CHAPTER 1: THE FRETBOARD

FRETBOARD LAYOUT

As this is a guitar-specific book, let's start with an overview of the guitar fretboard:

Fig. 1

E	F		F♯/G♭		G		G♯/A♭		A		A♯/B♭		B		C		C♯/D♭		D		D♯/E♭		E		F		F♯/G♭		G
B	C		C♯/D♭		D		D♯/E♭		E		F		F♯/G♭		G		G♯/A♭		A		A♯/B♭		B		C		C♯/D♭		D
G	G♯/A♭		A		A♯/B♭		B		C		C♯/D♭		D		D♯/E♭		E		F		F♯/G♭		G		G♯/A♭		A		A♯/B♭
D	D♯/E♭		E		F		F♯/G♭		G		G♯/A♭		A		A♯/B♭		B		C		C♯/D♭		D		D♯/E♭		E		F
A	A♯/B♭		B		C		C♯/D♭		D		D♯/E♭		E		F		F♯/G♭		G		G♯/A♭		A		A♯/B♭		B		C
E	F		F♯/G♭		G		G♯/A♭		A		A♯/B♭		B		C		C♯/D♭		D		D♯/E♭		E		F		F♯/G♭		G
					III				V				VII				IX						XII						XV

The guitar is a fretted, six-string instrument, tuned low to high: E–A–D–G–B–E. The frets represent *half-step* increments (see Chapter 4, Intervals), so playing along one string (from "open" to the twelfth fret) produces all twelve pitches of the *chromatic scale* (see Chapter 12). The twelfth fret represents an octave (see Chapter 4, Intervals) above the starting point (open string), at which the pitches start over again, until ending at frets 21 or 22 (on most electric guitars). Unlike on a piano, the same note can be played at several different points on the guitar. This is demonstrated below.
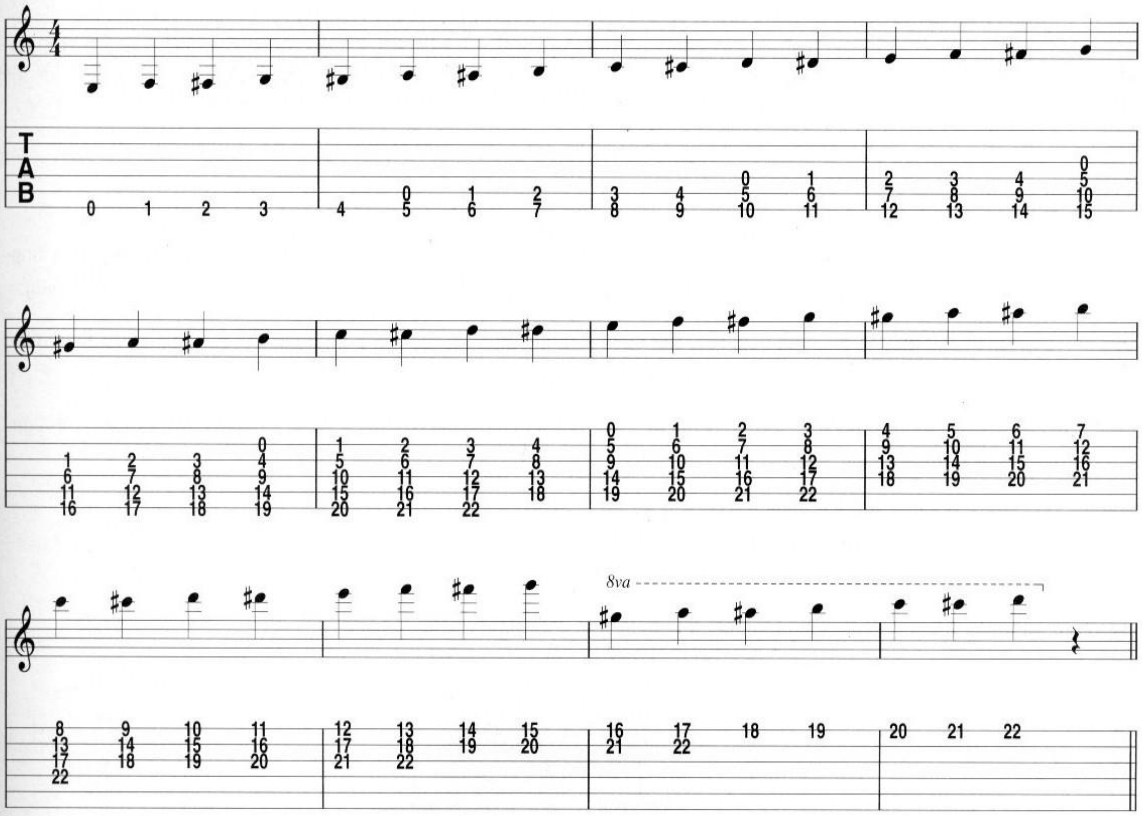
Fig. 2