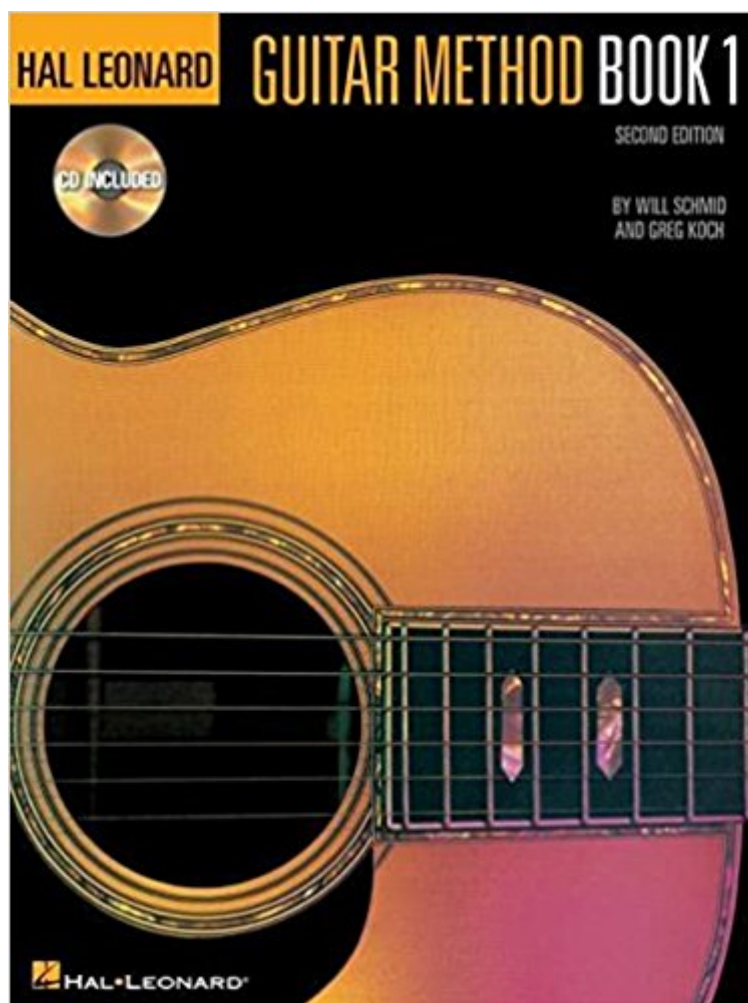


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# Hal Leonard Guitar Method Book 1: Book/CD Pack



## Synopsis

(Guitar Method). The second edition of this world-famous method by Will Schmid and Greg Koch is preferred by teachers because it makes them more effective while making their job easier. Students enjoy its easy-to-follow format that gives them a solid music education while letting them play songs right away. Book 1 provides beginning instruction including tuning, 1st position melody playing, C, G, G7, D7, and Em chords, rhythms through eighth notes, solos and ensembles and strumming. Features a chord chart, and traditional songs like: Amazing Grace \* Greensleeves \* and When the Saints Go Marching In. Audio examples of the exercises are included on the CD and are also accessible online with the unique code included with the book. Online audio is accessed at [halleonard.com/mylibrary](http://halleonard.com/mylibrary)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a geezer let me tell you that i HAVE learned to playmy new Les Paul electric guitar using this series of lesson books....books 1 through 3 & the BLUES book as well. Book 1, will get you actually reading sheet music and playing it. Mission accomplished. I wish I would have learned guitar about 5 or 6 decades ago. It is fun!

I use this at the store where I teach guitar and the book is very good for beginning students.

However, it gets boring once the student starts getting a firm grasp ( about 1/4 of the way through the book). That is the point where I only use the book to keep the student's mind fresh on sight reading and I move on to other things. Probably not a good book if you want to teach yourself. Good

for an instructor to use to guide a student though.

As a secondary music educator, I believe this book is a GREAT book for people who want to learn how to play guitar (especially for those who have no musical training at all). Pedagogically the method is logical, simple, well paced, and clear. Each string is introduced one at a time and new exercises effectively combine and utilize skills previous taught. While many method books throw tons of initially irrelevant information at you from the start, this book only introduces and teaches what is necessary to properly play the material. TAB is introduced later in the series, but the first book requires students to learn traditional notation (i.e. note and rhythm reading). Some previous reviewers call the exercises in this book "old" or "outdated," but majority of the material are familiar folk songs. Folk songs are generally... old. Ode to Joy, Greensleeves, Yankee Doodle, Star Spangled Banner, etc., are the types of tunes you will find in this book. For those of you who wish to supplement your studies with some "pop" music, Hal Leonard publishes a book entitled "Easy Pop Melodies" for guitar which has some fairly satisfying material. As with any student/method book combination, this book may not be right for some students who might require a different method of instruction, but I believe this book is wonderful for most beginning students.

I have looked at numerous beginner guitar books, and I currently have about six others that I've checked out from the library, but I keep coming back to this one. I love that there is no TAB in this book. To me, TAB feels like cheating. You have to learn how to read TAB and then you get used to it, and then you feel like you need it. But even books with TAB usually also have the standard music notation written out above to clarify the rhythm, etc. So why not just use the standard notation in the first place instead of learning two systems? And this book, more than any other, taught me how to read music. It's simple. You learn a few notes on one string, and then you practice a few songs that use those notes. Then you move to the next string. There are no shortcuts! If you just steadily work at it, you get to the point fairly quickly where you can look at a note and automatically play it on the right string on the guitar. Yes, the music is basic, and I suppose some of it is boring (I found myself wanting to skip a few like Yankee Doodle), but I actually loved most of the tunes (especially the folk songs). It's helpful to have some idea what a song should sound like so you know if you're on the right track. To me, this is a good book to get if you're willing to put in the time and actually learn to read music. You learn chords too as you go along. But the chords aren't the focus, and I actually liked that. It's easy to get frustrated with learning guitar because a lot of people and books will tell you that all you need to learn is a few chords and then you'll be playing songs in no time. But they

don't tell you how hard learning chords, getting them to sound right, switching between them in time, and singing along will be. This book actually gets you playing melodies quickly, and the chords come in time as your fingers toughen up.

I've had this book for a couple years, I would pick it up and play a bit then stop and come back weeks later and do it again. Well your not going to learn much doing it that way, and I didn't. Finally when I actually bought a real guitar, I was able to start going right thru this book. Obviously going thru parts of it previously helped but with a good guitar made it fun. My old acoustic was just too difficult to play chords on, and that where I got stuck. So in the last 2 months been playing using this book and also doing Rocksmith on my PS3. For both, its like you get so far then it seems to get much more difficult. Thats where if you really want to learn to play you have to bear down and get thru it. Some of the stuff on there towards the end of the book gets a little more into musical symbols and things that can become confusing. There's a lot more to playing than just strumming notes. There are some things that could be improved, such as more practice songs using the top few strings, like Boogie Bass song. Also, the chord listing on the back page is great. I wish I would have noticed that sooner. Spend time daily just practicing those chords and going from one to another to another. And now you can supplement this book with stuff online and youtube such as Danfie. But no book or game is going to teach you anything until you actually keep practicing and do the work to make it happen.

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