

## Lesson 2: Simple Blues with Tabs

### ***Tabs***

In this lesson you will learn how to read a tabulature or a tab. Tabs are very common on the web.

Reading tabs is quite easy: The bottom line represents the E-string, the second line from the bottom is the A-string followed by the D-string, and the top line represents the G-string. The numbers shown tell you which fret you have to play. Thus a 5 on the second line from the bottom means: "Play the 5<sup>th</sup> fret on the A-string". 0 always means: "Play the **open string**", i. e. pluck the string without placing your finger on the fingerboard.

Let's have a look at the delineation on the following page where you will find the tab below the score. With the explanation given above you may now already figure out that the first note has to be played in the 8<sup>th</sup> fret on the D-string. This note is played twice before you play the same fret on the A-string. The next note is the 6<sup>th</sup> fret on the D-string. The principle should be clear by now.

### ***Key signature***

Behind the bass clef which you know by now from the previous lesson you can see two little bs:



This is the **key signature**. On closer inspection you will recognize that the bs are located at the position of the notes B and E. The effect is that B and E are diminished by a half-tone (resp. semi-tone). So instead of a B you play Bb (pronounced "B flat") and instead of an E you play Eb ("E flat").

The signature is valid for the whole composition.

Apart from that there are also the **accidentals** which occur immediately before a note, e.g. the b that stands before the A in the first bar. This symbol also means that Ab is played instead of an A but is only valid for that particular bar.

Exercise: Refer to the "Notefinder" on the web page and verify that the notes in the staff are really played as indicated by the tabs.

### ***Simile Mark***

The symbol % in the staves is called a **simile mark** and means that the previous bar must be re-played once.

## Blues

The composition is a blues, a popular song form. You will learn more about the blues in lesson #16. There are no rests here, so you simply play synchronously with every tap of the foot. Listen to the audio. Play the piece in the 6<sup>th</sup> position!

8

8 8 6  
8

8

8 8 6  
8 8 6  
8

8

8 8 6  
8 8 6  
8 8 6  
8