taps. In the 1st bar you should play 1 note per 4 foot taps. In the 2nd you should play 2 notes, one on the 1st tap and one on the 3rd. In the next bar you should play 1 note on each tap and in the last 2 notes for each tap. This is counted 1&2&3&4&.