

LESSON 0 – Open G Tuning & Your First One-Finger Song

Title: Luc Taylor Music School – Lesson 0

Subtitle: Your First Tuning & Easy Slide-Style Chords

★ Why Start With Open G?

Most beginner guitar courses start with standard tuning and basic chords, but that can feel slow and frustrating.

Open G tuning gives you:

- Instant full chords with one finger
- Beautiful resonant sound
- Easier picking patterns
- A head start on blues and folk styles
- The ability to play real songs on day 1

Open tunings are used by:

- Rolling Stones
- Led Zeppelin
- Black Crowes
- John Fahey
- Many blues and slide players

★ What Is Open G Tuning?

Open G means the guitar strings are tuned to the notes of a G major chord:

D – G – D – G – B – D

(from lowest to highest string)

That means:

- Strumming all open strings = a G chord.
- Barring across all strings at ANY fret = a major chord based on that fret.
 - 0 = G
 - 2 = A
 - 4 = B
 - 5 = C
 - 7 = D
 - 9 = E
 - 12 = G (one octave up)

This is why beginners love it.

★ How To Tune to Open G

Start in standard tuning (E A D G B E) and tune these strings:

- 6th string: E → D (down whole step)
- 5th string: A → G (down whole step)
- 1st string: E → D (down whole step)

The middle strings stay the same:

- 4th string: D (same)
- 3rd string: G (same)
- 2nd string: B (same)

Final tuning:

6th: D

5th: G

4th: D

3rd: G

2nd: B

1st: D

Use a tuner to make sure everything is correct.

★ Your First Chord – Open G

Strum all the strings open.

It already sounds like a full chord — because it is.

Let students hear the power of it:

- Deep
- Resonant
- Instantly musical

★ One-Finger Chords

Place one finger flat across all six strings at a fret. This is called a barre.

Try these:

- 5th fret → C major
- 7th fret → D major
- 12th fret → G major (octave)

Beginners love this because they can play:

- Chord progressions
- Full songs
- Blues grooves
- Folk rhythms

WITHOUT complex finger shapes.

★ Your First Song (Super Easy Progression)

Play:

- G (open strings) – 4 beats
- C (5th fret) – 4 beats
- D (7th fret) – 4 beats
- C (5th fret) – 4 beats

Strum pattern (choose one):

1. All downstrums – 1 2 3 4
2. Down-up – 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
3. Slow groove – D D U – U D U

This creates a REAL song progression instantly.

★ Picking Pattern for Open G

Try this simple pattern:

6th string → 4th string → 3rd string → 2nd string → 1st string → strum

It's easy because the tuning naturally creates harmony.

★ Slide-Style Bonus (Optional)

Using a glass or metal slide:

- Lightly touch strings above the fret (don't press down)
- Try sliding from 2nd to 5th to 7th fret
- Let notes ring together

Students LOVE this sound.

★ Practice Goals for Lesson 0

By the end of this lesson, students should:

- ✓ Understand what Open G tuning is
- ✓ Tune their guitar to Open G using a tuner
- ✓ Play one-finger major chords
- ✓ Play a full chord progression
- ✓ Strum a simple rhythm
- ✓ Hear real music immediately