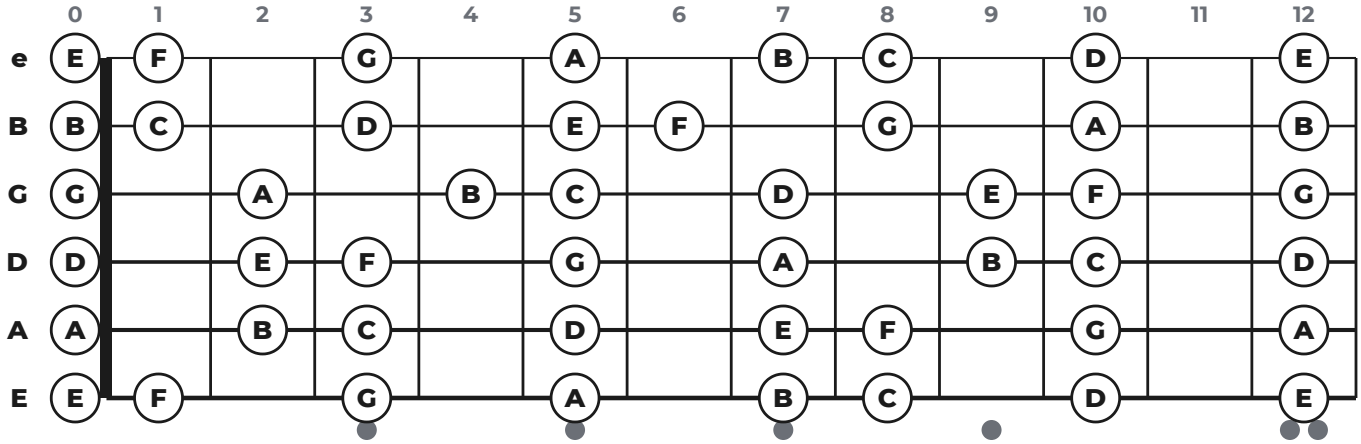
Fretboard Notes

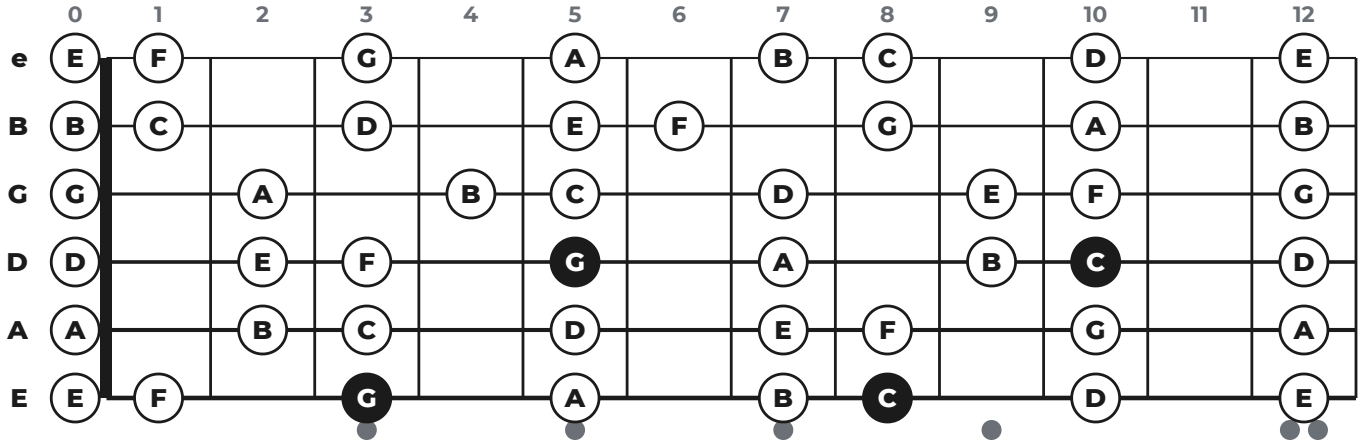
THE NATURAL NOTES, FRETS 0–12

These are the **natural notes** (no sharps or flats) on every string, open to the 12th fret. At the 12th fret everything repeats an octave higher. The gaps between notes are the sharps and flats: every two letters are two frets apart, except **B–C** and **E–F**, which are side by side.



THE OCTAVE TRICK: LEARN TWO STRINGS, GET FOUR

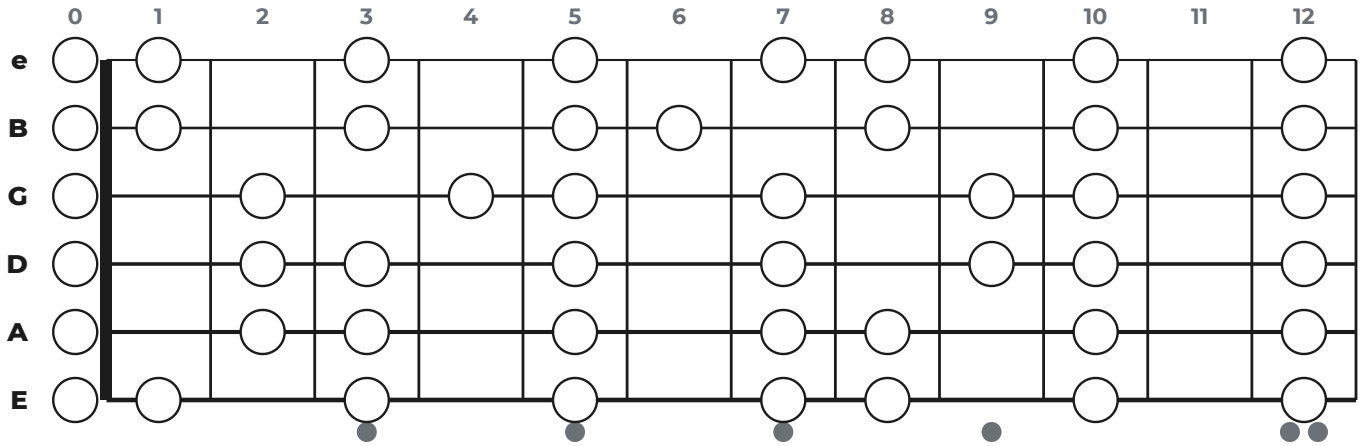
Find a note on the **6th string**. The same note is **two strings higher and two frets up** on the 4th string. Notes on the **5th string** repeat the same way on the 3rd string. The shaded dots show G (3rd fret) and C (8th fret) and their octaves.

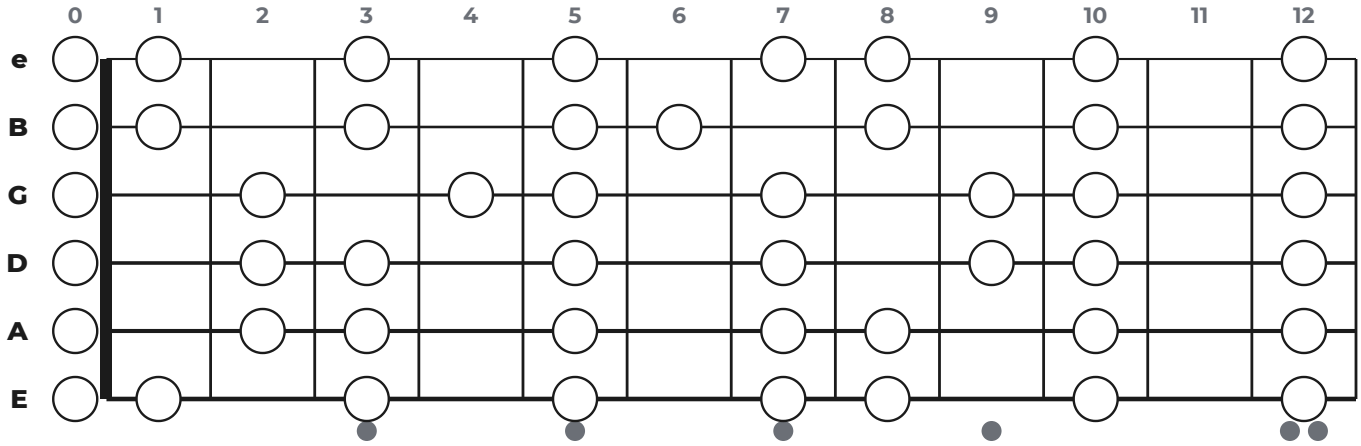


> **One shift to remember:** when the octave lands on the **B string** or the **high e string**, add one more fret. Notes on the 4th string repeat on the 2nd string **three frets up**; notes on the 3rd string repeat on the 1st string **three frets up**. The 1st string (high e) has exactly the same notes as the 6th string (low E).

Fill It In TEST YOURSELF

Write the note name in each circle. Start with one string a day: say each note out loud as you play it, then fill it in from memory. Check your answers against page 1.





A 5-MINUTE DAILY DRILL

1. **Pick one note** (for example G) and find it on every string, low to high, then back down.
2. **Use the octave trick** to jump from the 6th string to the 4th, and from the 5th to the 3rd.
3. **Name as you play:** play up one string to the 12th fret, saying each natural note out loud.
4. **Mix it up:** have someone call out a note and a string; find it in under three seconds.

> Want every note, interval, chord and scale mapped across the neck in six tunings? See **Fretboard Blueprint** at guitarunion.net/books