

---

# PRAISE GUITAR

Since 1892

## Made Easy

---

Learning To Play Guitar  
for the Glory of God



*Fretboard*  
FELLOWSHIP

Praising God,  
Playing Guitar



# Praise Guitar Made Easy

*Learning to play guitar  
for the glory of God*

Since 1892

by **Steve Turley**

**Code No. 8084**

Distributed by

Hope Publishing Company  
Carol Stream, IL 60188

Phone: 800-323-1049

Visit HOPE PUBLISHING CO. on the internet at: [www.hopepublishing.com](http://www.hopepublishing.com)

Also Available: ***Praise and Worship Guitar:***  
***Advancing guitar skills for the glory of God*** — Code No. 8085

ISBN 0-9671749-0-2

Fretboard Fellowship

P.O. Box 28294

Parkville, MD 21234

1-800-770-0390

[www.fretboardfellowship.com](http://www.fretboardfellowship.com)

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®. NIV®.

Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society.

Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

© 1999 Fretboard Fellowship. All Rights Reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. All songs and quotes used by permission.

---

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

<b>Acknowledgments</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Praising God</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Playing Guitar</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>This is a guitar!</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>The Preliminary How-To's</b> .....	<b>9</b>
How to hold the guitar .....	9
How to hold a pick .....	9
How to position your left hand .....	9
How to finger notes .....	9
How to learn the guitar strings .....	10
Left hand fingers .....	10
How to read the chord charts .....	10
How to tune your guitar .....	11
<b>Week 1. The G, C, and D<sup>7</sup> Chords</b> .....	<b>12</b>
Amazing Grace .....	15
Silent Night .....	17
What A Friend We Have In Jesus .....	20
God Is So Good .....	22
The Solid Rock .....	23
<b>Week 2. The Am and Em Chords</b> .....	<b>25</b>
Father, I Adore You .....	26
The First Noel .....	27
Create In Me A Clean Heart .....	28
When I Survey The Wondrous Cross .....	30
<b>Week 3. The D and A Chords</b> .....	<b>31</b>
You Are The Vine .....	32
Jesus Loves Me .....	33
The Old Rugged Cross .....	34
<b>Week 4. Full C and G Chords</b> .....	<b>37</b>
It Is Well With My Soul .....	38
Holy, Holy, Holy .....	40
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee .....	41

<b>Week 5. The E and Dm Chords</b> .....	<b>42</b>
Seek Ye First .....	43
Majesty .....	44
He Is Exalted .....	46
<b>Week 6. Strum Patterns</b> .....	<b>47</b>
Awesome God .....	49
Lord, I Lift Your Name On High .....	51
<b>Week 7. The Bm Chord</b> .....	<b>52</b>
Praise To The Lord, The Almighty .....	53
The Church's One Foundation .....	54
<b>Week 8. The Fmaj<sup>7</sup> Chord</b> .....	<b>56</b>
Give Thanks .....	57
Shine, Jesus, Shine .....	58
O Sacred Head, Now Wounded .....	60
<b>Week 9. The B<sup>7</sup> Chord</b> .....	<b>61</b>
Great Is Thy Faithfulness .....	62
Glorify Thy Name .....	64
As The Deer .....	65
<b>Week 10. The Capo</b> .....	<b>66</b>
I Love You, Lord .....	67
What Child Is This .....	68
His Name Is Wonderful .....	70
<b>Week 11. The Hebrew Style</b> .....	<b>72</b>
King Of Kings .....	73
Jehovah Jireh, My Provider .....	74
Humble Thyself In The Sight Of The Lord .....	75
<b>Week 12. The Graduation Song</b> .....	<b>77</b>
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God .....	78
<b>Appendix</b> .....	<b>80</b>
Chord Chart .....	80
Reading Music .....	81
Practice Tips/Playing Tips.....	82
Steve Turley .....	83
Fretboard Fellowship .....	84

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would first like to thank all the churches who have hosted Fretboard Fellowship guitar classes, and all the participants. Without you, there would be no ministry.

My sincerest gratitude is due to Lou Dicker. The Lord has blessed Fretboard Fellowship with his management skills and Christ-centered life.

The process of obtaining copyright permission to use the songs required hours of meticulous work, which Gaill Thompson carried out with utmost competence. I sincerely thank the work she has contributed to the ministry.

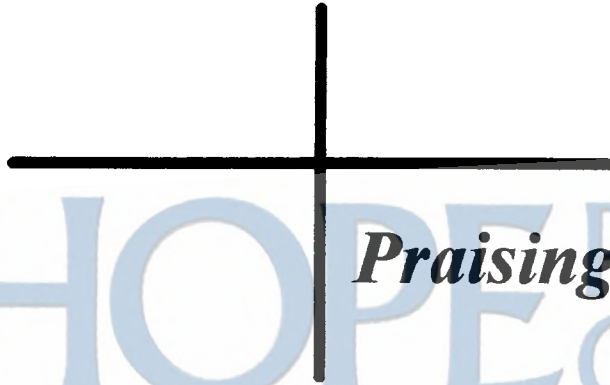
I would also like to thank the students at Eastern College, who have long desired to see a course on praise and worship guitar, for their encouragement. It is a joy to watch lives given to God in a constant act of worship.

A heart felt thanks to Andy Mitchell, one of Fretboard Fellowship's most valued teachers, who put up with the constant changes of the curriculum without once complaining.

A special thanks to Tia Dicker, for all her help in typing out the lyrics of the songs.

Most importantly, my deepest gratitude goes to my wife, Akiko, who has worked so hard for the ministry of Fretboard Fellowship. Her personal touch on this book has given it beauty and life.

Steve Turley  
March 1999



## *Praising God*

*In worship music, we find a profound unity of knowledge and love. The words of a song express an eternal idea of God, conveying a knowledge of the radiance of his glory to all his people. And surrounding these words flows a melody that sweeps the words up into a celestial sound of affection and love, where the wonders of knowledge and heartfelt delights awaken into song. In worship music, the people of God may both know their God and love their God.*

*This is what we do in music. We express his truth with love and affection. We bind together knowledge and passion. This is why we sing. We sing joyfully--to the Lord!*

*Learning to play the guitar for the glory of God can be used to inspire a passion for worship in all sorts of areas. You can use your new skill for house churches and Bible studies, family devotions with your children, for prison ministries, nursing homes, Sunday school, and praise bands.*

*The vision of Fretboard Fellowship is to inspire you to make all of life an exercise in worship. We have also included doxologies throughout your song book, which are studies in God's praise. It seemed only fitting to ornament a guitar method composed for the glory of God with words from those whose very lives testify of God's glory. Savor these worship thoughts as they glitter in the light of the music, that you may rejoice in the sweetness of God through them, and develop a passion for worship as you grow in your musical ability.*

*It is our prayer that the church may not just sing these songs, but live them! Taste every God-entranced sentence, and feast on the pleasures of the Lord. Let us joyfully raise our guitars in his radiance, to the praise of the living Christ, pointing all peoples to the wondrous cross, and the majestic eternity that awaits those who place their trust in Him.*

## ***Playing Guitar***

***Praise Guitar Made Easy*** teaches you how to play over 30 worship songs on the guitar in just 12 weeks. It is one of the most efficient and practical guitar methods available.

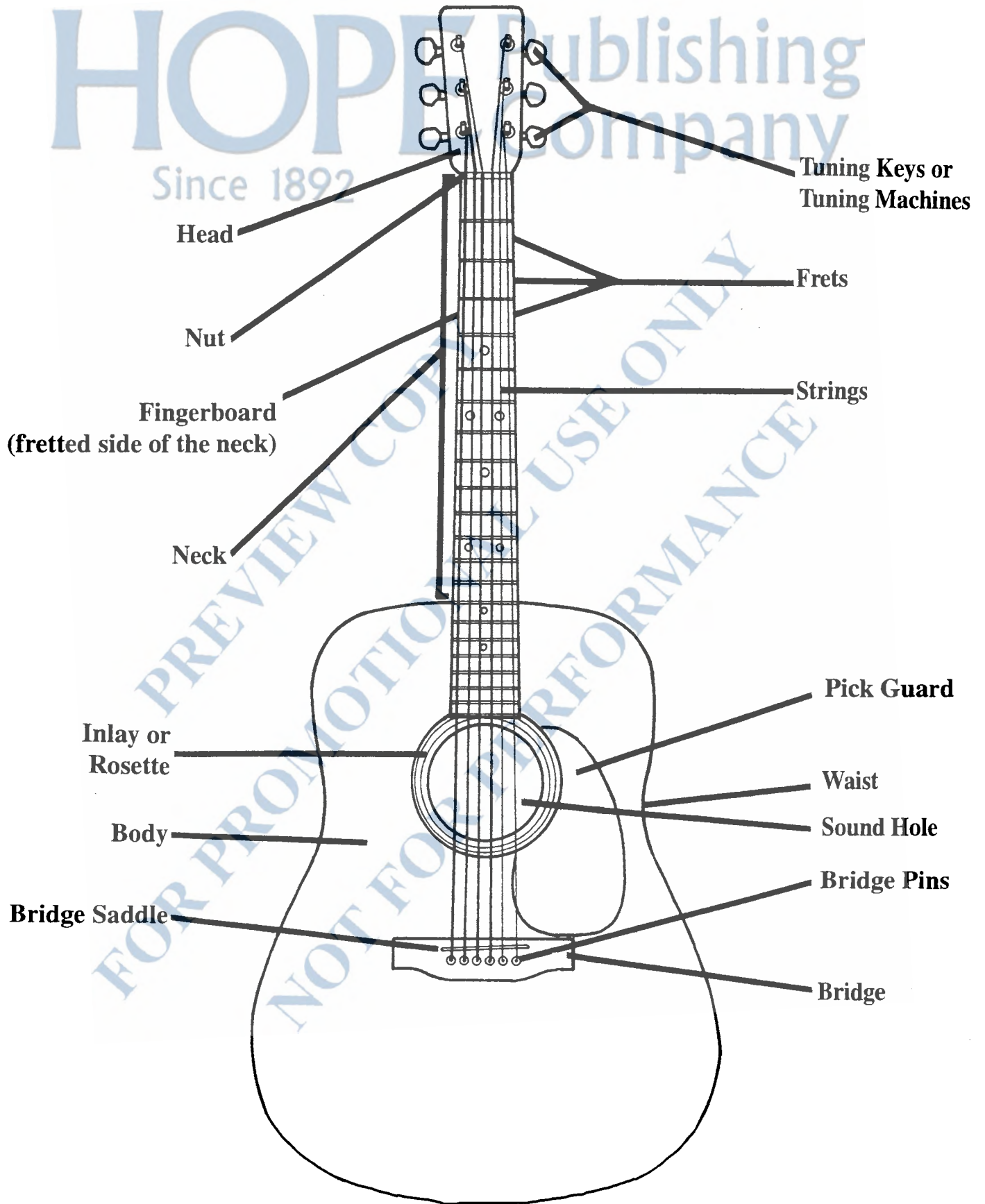
*We begin at the very beginning! This book assumes the guitar is brand new to you. You will learn 12 chords throughout the 12 lessons. The chords will always remain the same, but the songs will constantly change. So, you will get a tremendous amount of repetition and practice on the same chords, but always apply that repetition to new music.*

*Hundreds of people every year learn how to play guitar for the Lord through this book. Though we encourage you on this new and exciting endeavor, this in no way substitutes the encouragement and guidance of an experienced guitar teacher. If you want to get the most out of your new guitar playing skills, you should be using this book while attending a weekly Fretboard Fellowship class at a local church. These classes are designed to encourage you in your guitar playing by giving you the weekly opportunity to play with other guitarists, lead worship in a classroom environment, participate in worship opportunities such as nursing homes, and equip you with answers to the inevitable questions. If your church would like to host a Fretboard Fellowship class, call 1-800-770-0390.*

*May God richly bless you as you glorify His Name through song!*

Steve Turley,  
Founder/President, Fretboard Fellowship

# This is a Guitar!





# The Preliminary How-To's

## How To Hold The Guitar

- Find a nice comfortable chair, without arms.
- Slightly elevate your right leg, perhaps by using your guitar case or an old phone book.
- Hold the guitar with its waist placed on your right leg.
- Your right arm should rest just passed the elbow on the body of the guitar so as to have free movement when you strum.



## How To Hold A Pick

The pick is placed at the end of the index finger, with the thumb placed over the pick. The strings are strummed with the pointed part of the pick.

## How To Position Your Left Hand

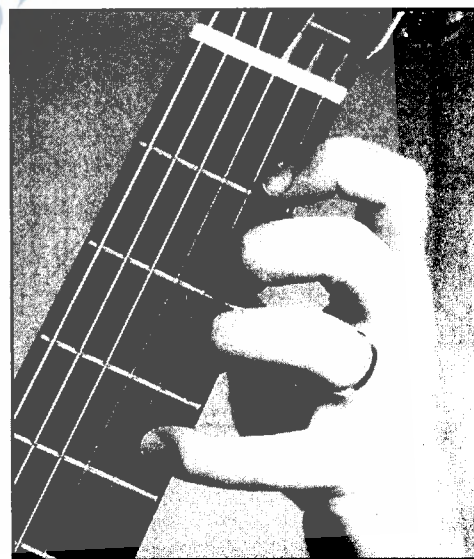
Pretend you are holding a phone with your left hand:

- ◆ Your fingers should be slightly spread out with space in between them.
- ◆ Fingers ought to be curved.
- ◆ The left hand thumb should be positioned on the back of the guitar neck, just underneath the first finger.

## How To Finger Notes

When placing your left hand on the fretboard:

- Use your fingertips to press down on a string just behind the fret. Placing the finger too far away from the fret will result in a nasty sounding note.
- Keep a pocket of space between the guitar neck and the palm of your hand.
- Press your fingers down as if you are squashing a bug.



# How To Learn The Guitar Strings

There are **six** strings on the guitar. Each one is identified with a letter. The terms low and high refer to the pitch of the string, like a low voice and high voice. The strings are as follows, in order from the lowest to the highest pitch:

**E A D G B E**

Memorize them by saying: **Elephants And Donkeys Grow Big Ears**

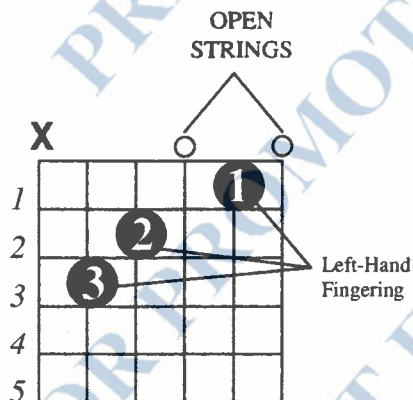
4 3 2 1

## Left-Hand Fingers

The left hand has numbers to designate each finger:

1- index 2 - middle 3 - ring 4 - pinkie

## How To Read The Chord Charts



Chord charts are what you will be referring to when you learn a chord. The vertical lines represent the guitar strings, with the high E string on the right, and the low E string on the left. The horizontal lines represent the frets. The dots or numbers on the chart tell you where to place your fingers. The zero above the chord chart represents a string that is played open (there is no left hand finger pressing on the string). The 'X' above the chord chart refers to the strings that are not to be played.

# How To Tune Your Guitar

Tuning the guitar is very difficult. When you are learning how to speak a foreign language, it takes a long time to be able to understand when people speak to you in that language, even if you know most of the words. In the same way, it takes time for your ear to understand the slight differences in the pitches of the strings on the guitar.

The most common way of tuning the guitar is simply to tune it to itself:

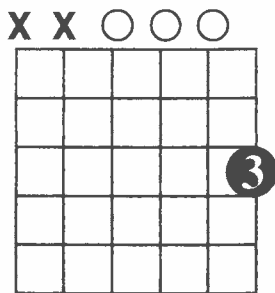
1. Start with the low E (6th) string and get it at the right pitch, using a tuner , pitch fork, or piano.
2. Now, place your finger on the fifth fret of the E string. Play that note, then play the A string open. Adjust the A string until it sounds the same as the note on the fifth fret of the E string.
3. Next, place your finger on the fifth fret of the A string. Play that note, then play the D string open. Adjust the D string until it sounds the same as the note on the fifth fret of the A string.
4. Place your finger on the fifth fret of the D string. Play that note, then play the G string open. Adjust the G string until it sounds the same as the note on the fifth fret of the D string.
5. It changes here! Place your finger on the fourth fret of the G string. Play that note, then play the B string open. Adjust the B string until it sounds the same as the note on the fourth fret of the G string.
6. Finally, place your finger on the fifth fret of the B string. Play that note, then play the E string open. Adjust the E string until it sounds the same as the note on the fifth fret of the B string.

**Or, you can buy an electronic guitar tuner!** A few dollars buys you the most efficient and easy way to tune your guitar. Tuners are available at most music stores. Fretboard Fellowship has one at a special price. Call 1-800-770-0390.

## Week 1

### The G, C and D<sup>7</sup> Chords

Let's get started learning how to play the guitar with the chord named G. A chord is whenever you play two or more strings at a time. Don't get the G chord mixed up with the third (G) string.




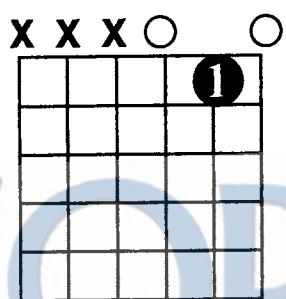
G

#### Left Hand Check List:

Here is a check list of what to look and feel for in your left hand when playing the G chord:

- Play with your fingertips.
- Place your third finger just behind the third fret on the first (high E) string.
- Press down on the string as if you were “squashing a bug”.
- Thumb is placed behind the neck, right behind your first finger.

 Now, to strum the G chord, place your pick on the fourth (D) string, and brush the pick straight down toward the floor, so that you strike all four bottom strings.

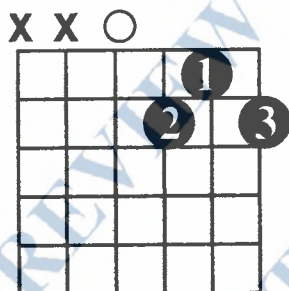


Since 1892

C

This chord is a little more difficult, since your first finger tends to bump into the first string.

- Place your first finger on the first fret of the second (B) string.
- Press down.
- To strum the C chord, place your pick on the third (G) string, and brush the pick straight down in like manner.



D<sup>7</sup>

Since you are using three fingers, this chord is a little harder. Allow yourself plenty of time.

- Place your first finger on the first fret of the second (B) string, your second finger on the second fret of the third (G) string, and your third finger on the second fret of the first (high E) string.
- To strum the D<sup>7</sup> chord, place your pick on the fourth (D) string, and brush the pick straight down accordingly.

## Rhythm and Chords

- Count out loud the following in an even and steady manner. Each number should be about a second apart:

“one - two - three - four - one - two - three - four - one - two - three - four - one - two - three - four “

- Now strum your G chord every time you count “one,” like this:

G                      G                      G                      G  
 “one - two - three - four - one - two - three - four - one - two - three - four - one - two - three - four “

Make sure to hold the G chord as you count out the rest of your rhythm.

- Now try the same exercise with your C chord:


C                      C                      C                      C  
 “one - two - three - four - one - two - three - four - one - two - three - four - one - two - three - four “

- Next, try this same exercise with your D7 chord:

D<sup>7</sup>                      D<sup>7</sup>                      D<sup>7</sup>                      D<sup>7</sup>  
 “one - two - three - four - one - two - three - four - one - two - three - four - one - two - three - four “

- Now play the same exercise, but this time we are not going to play the same chord twice.

G                      C                      D<sup>7</sup>                      G  
 “one - two - three - four - one - two - three - four - one - two - three - four - one - two - three - four “

 Now, let's play **Amazing Grace**.

***“For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith - and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not works, lest any man should boast.”***

***Ephesians 2:8***

# Amazing Grace

Our first song is Amazing Grace. We will approach this in two ways: a rhythm and chord chart, and how it actually looks on music.

The first thing you want to do when learning a song is to check the ***time signature***. The time signature tells you how many beats are counted per measure and is found at the top left of any piece of music. You always want to focus on the top number.

▼ The time signature for Amazing Grace is:

**3** « *The top number tells you how many times to count per measure*  
4

▼ This time signature would be counted out as follows:

“one two three one two three one two three one two three”


▼ Now, let’s play the chords for Amazing Grace on every “one”:

Chords: G                    G                    C                    G  
Count out loud as you play: 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3

G                    G                    D<sup>7</sup>                    D<sup>7</sup>  
1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3

G                    G                    C                    G  
1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3

G                    D<sup>7</sup>                    C                    G  
1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3

 Now, play **Amazing Grace** on the following page, exactly the way we just did it, counting out loud as you play.

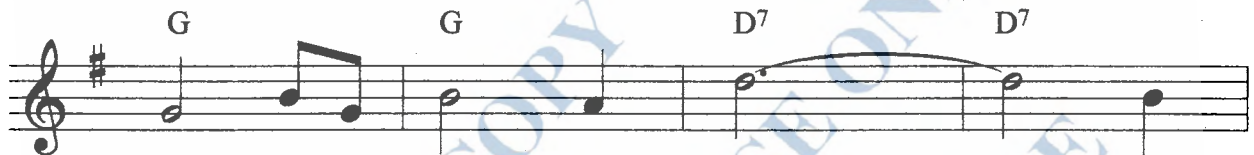
# AMAZING GRACE

Words by  
JOHN NEWTON

Traditional



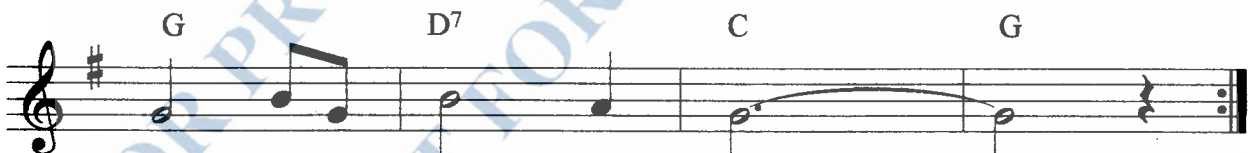
1. A - maz - ing - grace how sweet the sound, that
2. 'Twas grace that - taught my heart to fear, and
3. The Lord has - prom - ised good to me, His
4. Through man - y - dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
5. When we've been - there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a - wretch like me; - I  
 grace my - fears re - lieved; - How  
 Word my - hope se - cures; - He  
 have al - read - y come; - 'Tis  
 shin - ing - as the sun, - We've



once was - lost, but now am - found, was  
 pre - cious - did that grace ap - pear The  
 will my - shield and por - tion - be As  
 grace hath - brought me safe thus - far, And  
 no less - days to sing God's - praise Than



blind, but - now I see.  
 hour I - first be - lieved.  
 long as - life en - dures.  
 grace will - lead me home.  
 when we'd - first be - gun.



***“I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.”***


**Luke 2:11**

**HOPE** Publishing  
Company  
Since 1892

## Silent Night

Remember, the first thing you want to do is to check on the next page for the time signature, then count accordingly.

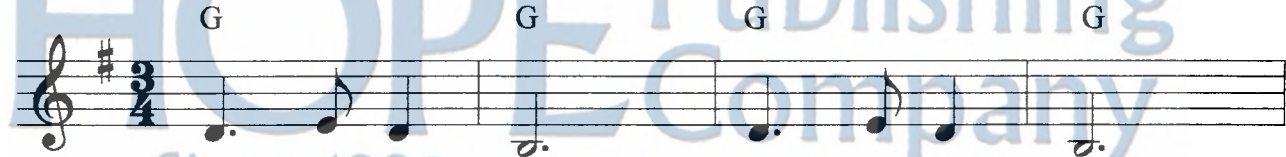
Play:	G		G		G		G		
Count:	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
	D <sup>7</sup>		D <sup>7</sup>		G		G		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
	C		C		G		G		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
	C		C		G		G		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
	D <sup>7</sup>		D <sup>7</sup>		G		G		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
	G		D <sup>7</sup>		C		G		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3

 Now, try it out on the music of the next page.

# SILENT NIGHT

Words by  
JOSEPH MOHR

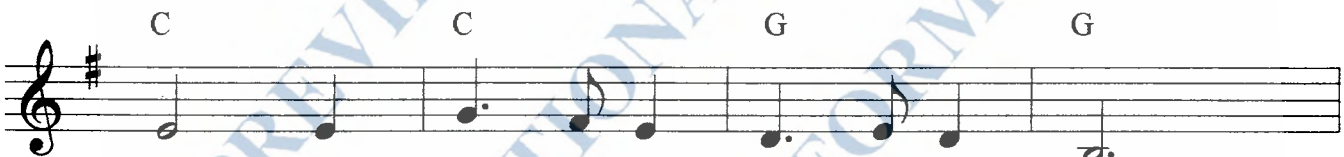
Music by  
FRANZ GRUBER



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night!  
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night!  
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night!



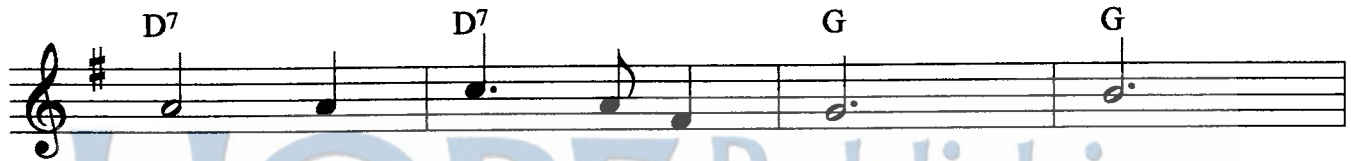
All is calm, all is bright,  
Shep - herds of first God, saw the light,  
Son of God, O how bright



Round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child,  
Heard re - sound - ing clear - and long,  
Love is smil - ing from - Thy face!



Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,  
Far and near, - the an - gel song:  
Strikes us now - the hour - of grace,



Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace,  
 "Christ Re - dee - mer is here,  
 Sav - iour, since Thou art born,



sle - ep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 Christ the Re - dee - mer is here."  
 Sav - iour, since Thou art born.

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

Colossians 1:15-20

