



Guitar For Everyone

Welcome to a new era in home-made music, made possible by the lucky discovery of *Liberty Tuning*.

You should be able to teach yourself basic campfire guitar, since all you need to do is play some simple chord shapes and strum along with some songs. The tuning and the partial capo are a bit confusing, even to someone who plays guitar, and you might also want to use this book together with a guitar teacher's assistance. Any teacher should be able to guide you through these songs and answer all of your questions. I've been playing guitar for 45 years, and there is probably something in this book I forgot to tell beginners, but in the age of information, you can probably find the answer to your questions.

There are no advanced concepts involved, and things like "musical talent" and "training" don't really enter. Listen to a song over and over until it has imprinted in your memory, and then do it the way it feels best to you.

You may need to go on the internet to find various versions that might provide models of how you prefer to do the song. They may be in a different key, and likely won't be just one person playing an acoustic guitar.

We showcase a group of really well-known songs in our books and workshops, though there are a limitless number of other songs you could play in *Liberty Tuning* almost instantly with just the simple 2-finger chords we show you.

There is nothing like a good song to drive the whole process of learning to play, and we hope you know and like some of the simple ones. There are only a few dozen 2-chord songs that typically form the repertoire for beginners. Many are nursery rhymes and not highly motivating to most people. Now beginners have an exciting repertoire of great songs to draw them into the guitar, and to keep them playing for long hours while they master the motor skills and gain some confidence.

We don't always sing songs in the same key as the original recording artists, and you might not either. Our recordings should give you a good model of what you can make the song sound like on one guitar with just the 2-finger *Liberty* chords. The *Liberty Tuning* chords we use sometimes don't sound exactly the same as the "normal" chords you might be used to hearing, but they sound good to us.

Joyce and I recorded our versions totally solo, without overdubs, other musicians or click tracks. We just sat in a chair and played the songs like any of us do when we sing with our guitars. **We recorded all the songs**

just using the middle 2 fingers of the left hand, to illustrate how easy *Liberty* chords can be. You won't be able to strum like us if you have never played before, and we admittedly used some skill to avoid a few strings and to color the sounds in various ways that beginners won't be able to do right away.

The idea is to get you playing some real music with easier motor skills than ever before. You could spend the rest of your life playing guitar only in *Liberty Tuning*. You could also look at this as a kind of "pre-guitar" experience, and once you get comfortable strumming and playing some songs with this method, in about 15 seconds you could pop off the *Liberty* capo, tweak the tuning, and start learning "normal" guitar chords that everyone has always used.

If you used to play guitar and have a hand injury, you should be able to just jump right in and start playing these songs, and hopefully you'll be able to use the chords and skills in this book to apply to a lot of other songs you know. The *Liberty Guitar Chord Book* shows over 500 guitar chords in each version of the *Liberty Tuning*, sorted by number of fingers, so if you have less than 4 fingers to work with, it is a vital resource that carefully maps out all your new musical options.

We have made the *Liberty Guitar For Kids*, for very young children, plus some family guitar books with super-easy songs for all ages.

We hope you find joy in strumming your guitar, and savor the richness of sound that *Liberty Tuning* chords give us. We also hope you can reach that place where you can generate a song, pull it out of the mists and bring it to life in your own world. When you sing even a simple song, you can lift yourself up by something that can only be described as magic, into an ancient place that is like no other. Home-made music can take us in our everyday lives where music has taken people throughout all human history, and it's a good place. We can all go there, enrich ourselves, and maybe even make our world and the world in general a little better.

The cost of a ticket for admission to the world of playing your own music just dropped dramatically, and it now is easier than ever in history to open that hidden doorway to playing songs on your guitar.

There may not be a better way to spend our time on Earth than playing home-made music.

Harvey Reid (with Joyce Andersen)