

Lesson 30

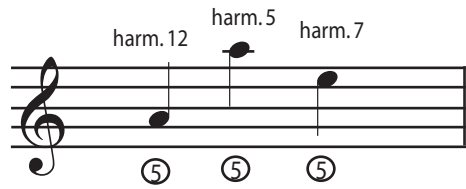
Guitar Technique

Guitarists play **harmonics*** by touching the string very lightly at the correct spot while it is being plucked. On open strings[^], harmonics can only be played easily at the 12th, 5th, and 7th frets.

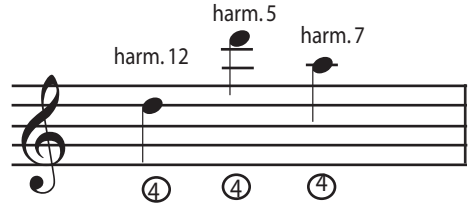
12th fret (1/2 string) sounds one octave higher, 5th fret (1/4 string) sounds two octaves higher, 7th fret (1/3 string) an octave and a fifth higher, than the open string.

Touch the string firmly, but without holding it down, directly over the fret.

Here are the easiest harmonics to play on the A string:



Here are the easiest harmonics to play on the D string:



Music Theory for Guitar

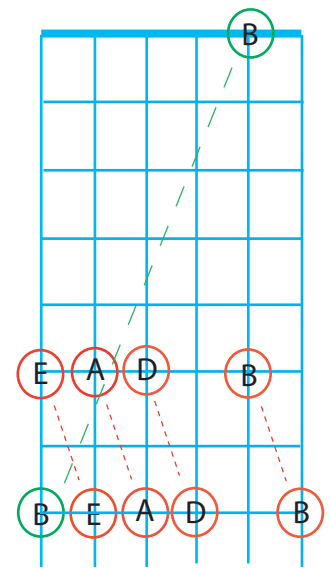
Some guitarists prefer to **use harmonics to tune** their guitars. When done carefully, this can give a very accurate, pleasing tuning.

Tune the sixth string as usual.

Then tune the fifth string by matching its 7th-fret harmonic to the sixth string fifth-fret harmonic.

Follow the same procedure for all other strings except the second string.

The B string can be tuned by matching the open string to the 7th fret of the harmonic of the sixth string.



There are many, many **different types of scales[^]** that represent the notes used in different music genres. You may find the same scale under different names, or different scales under the same name. Compare the following possibilities to your D major, D natural minor, D harmonic minor, and D blues scales.



[^]More harmonics can be played by holding the string down at one fret while playing the harmonic at another, but this is an advanced technique.

*learn more about harmonics: <http://cnx.org/content/m11118/latest/>

[^]learn more about other scales <http://cnx.org/content/m11636/latest/>