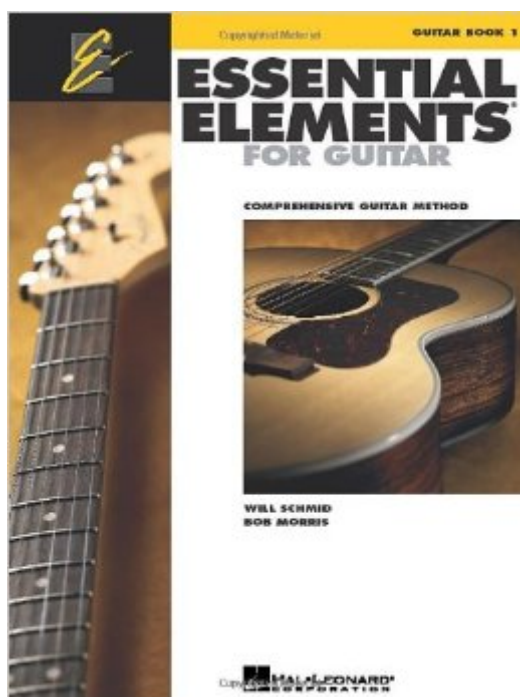


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# Essential Elements For Guitar - Book 1: Comprehensive Guitar Method



## Synopsis

Take your guitar teaching to a new level! Hal Leonard's top-selling comprehensive method for band and strings is now also available for guitar. With the time-tested classroom teaching methods of Will Schmid and Bob Morris and popular songs in a variety of styles, *Essential Elements for Guitar* is sure to become a staple of guitar teachers' instruction and get beginning guitar students off to a great start. This method has been designed to meet the National Standards for Music Education, with features such as cross-curricular activities, quizzes, multicultural songs, basic improvisation and more. Concepts covered in Book 1 include: getting started; basic music theory; guitar chords; notes on each string; ensemble playing; and much more! Songs used in Book 1 include such hits as: Dust in the Wind, Eleanor Rigby, Every Breath You Take, Hey Jude, Hound Dog, Let It Be, Ode to Joy, Rock Around the Clock, Stand By Me, Surfin' USA, Sweet Home Chicago, This Land Is Your Land, You Really Got Me, and more!

## Book Information

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Hal Leonard Corp (December 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 142345362X

ISBN-13: 978-1423453628

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.3 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (75 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,849 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Instruments > Guitar #73 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Instruction & Study #448 in Books > Humor & Entertainment

## Customer Reviews

I first learned about this book at a graduate level guitar pedagogy class. Many of the music teachers selected this as a favorite among the guitar method books. It has a solid and progressive approach to playing and music theory. There is a wide variety of music; classic rock, gospel, classical, jazz, etc. The quality recordings with which one can play make this fun for teacher and student alike. I have taught from the Essential Elements Series for years. I have enjoyed the band method and I am currently using the strings method. I was excited to see the guitar method and I am awaiting guitar book two. This book is good for students of professional teachers as well as those who are

self-taught. BUY THIS BOOK.

My 9-year-old daughter used the Essential Elements book for Saxophone, and we were both pleased with how the book was laid out, and the progression from simple to more difficult songs. I decided to purchase Guitar Level 1 and Level 2 to teach her guitar. We are very pleased with the books. Level 1 begins by showing simplified C and G chords using only one finger. It teaches the simplest strum patterns for 4/4 and 3/4 time. It then provides songs with just those two chords. They can either sing or have someone else play while they strum along. I like the fact that the student is able to "play" a real tune in the first lesson. Although very simple, my daughter felt like she had accomplished something in Lesson 1. The book then teaches fingering for single notes on the 1st string (high E). There are several short songs using only three notes to get the student comfortable with finger placement and reading standard notation. The book continues in this way, adding new chords and new notes, always ending with several tunes to practice using the new information. Some of the songs are actually pretty good and recognizable (although short). All have notation and chords written across the top. If chords have not been covered yet, they are written in grey (so the instructor can play chords as an accompaniment). The book does not include Tabs, which I am actually pleased about. I will teach my daughter tabs, but would like her to know standard notation first. So many scores don't include tabs, I don't want her to be limited in her ability to read both forms. Throughout the book, there are several interesting facts about music, history, terminology, style. It does go into some music theory, but a little at a time. My daughter would be bored with too much theory at once. The book is a good size so it can be placed nicely on the music stand. Some books are too thick and it's work to keep them open on the stand. This book did not include a CD, which kept the price down. Level 2 includes a CD (at least mine did), but the price went up considerably. I would prefer no CD and less \$\$, but that's just me. Usually, we listen to CD's and play along once and it gets stored somewhere and never seen again. I don't have any complaints about the book. My daughter is excited to learn the guitar and I now have an organized progression to use as a guide. This book could be used with an instructor or individually. I believe both adults and children can learn the basics using this book.

My son started with the Essential Elements for Cello. The guitar book is equally excellent. It is very simple, starts with posture and finger positions. Also describes what not to do, and how to know you are doing something wrong. Teaches simple finger placement and strumming techniques. Then progresses on to chords. It moves into reading music. It is well organized and logical. Given the

strictness of his Cello instructor, I am confident the techniques described for the guitar are correct. This book will not replace a guitar instructor. It is a great start and does teach solid basic guitar techniques. Somebody with a good music background will absorb this book very quickly. Recommend this book.

This is a great book for middle school or high school beginner guitar class. I had ordered 2 more books because 2 had been missing, and I needed to replace them. I have been using this book to teach guitar class (to up to 29 students at a time!) for over a year.

I used this book to help teach myself how to play acoustic guitar three years ago. My 11-year old niece and 9-year old nephew both got guitars for Christmas and I thought this would be the perfect companion to help them learn to play as well. The book is very easy to follow, even if you've never read sheet music before. I have not used the included CD, It has a track to help you tune your guitar, as well as demos of many of the songs in the book. This book does an excellent job of showing you what every part of your guitar is called, hand positioning, and how to play not only specific notes but chords as well. This book is printed in Treble clef, not tab. I would highly recommend this to anyone looking to learn how to play guitar at their own pace, without the need of outside instruction/lessons.

I bought this because of the cd that supposedly came with it. The identical book was for sale \$5 cheaper without a cd, but we chose this one because the cd was important to us. However, it did not come with the cd!

My son uses this book in his school guitar class. Really helpful to have at home too. He is picking up on guitar quickly and practices every night by himself. He says his teacher is awesome and it looks like the teacher picked a great book for the class.

Essential Elements is just that essential elements. It provides a backbone into the theory and procedures of operating a guitar. It will teach you to use the instrument to get yourself prepared for a teacher. It works as a great supplementary book with numerous exercises. I knew nothing of music and essential elements help me how to sight read and improve on my over all skill. Highly recommend.

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