

Easy Christmas Guitar Songbook (10 Carols)

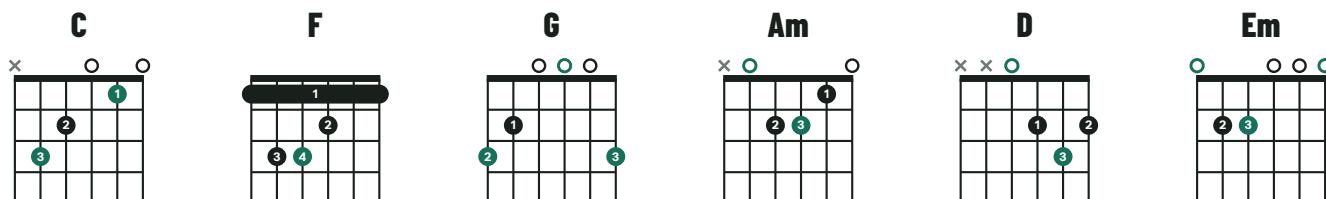
10 Christmas carols with easy chords, bar-by-bar charts and strumming. Public domain.

Ten favorite carols arranged with easy open chords, so you can play along at holiday gatherings this year. Each carol has its chord shapes, the chord order bar by bar and a strumming pattern. All are traditional and in the public domain.

CONTENTS

Page	Song	Key	Chords	Level
2	Silent Night	C	C, F, G, Am	Easy
3	Jingle Bells	G	G, C, D, Em, Am	Easy
4	Deck the Halls	G	G, C, D, Em, Am	Improver
5	Joy to the World	G	G, C, D, Em, Am	Improver
6	We Wish You a Merry Christmas	G	G, C, D, Em, Am	Improver
7	O Come, All Ye Faithful	G	G, C, D, Em, Am, D	Improver
8	The First Noel	G	G, C, D, Em, Am	Improver
9	Away in a Manger	G	G, C, D, Em	Easy
10	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	G	G, C, D, Em, Am	Improver
11	Go Tell It on the Mountain	G	G, C, D, Em, Am	Improver

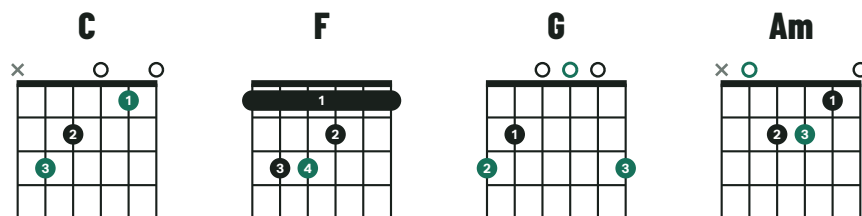
EVERY CHORD IN THIS BOOK



Silent Night Guitar Chords

The 1818 carol, and the gentlest three-chord song you will learn.

KEY **C** TIME **3/4** LEVEL **Easy** TEMPO **96 BPM** CHORDS **C, F, G, Am**



VERSE

C	1	C	2	G	3	C	4
C	5	C	6	G	7	C	8

CHORUS

G	1	G	2	C	3	C	4
F	5	C	6	G	7	C	8

STRUM Bass - strum - strum

How to learn it

1. Learn C, F, G and Am. 2. Play one bass note on beat one, then strum on beats two and three. 3. Practise the change from C to G, which comes up often. 4. Play at 96 beats per minute, and keep the playing soft.

Tips

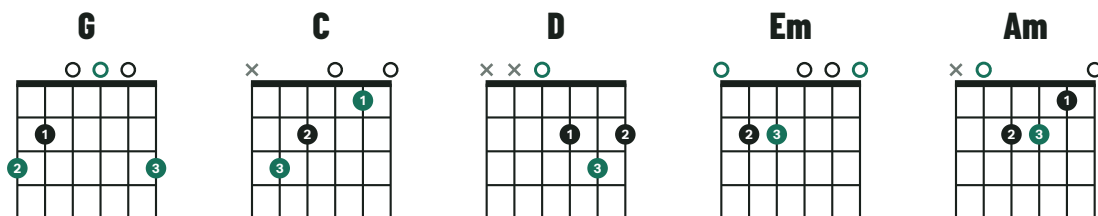
Play it quietly. A soft touch suits the carol's calm mood. Count three. Keep the count in each bar so the rhythm stays steady.

Written by Franz Gruber and Joseph Mohr in 1818 and in the public domain. Fretwork's arrangement above is our own simple version written for beginners.

Jingle Bells Guitar Chords

An 1857 sleigh song that everyone can sing from memory.

KEY **G** TIME **4/4** LEVEL **Easy** TEMPO **100 BPM** CHORDS **G, C, D, Em, Am**



VERSE

G 1	G 2	C 3	C 4
G 5	G 6	D 7	D 8

CHORUS

G 1	G 2	C 3	G 4
G 5	D 6	G 7	G 8

STRUM **D DU D DU**

How to learn it

1. Learn G, C and D first, then Em and Am. 2. Play D DU D DU on each chord, one chord per bar. 3. Practise the change from G to C, which comes up often. 4. Play at 100 beats per minute and sing along to keep the beat.

Tips

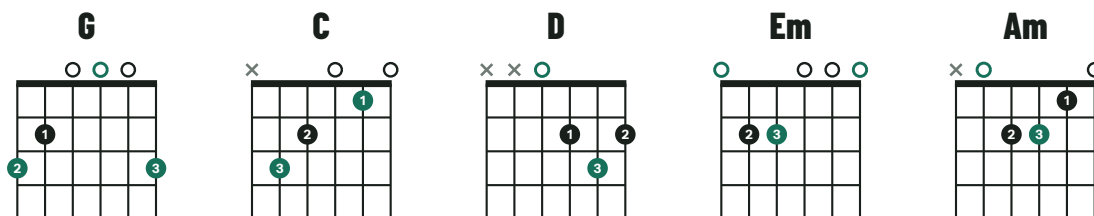
Use the rhythm. The song's bounce comes from a steady strum, not a fast one. Sing the chorus. Singing helps you keep the timing.

Written by James Lord Pierpont in 1857 and in the public domain. Fretwork's arrangement above is our own simple version written for beginners.

Deck the Halls Guitar Chords

A Welsh tune from the 1500s with words from 1862.

KEY: **G** TIME: **4/4** LEVEL: **Improver** TEMPO: **100 BPM** CHORDS: **G, C, D, Em, Am**



VERSE

G 1	G 2	C 3	G 4
G 5	D 6	G 7	G 8

CHORUS

G 1	Em 2	Am 3	D 4
G 5	C 6	G 7	G 8

STRUM D DU D DU

How to learn it

1. Learn G, C and D first, then Em and Am. 2. Play D DU D DU on G, then repeat it on C. 3. Practise the change from D back to G, which returns to the start of many phrases. 4. Play at 100 beats per minute, and sing the 'Fa la la' lines to keep your timing.

Tips

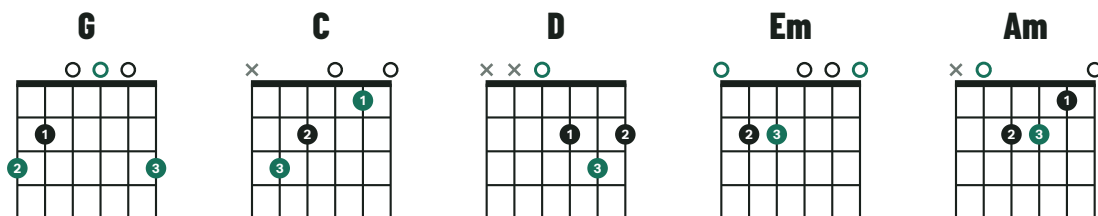
Sing the refrain. The 'Fa la la' lines are a good timing guide. Master one verse first. Once one verse is smooth, the rest comes quickly.

Welsh melody from the 1500s with English lyrics from 1862. Public domain. Fretwork's arrangement above is our own simple version written for beginners.

Joy to the World Guitar Chords

Watts's 1719 words with Mason's 1848 tune.

KEY: **G** TIME: **4/4** LEVEL: **Improver** TEMPO: **100 BPM** CHORDS: **G, C, D, Em, Am**



VERSE

G 1	G 2	D 3	G 4
C 5	G 6	D 7	G 8

CHORUS

G 1	C 2	G 3	D 4
G 5	C 6	G 7	G 8

STRUM: **D D DU D**

How to learn it

1. Learn G, C and D, then Em and Am. 2. Play D D DU D on each chord, one chord per bar. 3. Practise the change from G to D, since the song moves between them often. 4. Play at 100 beats per minute, and lift the energy on the refrain.

Tips

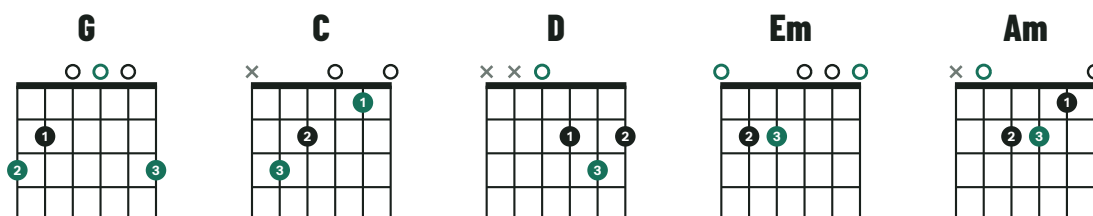
Count the pattern. D D DU D has one up-strum near the end; count it out loud first. Keep the chords bright. A clear, firm strum suits the hymn.

Words by Isaac Watts, 1719; melody arranged by Lowell Mason, 1848. Public domain. Fretwork's arrangement above is our own simple version written for beginners.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas Guitar Chords

A 16th-century English carol with a brisk waltz feel.

KEY: **G** TIME: **3/4** LEVEL: **Improver** TEMPO: **96 BPM** CHORDS: **G, C, D, Em, Am**



VERSE

G 1	C 2	Am 3	D 4
G 5	C 6	D 7	D 8

CHORUS

G 1	C 2	Am 3	D 4
G 5	C 6	G 7	G 8

STRUM Bass - strum - strum

How to learn it

1. Learn G, C and D, then Em and Am. 2. Play one bass note on beat one, then strum on beats two and three. 3. Practise the changes from G to C, and from C to Am. 4. Play at 96 beats per minute and count three per bar.

Tips

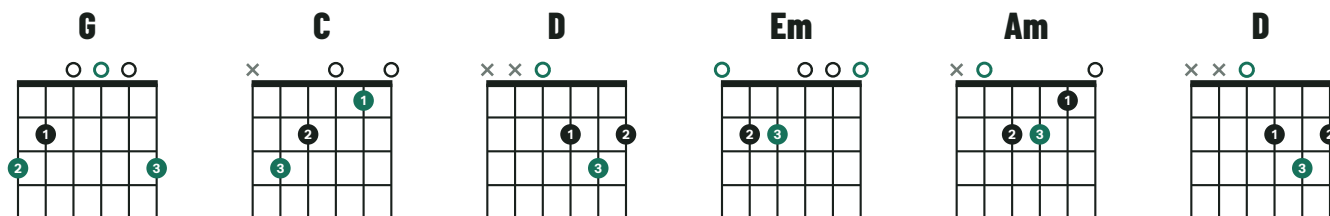
Waltz it. Keep the bass on one and the strum on two and three. Stay bright. Keep the strum firm enough for a festive feel.

Traditional English carol dating to the 1500s and in the public domain. Fretwork's arrangement above is our own simple version written for beginners.

O Come, All Ye Faithful Guitar Chords

An 18th-century hymn that wants firm, confident strumming.

KEY: **G** TIME: **4/4** LEVEL: **Improver** TEMPO: **100 BPM** CHORDS: **G, C, D, Em, Am, D**



VERSE

G 1	D 2	G 3	G 4
D 5	Em 6	D 7	D 8

CHORUS

G 1	C 2	G 3	D 4
G 5	C 6	G 7	G 8

STRUM **D D D D (stately)**

How to learn it

1. Learn G, C and D, then Em, Am and D. 2. Play four even down-strums on each chord. 3. Practise the change from G to D, since it comes up often. 4. Play at 100 beats per minute and keep a stately pace.

Tips

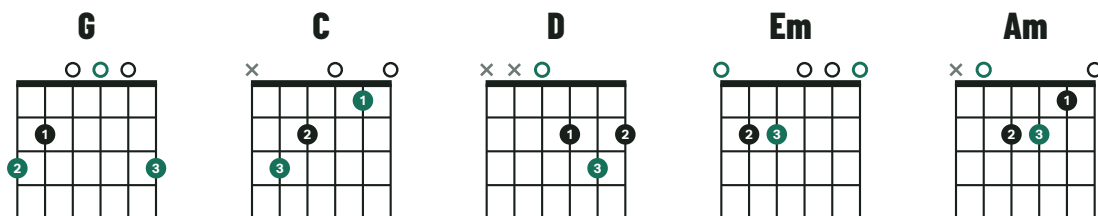
Keep it stately. Four even down-strums give the hymn its dignified feel. Change on the beat. Move to each new chord on beat one.

18th-century hymn, melody attributed to John Francis Wade. Public domain. Fretwork's arrangement above is our own simple version written for beginners.

The First Noel Guitar Chords

A traditional carol first printed in 1823.

KEY: **G** TIME: **3/4** LEVEL: **Improver** TEMPO: **96 BPM** CHORDS: **G, C, D, Em, Am**



VERSE

G 1	C 2	G 3	D 4
G 5	C 6	G 7	D 8

CHORUS

G 1	C 2	G 3	Em 4
Am 5	D 6	G 7	G 8

STRUM Bass - strum - strum

How to learn it

1. Learn G, C and D, then Em and Am. 2. Play one bass note on beat one, then strum on beats two and three. 3. Practise the change from G to C. 4. Play at 96 beats per minute and count three per bar.

Tips

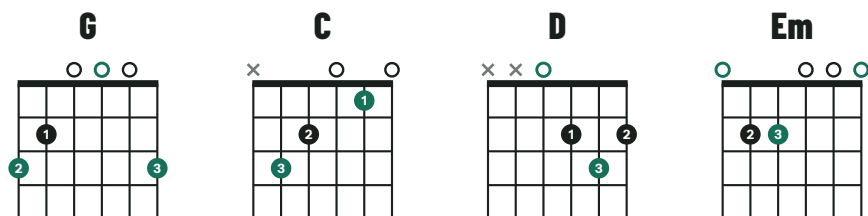
Bass on one. Land the bass note on beat one; the strum follows. Stay even. Keep the three beats equal.

Traditional English carol, published in 1823 and in the public domain. Fretwork's arrangement above is our own simple version written for beginners.

Away in a Manger Guitar Chords

A gentle 1885 carol in three-beat time.

KEY: **G** TIME: **3/4** LEVEL: **Easy** TEMPO: **96 BPM** CHORDS: **G, C, D, Em**



VERSE

G	1	G	2	C	3	G	4
G	5	D	6	G	7	G	8

VERSE 2

G	1	C	2	G	3	Em	4
C	5	D	6	G	7	G	8

STRUM Bass - strum - strum (soft)

How to learn it

1. Learn G, C and D, then Em. 2. Play one bass note on beat one of each bar, then strum on beats two and three. 3. Count one-two-three out loud for the first verse. 4. Play softly at 96 beats per minute; the song sounds best quiet.

Tips

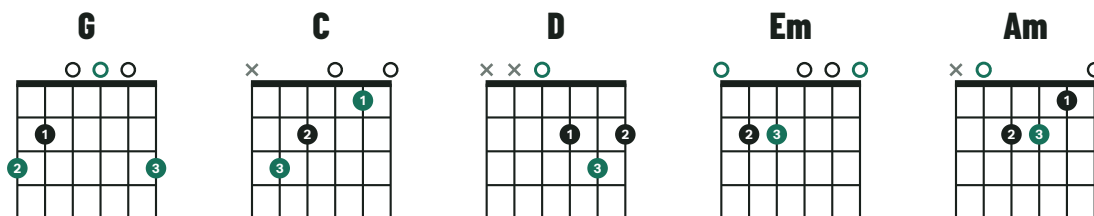
Pick the bass with your thumb. Use the low root of each chord, and keep the strum on the top strings. Keep the three even. The bar should feel like one steady ride, not a bass note and a rush.

First published in 1885 and in the public domain. Fretwork's arrangement above is our own simple version written for beginners.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Guitar Chords

Wesley's words from 1739 set to Mendelssohn's 1840 tune.

KEY: **G** TIME: **4/4** LEVEL: **Improver** TEMPO: **100 BPM** CHORDS: **G, C, D, Em, Am**



VERSE

G 1	C 2	G 3	D 4
G 5	C 6	D 7	G 8

CHORUS

G 1	C 2	G 3	Em 4
Am 5	D 6	G 7	G 8

STRUM D DU D DU

How to learn it

1. Learn G, C and D until each rings cleanly. 2. Add Em and Am, and practise moving between G and Em. 3. Play D DU D DU on each chord, one chord per bar. 4. Play at 100 beats per minute, and lift the energy on the chorus.

Tips

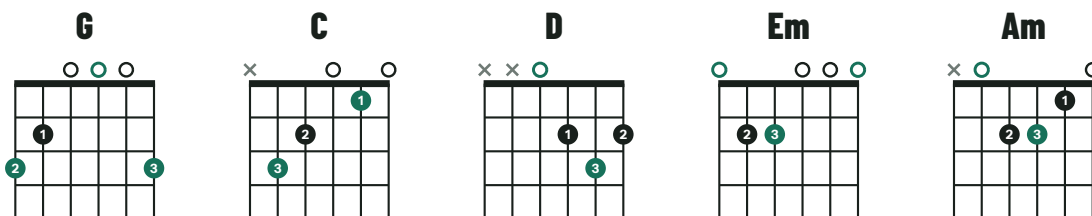
Change ahead. Think of the next chord before the bar starts, so the switch is smooth. Keep it bright. A firm, even strum matches the song's celebratory mood.

Words by Charles Wesley, 1739; Mendelssohn melody, 1840. Public domain. Fretwork's arrangement above is our own simple version written for beginners.

Go Tell It on the Mountain Guitar Chords

A spiritual with a chorus that lifts a room.

KEY: **G** TIME: **4/4** LEVEL: **Improver** TEMPO: **100 BPM** CHORDS: **G, C, D, Em, Am**



CHORUS

G 1	G 2	C 3	G 4
G 5	Em 6	D 7	G 8

VERSE

G 1	Em 2	Am 3	D 4
G 5	C 6	G 7	G 8

STRUM D DU DU DU

How to learn it

1. Learn G, C and D, then Em and Am. 2. Play D DU DU DU on G, and keep the same strum through the changes. 3. Practise the move from G to Em and back, which comes up often. 4. Play at 100 beats per minute, and add more volume on the chorus.

Tips

Drive the rhythm. Keep the up-strums steady so the song keeps its momentum. Change with the phrase. Move to the next chord at the start of each line.

Compiled by John Wesley Work Jr. in 1907 from an older spiritual. Public domain. Fretwork's arrangement above is our own simple version written for beginners.