

THE THREE DOT METHOD

Before you use “The Three Dot Method” you need to understand the musical alphabet. Don’t worry if you understand the normal English alphabet then this will be easy.

The musical alphabet has just seven letters in it, which are

A B C D E F G

In between some of these letters you will find sharps and flats like this

A # B C # D # E F # G # (Where # = sharp)

Or

A b B C b D b E F b G b (Where B = flat)

Please notice there are no sharps or flats between B and C and E and F.

Lets look at the notes A and B.

You will notice that in both cases there is a note between A and B one sharp and one flat. This is the same note and can be called either A sharp or A# AND B flat or Bb.

SO the full musical alphabet reads like this.

	#		#		#		#		#
A		B C		D		E F		G	
	b		b		b		b		b

SO on to THE THREE DOT METHOD

You have six strings on your guitar from the thickest to the thinnest the notes that the open strings make are

E A D G B E
6 5 4 3 2 1

You can use this rhyme to remember the open notes
“Elephants And Donkeys Grow Big Ears”

All these notes repeat at the 12th fret as that is your Octave on the guitar.

So now you know two notes on each string the open note and the Octave.

Now just concentrating on the sixth string (thickest) look at the dot markers on your instrument. Chances are that you have dots at the Third, Fifth and Seventh fret. If not then you'll have to pretend you do but remember which fret numbers we are talking about.

Play the note at the first dot (3rd fret) this is a G

Play at the second dot (5th fret) this is an A

Play at the third dot (Seventh Fret) this is B

So now you know three more notes G A and B try to remember this not to difficult I would have thought.

Once you are confident you can go to any of these notes and name them and also name the open string and it's octave then you can move on.

Now put your finger on the first dot on the 6th string which is a G. Move your finger UP (towards the 12th fret) ONE FRET. This note is G sharp or G#. Move your finger up one more fret and as you know this note is A. Move your finger back one fret (towards the nut). This note is A flat or Ab and yes it is the same note as the G# remember sharps and flats have two names they can be Sharp or Flat. The point of this is that hopefully you can see how to fill in the remaining notes on the sixth string. Because you know a few notes you can now start to fill in the rest of the notes from those notes that you know. GO over this section again until you understand it.

Moving on to the other strings and looking at the Three Dots on each string in fact the next three strings are in alphabetical order. SO from the 5th string we can say that the three dots are C D E. Remember the 6th string was G A B so the 5th string must be C D E. The Fourth string then must be F G A.

The Third string is slightly different but still Alphabetical it is as you would expect B C D but the B is in fact a Bb.

The second string is different again in that it repeats the last note of the third string and starts on a D then goes to E then F sharp.

PHEW 😊 still with me then good news is that the first string is an E and so it is exactly the same as the sixth string that's is G A B. So if you know a note on the 6th string you can find it at the same fret on the 1st string.

OK that's it I don't say with this method that you will learn the neck in 45 minutes or some such time. What I do say is that you WILL learn the neck and by that I mean you will be able to go to any note on the guitar instantly without pause. Please avoid any of those methods that tell you they can teach you to "know the neck" in a short time it simply is not true.