

Introduction

This book provides songs for beginner and intermediate guitar players. The beginner versions consist of just the basic melodies, lyrics, and chords while the intermediate versions add harmony to create solo guitar arrangements. Having both versions in the same book allows you to observe the thinking process involved when taking a basic melody and adding harmony to create a solo guitar arrangement. The illustration below shows a comparison between beginner and intermediate versions. Notice the melody didn't change at all in the intermediate version. The only changes made were adding harmony on the first beat of each measure. The harmony is simply the chords that accompany the melody. The chord diagrams are written above each measure. Keep in mind the melody note is always the highest note. When playing the melody be sure not to strike the strings that are higher in pitch.

Notice the C note is the highest note on the intermediate version. C is also the highest note of the F chord. In both instances C is the melody note as it is in the beginner version. The melody note (C) should be the highest in pitch.

Although the songs are arranged for players that use a pick exclusively, they also work well with players that are accustomed to playing fingerstyle.

The chord diagrams show the specific voicings (exact notes) of each chord.

Chapters one and three are written in standard notation for players wishing to improve their notation reading skills. Chapters two and four are written in tablature. Chapter five uses easy chord charts and lyrics for strummers that are interested in strumming while they sing.

There are several songs in the beginner chapters that aren't in the intermediate chapters. These songs sound good as they are and after achieving the proper tempo you will be at the intermediate level.

The CD that accompanies the book has a slow version and a fast version for most of the songs. They are recorded in split-track stereo. In the beginner chapters the metronome and rhythm guitar are heard from the left speaker. The melody is in the right speaker. If you wish to play the melody while listening to the metronome and rhythm track without the recorded melody then pan the balance to the left. If you wish to listen to the melody only then pan to the right. If you desire to hear the entire recording the balance should be centered. On the intermediate tracks there is no rhythm guitar. The metronome is on the left and the guitar is on the right.

Beginner

Amazing Grace

John Newton (1725-1807)

Andante ♩ = 80

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a tempo of Andante (♩ = 80). It consists of four staves of music. Each staff includes guitar chord diagrams above the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words connected by lines to indicate long notes.

Staff 1: Chords C, C7, F, C. Lyrics: A maz ing— grace how sweet the sound that

Staff 2: Chords C, G, G7. Lyrics: saved a— wretch like me— I

Staff 3: Chords C, C7, F, C. Lyrics: once was— lost but now am found was

Staff 4: Chords Am, G, C, C. Lyrics: blind but— now I see.

The score includes a repeat sign at the end of the fourth staff, with first and second endings indicated by '1.' and '2.' above the notes.

T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear, and Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear, the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far and Grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me. His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil, a life of joy and peace.

When we've been here ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise, than when we've first begun.

Amazing Grace

Andante ♩ = 80

Chord diagrams: C, C7, F, C

The first system of guitar tablature consists of three measures. The first measure starts with a C chord diagram. The notes on the strings are: Treble (T) 1, Bass (B) 3, and Bass (B) 4. The second measure contains a half note chord with notes 0, 1, 0, 3, 1, 2. The third measure contains a half note chord with notes 0, 0, 0, 0.

Chord diagrams: C, G, G7

The second system of guitar tablature consists of three measures. The first measure starts with a C chord diagram. The notes on the strings are: Treble (T) 1, Bass (B) 0, and Bass (B) 1. The second measure contains a half note chord with notes 0, 3, 3, 3. The third measure contains a half note chord with notes 1, 0, 0, 0.

Chord diagrams: C, C7, F, C

The third system of guitar tablature consists of three measures. The first measure starts with a C chord diagram. The notes on the strings are: Treble (T) 3, Bass (B) 0, and Bass (B) 1. The second measure contains a half note chord with notes 0, 3, 1, 2. The third measure contains a half note chord with notes 0, 0, 0, 0.

Chord diagrams: Am, G6, C, C

The fourth system of guitar tablature consists of three measures. The first measure starts with an Am chord diagram. The notes on the strings are: Treble (T) 1, Bass (B) 0, and Bass (B) 1. The second measure contains a half note chord with notes 0, 3, 1, 2. The third measure contains a half note chord with notes 1, 1, 0, 0. The system ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Amazing Grace

Andante ♩ = 80

5

9

13

1. 2.

Chord diagrams shown: C, C7, F, C, C, C, G, G7, C, C7, F, C, Am, G6, C, C.

Intermediate

Amazing Grace

Traditional

Andante ♩ = 80

Chord diagrams: C, C⁷, F, C

T	3	0	1	0	1	1	3	1	2	0	0
A	4	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	2	2	0
B	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

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Chord diagrams: C, C, G, G⁷

T	1	0	1	1	3	3	0	1	0	0	0
A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	0	0	0

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Chord diagrams: C, C⁷, F, C

T	3	0	1	0	3	1	3	1	2	0	0
A	1	0	0	1	3	2	3	2	2	2	0
B	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

13

Chord diagrams: Am, G⁶, C, C

T	1	0	1	0	3	1	0	1	0	1	0
A	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	0	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

Amazing Grace

John Newton (1725-1807)

Stanza 6 anon.

Key of C

C C7 F C
Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
C C7 G7 G7

That saved a wretch like me.

C C7 F C
I once was lost but now am found,
Am G7 C C

Was blind, but now I see.

C C7 F C
The Lord has promised good to me.
C C7 G7 G7

His word my hope secures.

C C7 F C
He will my shield and portion be,
Am G7 C C

As long as life endures.

C C7 F C
T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear.
C C7 G7 G7

And Grace, my fears relieved.

C C7 F C
How precious did that Grace appear
Am G7 C C

The hour I first believed.

C C7 F C
Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
C C7 G7 G7

And mortal life shall cease,

C C7 F C
I shall possess within the veil,
Am G7 C C

A life of joy and peace.

C C7 F C
Through many dangers, toils and snares
C C7 G7 G7

I have already come;

C C7 F C
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far
Am G7 C C

and Grace will lead me home.

C C7 F C
When we've been here ten thousand years
C C7 G7 G7

Bright shining as the sun.

C C7 F C
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Am G7 C C

Than when we've first begun.

Capo tip:

Capo the 2nd fret to get the key of D.

Capo the 4th fret to get the key of E.

Amazing Grace

John Newton (1725-1807)

Stanza 6 anon.

Key of G

G G7 C G
Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
G G7 D D7

That saved a wretch like me.

G G7 C G
I once was lost but now am found,
Em D7 G G

Was blind, but now I see.

G G7 C G
The Lord has promised good to me.
G G7 D7 D7

His word my hope secures.

G G7 C G
He will my shield and portion be,
Em D7 G G

As long as life endures.

G G7 C G
T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear.
G G7 D7 D7

And Grace, my fears relieved.

G G7 C G
How precious did that Grace appear
Em D7 G G

The hour I first believed.

G G7 C G
Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
G G7 D7 D7

And mortal life shall cease,

G G7 C G
I shall possess within the veil,
Em D7 G G

A life of joy and peace.

G G7 C G
Through many dangers, toils and snares
G G7 D7 D7

I have already come;

G G7 C G
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far
Em D7 G G

and Grace will lead me home.

G G7 C G
When we've been here ten thousand years
G G7 D7 D7

Bright shining as the sun.

G G7 C G
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Em D7 G G

Than when we've first begun.

Capo tip:

Capo the 2nd fret to get the key of A.

Capo the 4th fret to get the key of B.