MUSIC THEORY

The guitar fretboard reference



All the notes on the six strings in the first twelve frets. It is read like the guitar in playing position: the 6th string (the thickest and lowest) at the top and the 1st at the bottom.

String	Open	1	2	3 •	4	5 •	6	7 •	8	9 •	10	11	12 • •
6th open: E2	**E2**	**F2**	**F♯2** Gb2	**G2**	**G♯2** Ab2	**A2**	**A♯2** Bb2	**B2**	**C3**	**C♯3** Db3	**D3**	**D♯3** Eb3	**E3**
5th open: A2	**A2**	**A♯2** Bb2	**B2**	**C3**	**C♯3** Db3	**D3**	**D♯3** Eb3	**E3**	**F3**	**F♯3** Gb3	**G3**	**G♯3** Ab3	**A3**
4th open: D3	**D3**	**D♯3** Eb3	**E3**	**F3**	**F♯3** Gb3	**G3**	**G♯3** Ab3	**A3**	**A♯3** Bb3	**B3**	**C4**	**C♯4** Db4	**D4**
3rd open: G3	**G3**	**G♯3** Ab3	**A3**	**A♯3** Bb3	**B3**	**C4**	**C♯4** Db4	**D4**	**D♯4** Eb4	**E4**	**F4**	**F♯4** Gb4	**G4**
2nd open: B3	**B3**	**C4**	**C♯4** Db4	**D4**	**D♯4** Eb4	**E4**	**F4**	**F♯4** Gb4	**G4**	**G♯4** Ab4	**A4**	**A♯4** Bb4	**B4**
1st open: E4	**E4**	**F4**	**F♯4** Gb4	**G4**	**G♯4** Ab4	**A4**	**A♯4** Bb4	**B4**	**C5**	**C♯5** Db5	**D5**	**D♯5** Eb5	**E5**

Each fret, a half step. That is why at **fret 12** the open-string note comes back an octave higher: the fretboard "repeats" there, and that column is set apart.

The dots (frets 3, 5, 7, 9 and the double one at 12) are the fretboard markers, the ones that help you find your place without looking.

F♯ and G♭ are the same note, only the way it is written changes. That is why the altered boxes carry both names.

The subscripts are the octave: the E_2 of the sixth string sounds two octaves below the E_4 of the first. Note: this is what *sounds*; in the score the guitar is written an octave higher.