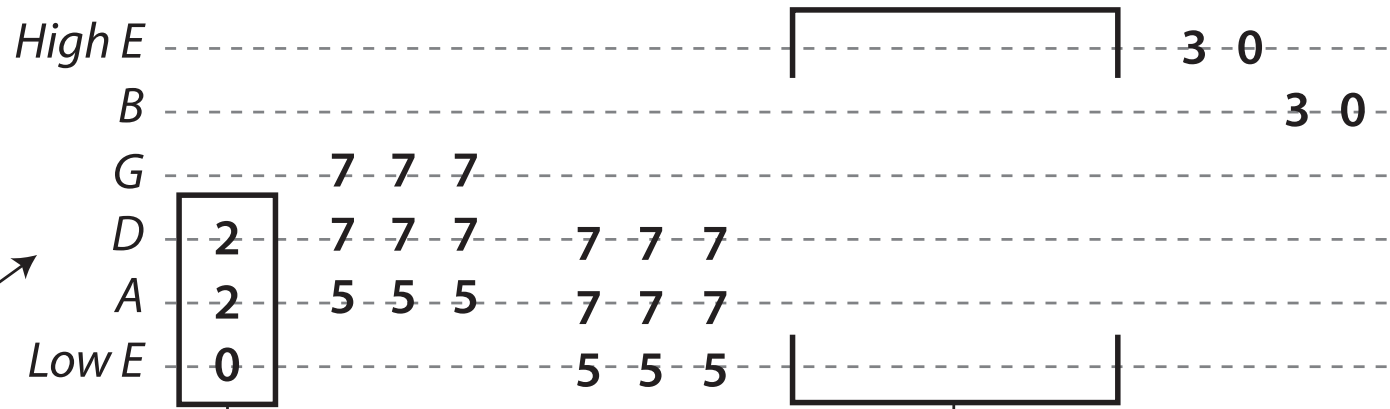
How guitar tabs work

Unlike sheet music, which provides a symbolic representation of notes and chords based on scales and music theory, guitar tablature —known as tab—uses a visual diagram of the guitar to convey which frets and strings to play.

TAB STRUCTURE *Intro to AC/DC's "Back In Black"*

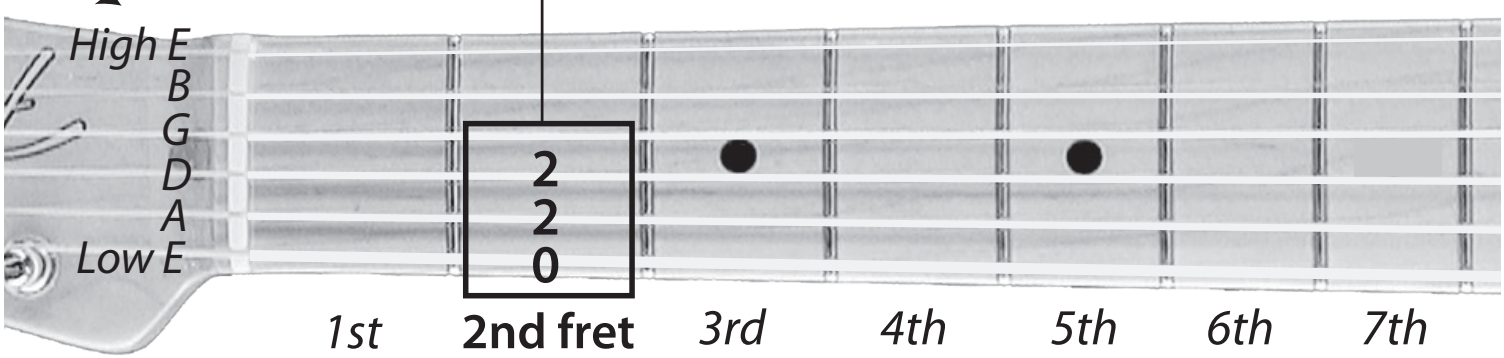


STRINGS
From player's point of view looking down

How to play the first chord:

- The 2's tell you to press down the D and A strings on the **2nd fret** (below). The zero tells you to not press down anywhere on the low E string.
- Now strum the three strings.

Spacing: Gives you a sense of how long to pause between notes.



The frets: The rectangular divisions on the neck of the guitar underneath the strings. Pressing strings down on different frets gives you a range of sounds when you play.

Source: Tribune research, RockMagic.net

Chicago Tribune