

OPEN tunings

C ₂	H ₂	O ₂	R ₁	D ₁	S ₁
T ₂	U ₁	N ₁	I ₁	N ₁	G ₂
S ₁	C ₂	A ₁	L ₂	E ₁	S ₁

C ₂	H ₂	A ₁	R ₁	T ₂	S ₁
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Foreword

Open or alternate tunings are a favored way of widening the variety of musical expression for many guitarists. Right across all styles of playing, changing the pitch of the guitar is extremely popular. Joni Mitchell, Stanley Jordan, George van Eps, Ry Cooder, Duane Allmann, Albert Collins, Edward van Halen, Diamond Darrell ... this list of famous guitarists who retune their guitars (some more, some less) could easily be added to.

In this book, we have tried to present the most popular alternate tunings. This compilation does not lay claim to being complete (during one concert alone Joni Mitchell uses a greater variety of tunings than is listed here!). So we hope you will understand that not everybody's "favorite tuning" can be included here. Given the immense number of theoretical possibilities of retuning the guitar (and each day brings new ones), we thought it more important to describe the best-known tunings and explain how they are used, so that the information given here can be put into practice immediately. All tunings are presented in the same way:

- 1) A chart shows which strings have to be retuned and where the respective notes required are to be found.
- 2) A short explanation gives information on the background and use of the tuning in question. This information is of course not obligatory, but merely provides rough guidelines.
- 3) On the second and third page of each open tuning fingering diagrams for certain selected chords are given.
- 4) The conclusion shows the most important scales of the tuning concerned. They are shown here both in traditional notation as well as in tablature form.

The Appendix of this book contains further information:

- Transposition and capo table in order to transpose the chords, scales and tunings as required.
- Basic chords for standard tuning.
- Summary and explanation listing the most common symbols used for chords.

Have fun!

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