

LESSON 6 – READING CHORD DIAGRAMS & TAB

Title: Luc Taylor Music School – Lesson 6

Subtitle: Understanding Chord Boxes and TAB

Overview

In this lesson you will:

- Learn how to read chord diagrams (chord boxes)
 - Learn how to read basic guitar TAB
 - Practice a simple riff from TAB
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Chord Diagram Basics

Think of a chord diagram as a picture of the guitar neck standing upright:

- Vertical lines = strings
 - Leftmost = low E
 - Rightmost = high E
 - Horizontal lines = frets
 - Dots = where you put your fingers
 - Numbers = which finger: 1 (index), 2 (middle), 3 (ring), 4 (little finger)
 - "O" above a string = play open
 - "X" above a string = do not play that string
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TAB (Tablature) Basics

TAB is a simple way to show which string and which fret to play:

- 6 horizontal lines = 6 strings
 - Bottom line = low E

- Top line = high E
- Numbers on the lines = fret numbers
- 0 = open string

Example riff:

```
E|-----
B|-----
G|-----
D|-----
A|--0--2--3--2--0-
E|-----
```

This means:

- Play A string open (0)
- Then 2nd fret on the A string
- Then 3rd fret on the A string
- Back to 2nd fret
- Then open again

Common TAB Symbols

- h = hammer-on (example: 5h7)
- p = pull-off (example: 7p5)
- / = slide up
- \ = slide down
- b = bend

For now, focus on basic numbers and open strings.

Practice Goals for Lesson 6

- Read and understand at least 2–3 chord diagrams from your chord sheet.
- Be able to tell someone what a simple TAB line means.
- Play a very short one-string riff from TAB with clear notes.