

# Mandolin: How To Read Tablature

## 101 Beginner Mandolin Crash Course

Mando

String 4 (G low)      String 3 (D)      String 2 (A)      String 1 (e - high)

Fretting Hand Finger Numbers (Within the Standard Notation)  
1 (Index) 2 (Middle) 3 (Ring) 4 (Pinky)

### Time Signatures

3 3/4 = 3 quarter note beats per measure      4 4/4 = 4 quarter note beats per measure

### Basic Note Values

Whole Note (4 beats)      Half Note (2 Beats)      Quarter Notes (1 Beat)

Eighth Notes (1/2 Beat)      Eighth Note (Broken Beam)      Dotted Half Note (3 Beats)      Dotted Quarter Note (1 1/2 Beats)

## Basic Rests

11 Whole Note (4 Beats) 12 Half Note (2 Beats) 13 Quarter Note (1 Beat)

The first system shows three measures. Measure 11 contains a whole note rest (a horizontal line on the staff). Measure 12 contains a half note rest (a horizontal line on the staff). Measure 13 contains a quarter note rest (a vertical line on the staff with a flag). Below the staff is a guitar TAB line with 'T', 'A', and 'B' labels.

14 Eighth Note Rest (1/2 Beat) 15 Dotted Half Note (3 Beats) 16 Dotted Quarter Note (1 1/2 Beats)

The second system shows three measures. Measure 14 contains an eighth note rest (a vertical line on the staff with a flag). Measure 15 contains a dotted half note (a horizontal line on the staff with a dot). Measure 16 contains a dotted quarter note (a vertical line on the staff with a flag and a dot). Below the staff is a guitar TAB line with 'T', 'A', and 'B' labels.

## Pick Stroke Symbols

17

The third system shows six measures. Measure 17 contains a quarter note with a downward pick stroke symbol (a square with a vertical line on the right). The second measure contains a quarter note with a downward pick stroke symbol. The third measure contains a quarter note with a downward pick stroke symbol. The fourth measure contains a quarter note with an upward pick stroke symbol (an inverted 'V' shape). The fifth measure contains a quarter note with a downward pick stroke symbol. The sixth measure contains a quarter note with an upward pick stroke symbol. Below the staff is a guitar TAB line with '0' in each measure. Below the TAB line are 'T', 'A', and 'B' labels.

## Repeat Sign

18

The fourth system shows a single measure with a repeat sign (two vertical lines with two dots between them). Below the staff is a guitar TAB line with a repeat sign. Below the TAB line are 'T', 'A', and 'B' labels.

## Alternate Endings (used on repeats)

1. 2. 19 20

The fifth system shows two measures. Measure 19 contains a first ending bracket (a horizontal line above the staff with a vertical line at the end). Measure 20 contains a second ending bracket (a horizontal line above the staff with a vertical line at the end). Below the staff is a guitar TAB line with a first ending bracket and a second ending bracket. Below the TAB line are 'T', 'A', and 'B' labels.