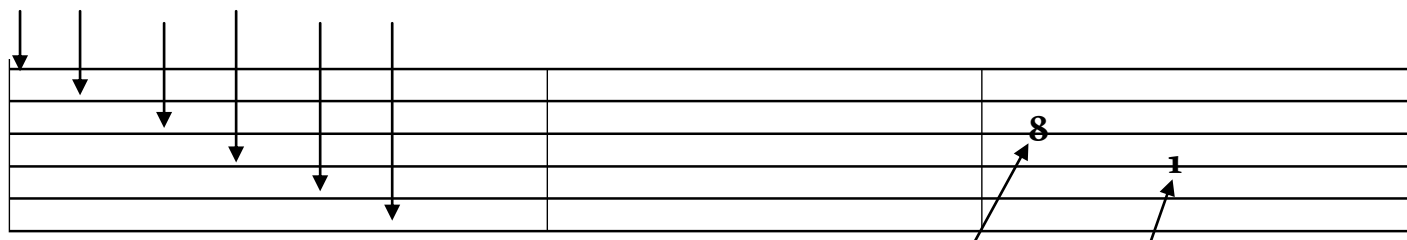


Tablature

On the guitar,, we've got a few specific ways to notate music that apply only to string instruments. The first to look at is called **Tablature**. This has a bit of controversy that goes along with it. A lot of traditional musicians believe that tab (tablature for short) is a bad thing, in that quite a few guitarists nowadays rely on it to the point of being unable to read standard notation. I agree that reading notes is one of the most important things about being a musician, however I think tab is a useful and handy tool. It can be used for clearly fingering single note lines and solos, a quick transcription tool and a useful way to notate guitaristic techniques such as bends, slurs, etc.

Tab works like this: There are six lines, each of which represents a string, starting with the 1st string on top and counting down to the 6th on the bottom.

1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th We then put numbers on the lines, which tell you which fret to play.



3rd String/8th Fret 4th String/1st Fret

Here's an A minor pentatonic scale both in notation and tablature. Notice the different articulations and how they work for each.

Slide Hammer On Bend Pull Off Vibrato

Justin Piper is an active guitarist, teacher and composer in the Boston area.

www.justinpiper.com

www.theallegroschoolofmusic.com