

Foreword

Music for everyone!

Stringed instruments are among the oldest instruments in the world.

The guitar

- shows how musical sound is created by vibrations,
- is played directly with the fingers,
- is fascinating for people of all ages,
- is suitable for all kinds of music, for example children's songs, folksongs, Christmas carols, classical music, spirituals, pop & rock,
- can be used both for song accompaniment and for playing melodies,
- is also a source of pleasure when making music together.

The **guitar** is one of the best-loved instruments of all time, but few people even know how to play it. The reason is often the **difficult chord fingering** with the left hand. This is why Udo Zilkens has developed the JelGi method „Enjoy Learning Guitar“. It is simple, fun and makes song accompaniment child's play. Within minutes a wide range of music can be accompanied by old and young from the age of 2 years and above.

Standard tuning consists of the following notes E-A-D-G-B-E. Each chord requires a different fingering with the left hand. Regular and intuitive fretting is necessary. If an open C tuning is used with the strings tuned to C-G-C-E-G, simple sharp chords are required. For minor chords the thinnest nylon string is used. Every style can be accompanied very easily, quickly and intuitively.

The **colours of the chord numbers** in the book indicate the importance and function of the guitar chords: **red** stands for the tonic, the **blue** for the **dominant**, the second most important chord, **green** for the **subdominant**, the third most important chord, **gray** for the **minor chords** in all keys, **brown** for the **dominant of the dominant**, **black** for the **major chords** in minor keys.

Young children and above in day care centres or schools and **senior citizens aged 65 to 100 years** with disabilities – learn to play C guitars because normal fingering is not possible for them. For songs with one, two or three chords, children or senior citizens can play several guitars. Simple chords are used to produce the desired chords. Children at primary and secondary schools either play with normally tuned guitars at a basic level or with C guitars at an advanced level. Xylophones and other instruments can complement the guitars.

The book comprises sheet music for more than **100 children's songs, folksongs, spirituals and Christmas carols**, also available as a PDF download with all verses and tabs at www.notafina.de. In each chapter, hundreds of further songs can be found, each with the same sequence of chords. For PDF downloads, go to www.jelgi.com/enjoy-learning-guitar.

Düsseldorf, July 2014

Dr. Udo Zilkens

The JelGi method

Playing the guitar at any age

When the strings of a guitar are tuned C-G-C-G-C-E, people of all ages – even those with disabilities – are immediately able to play a C major chord. All **major chords** are built up through a step-wise shortening of all strings. At the second fret, D major can be heard, at the fourth fret E major and so forth. When **minor chords** are required, the thinnest nylon string should not be strummed by the right hand. The string may however also be damped with several fingers, so that only the root and fifth can be heard without the third.

0/C 1/C[#] / 1/D^b 2/D 3/D[#] / 3/E^b 4/E 5/F 6/F[#] / 6/G^b 8/G[#] / 8/A^b 9/A 11/B



guitar capo on the second fret

damping finger with fingers

big barré fingering on the second fret

big-barré fingering with JelGi bottleneck

Playing with 2 guitars

Many children's songs are easy to accompany with two or three chords. If a song requires the C major and the G major chord, the guitar can be played without a capo and the other guitar is fixed with a capo. Now two children or adults alternately play the C major chord on the guitar without capo and the G major chord on the guitar with capo on the seventh fret. The more guitars available, the more powerful is the sound and the greater number of chords can be utilized in a song. The melody may be sung together and possibly also played by soloists. This is fun at day-care centres and schools like playing C guitars together.

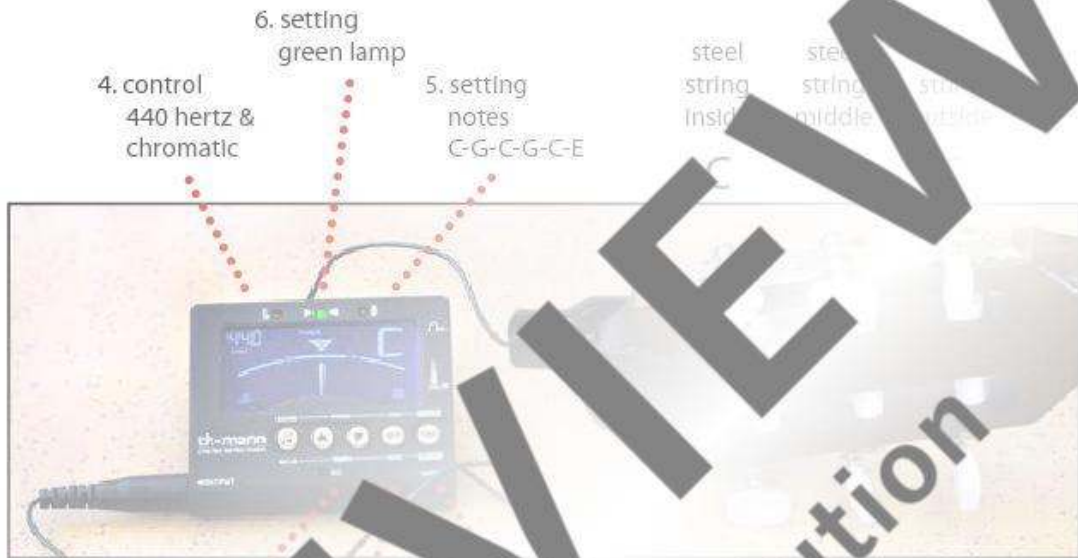
Playing barré chords

Other children and adults are normally able to use a **big barré chord** directly over all six strings using the forefinger or middle finger instead of a capo. Always put the **capo** on the fret with the smallest JelGi number of a song. This chord may now be simply played without using the fingers of the left hand to play a barré chord. For small fingers, a children's guitar or a ukulele are recommended as they both have a narrow fretboard. People with pressure-sensitive fingers could also use the **JelGi bottleneck** on their forefinger or middle finger. The JelGi bottlenecks are made of foam material. If only a large guitar is available, the JelGi bottleneck should be fixed between the bridge and the two low steel strings as a damper. This means that only four strings are played with the left hand as a **small barré chord**, but the right hand strikes all the strings of the guitar. Many players like to use adjacent fingers as a reinforcement for the middle or forefinger. With all fingering techniques it is important that the fingers are depressed parallel to the fret to minimize strain. Shoulders and arms must remain relaxed to avoid cramps.

Tuning strings in C major

For the **JelGi guitar** the guitar's strings are tuned to a C major chord. As in traditional tuning, the two outer nylon strings are tuned on **G** and **E**. The middle nylon string is tuned a semitone higher to **C**. The three steel strings are tuned lower to **C-G-C**. Electronic tuners normally show capital letters and green or red lamps for fine-tuning. The JelGi strings have been designed for the string tension required for C major.

The open strings of the JelGi ukulele sound **G-C-E-C** by tuning the thin string higher from **A** to **C**.



String	Notes	JelGi tuning	Adjustment
1st string (nylon outside)	< F < F# < G < G#	E	tuning too high • turn machine head clockwise
2nd string (nylon middle)	< C# < D < D# < E < F	C	
3rd string (nylon inside)	< G# < A < A# < B	G	
4th string (steel inside)	< C# < D < D# < E < F	C	
5th string (steel middle)	< G# < A < A# < B	G	
6th string (steel outside)	< C# < D < D# < E < F	C	

Position of the body

When playing the guitar, a traditional footstool may be used under the left or right foot in order to raise the guitar neck. When using the modern posture, both feet are on the ground and the guitar is positioned with its indentation on the right leg. With a shoulder strap, the guitar may also be played in a standing position. Whatever playing position is used, the advantages and disadvantages of the JelGI tuning are the same as for a traditionally tuned guitar.

Right hand

The tuning of the strings has no influence on the playing technique. The conventional techniques of touch and action can be applied to the JelGI, whether with the thumb, the plectrum, the thumb plus chords with three fingers or arpeggios of various kinds. The two different ways of playing the chords of a guitar with the thumb and ring finger can be orientated to the beats of a 3/4 or 4/4 time, especially if the chords have not been memorized. It is even more diversified when rhythmically complex techniques of touch and action are used in 3/4 or 4/4 time. To provide even more variety, the complex rhythmic strumming patterns can be employed in 3/4 or 4/4 time with the accent on each syllable, for example:

Playing melodies

With the JelGI method, melodies should always be played with the help of a tabulator to avoid problems when changing to classical guitar. The right and left hand techniques for playing melodies are the same as with the JelGI. The upper three lines on the tabulator represent the nylon strings of the guitar which create the higher notes. The three lower lines represent the steel strings, which create the lower notes. Small numbers on the lines indicate which fret is depressed with the fingertip.

In the JelGI tuning, the open strings can be played directly according to the notes **C G E** of the major chord. To produce the other notes, the fingertips of the left hand (from a right-hander's perspective) must be depressed on the fretboard at the appropriate fret. As the thumb is held firmly against the back of the fretboard, it cannot be used for depressing strings. This means that only four fingers are used for playing notes: forefinger, middle finger, ring finger and little finger. In order to play the notes D, E and F on strings tuned to C, press the forefinger just behind the second fret, the ring finger behind the fourth fret and the little finger behind the fifth fret.

As with normally tuning, there are various methods of striking a guitar string. When playing melodies, a distinction is made between playing with the fingernail and with the fingertip. When using the fingernail to strike the string, louder notes are created. For quieter notes, the softer fingertips are used. A popular fingering method is the alternation of forefinger and middle finger when plucking the strings. The small finger is generally not used to strike the strings. A plectrum may be used to produce a more powerful sound when playing melodies.

Sheet music for downloading

Sheet music titles for the JelGI method can be downloaded from www.notafina.de for both open JelGI tuning C-G-C-G-C-E and for traditional tuning E-A-D-G-B-E. All available song titles are listed online at www.jelgi.com/enjoy-learning-guitar.

I Like the Flowers

text & melody traditional

F major chords: F Gm B^b C Dm • 52m7m0 (4x)

5 2m/10/5 7m/0

I like the flow - ers, I like the d - d - dills,

TAB 5 5 4 2 2 4 2 0

Detailed description: This block shows the first line of music. It features a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of quarter notes: G4 (5), A4 (5), G4 (4), F4 (2), E4 (2), G4 (4), F4 (2), and D4 (0). Chord diagrams are placed above the staff: F (5), Gm (2m/10/5), and Bb (7m/0). Below the staff is a guitar tablature with fret numbers: 5, 5, 4, 2, 2, 4, 2, 0.

3 5 2m/5 7m/0

I like moun - tain I like the rol - ling hills,

TAB 2 2 2 2 2 0 2 3

Detailed description: This block shows the second line of music. The melody continues with quarter notes: G4 (3), A4 (5), G4 (2m/5), F4 (2), E4 (2), G4 (2), F4 (2), and D4 (0). Chord diagrams are placed above the staff: F (5), Gm (2m/5), and Bb (7m/0). Below the staff is a guitar tablature with fret numbers: 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 0, 2, 3.

5 7m/0 0

I like the fi - re - place, when the light is low.

TAB 0 0 3 2 0 5 3 2 0 5 4

Detailed description: This block shows the third line of music. The melody continues with quarter notes: G4 (5), A4 (5), G4 (5), F4 (3), E4 (2), G4 (0), F4 (3), E4 (2), G4 (0), F4 (5), and D4 (4). Chord diagrams are placed above the staff: F (5), Bb (7m/0), and C (0). Below the staff is a guitar tablature with fret numbers: 0, 0, 3, 2, 0, 5, 3, 2, 0, 5, 4.

5 2m/10/5 7m/0 0

Dum, di da, di dum, di da, di dum, di da, di dum, di da, di

TAB 5 5 5 5 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 4

Detailed description: This block shows the fourth line of music, which is a rhythmic pattern. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4 (5), A4 (5), G4 (5), F4 (5), E4 (2), D4 (2), G4 (2), F4 (2), G4 (0), A4 (0), Bb4 (0), C5 (0), G4 (0), F4 (0), E4 (2), and D4 (4). Chord diagrams are placed above the staff: F (5), Gm (2m/10/5), Bb (7m/0), and C (0). Below the staff is a guitar tablature with fret numbers: 5, 5, 5, 5, 2, 2, 2, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 4.