

Understanding the Major Scale

- ♪ Musical notes are labelled with letters of the alphabet.
 - ♪ Each letter of the alphabet is one note higher than the last.
 - ♪ When you get to G, you go back to A.
- ♪ On the guitar each letter is either one or two frets higher than the last.
 - ♪ Two frets next to each other are a **semitone** apart (half step).
 - ♪ Two frets with a space in between are a **tone** apart (whole step).
- ♪ An octave is the gap between two notes with the same letter (e.g. G and G).

The G Major Scale (a helpful one to start with on the guitar)

- ♪ All major scales are made from the same pattern of **tones** and **semitones**.
- ♪ You can see the pattern if you play the notes all on one string.
 - ♪ The diagram below shows you how to do this.
 - ♪ Start on the 3rd string: open G.
 - ♪ The steps are labelled as **tones** or **semitones** (ST).
 - ♪ Here the first note is an open string.
 - ♪ If you follow this pattern *from any note*, you will get a major scale.



- ♪ Of course we don't usually play all on one string.
 - ♪ The diagram below shows how to play G major, starting on open G (3rd string)
 - ♪ Look at the music notation: see how the notes rise one degree at a time.
 - ♪ Each degree is a letter of the alphabet.
 - ♪ One of the notes is a sharp, but there's still only one of each letter.

G A B C D E F# G

0 2 0 1 3 0 2 3

T A B

This is a scale diagram (not a chord box).
 It shows every note in the scale.
 Don't forget the 3 open strings (G, B, E).

