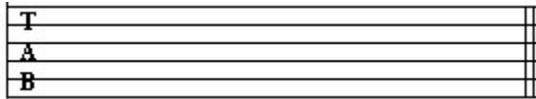


How To Read Tablature

Tablature gives us a visual representation of the fretboard and tells you precisely where to play on the fretboard.

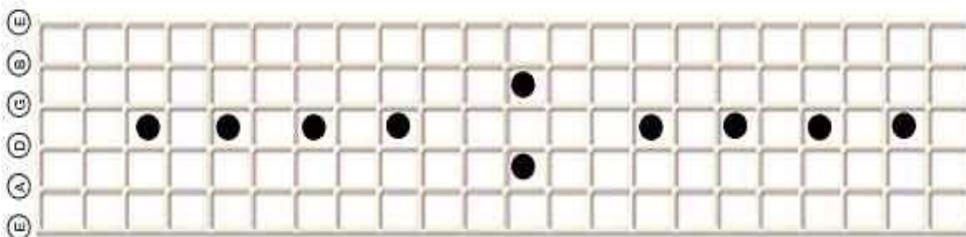
Looking at a line of tablature is like looking down at your fretboard. The six lines represent the strings:

Fig. 1



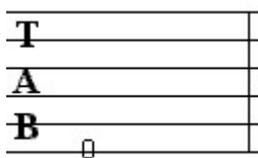
The high string is on the top and the lowest string is on the bottom like in the picture of the fretboard below:

Fig. 2



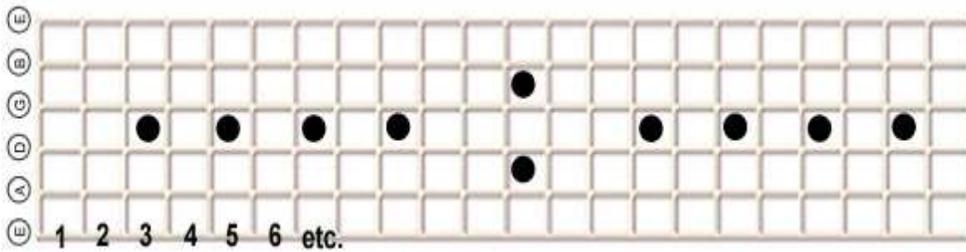
The open strings are represented by a zero. In the tab example below is a zero on the bottom string. This means to play the bottom string open.

Fig. 3



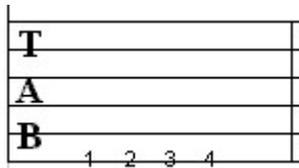
A fret to be played is represented by a number. The frets are numbered like so:

Fig. 4



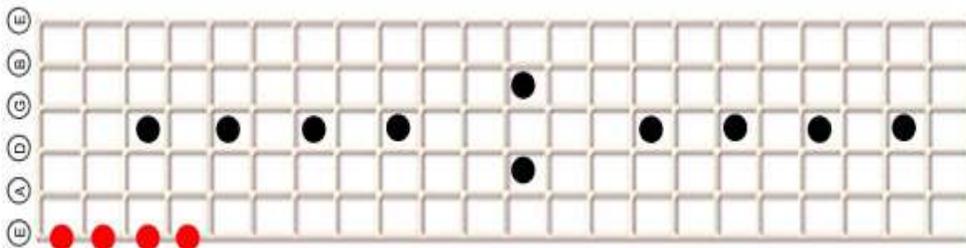
To play the example below you would 1st pick the note on 1st fret of the 6th string, then the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th frets.

Fig. 5



Look at the picture of the fretboard below. The red dots show the frets the tab above is instructing you to play.

Fig. 6



If you see notes stacked on top of each other, as in the example below, you are to play these notes at the same time.

Fig. 7

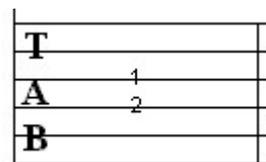
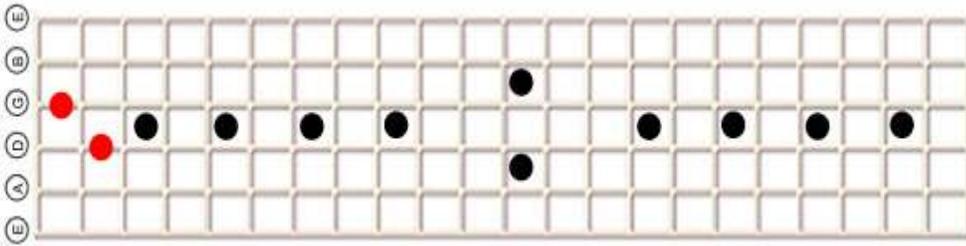


Fig. 8



- Fingerings (which fingers to use) are not shown in tablature, so most times you'll have to figure them out yourself.
- Tablature is sometimes called "tab" for short.