

# Steel Guitar Tablature Key

## STANDARD STAFF

A standard treble clef is used to give information missing from the tablature staff—rhythm and note durations.

## TABLATURE STAFF

Tablature is a way to graphically represent positions on the fretboard. Horizontal lines represent the strings and the numbers represent frets.

play 1st string  
at the 7th fret

play 2nd  
string open

mixing fretted and open notes;  
notes in parentheses are optional

## FINGERING

Pick single note runs using the thumb and the second or third finger. [m = thumb, V = finger]

## GRACE NOTE

Pick the note a fret below the indicated fret and quickly move the bar up to the indicated fret.

## LET RING

Pick the notes within the marking, letting all ring until marking ends.

## STRUM

Strum chord by raking up from bottom string with the thumb, and then finishing with the forefinger on the top string.

## FALL OFF

Pick the note at the indicated fret then drop the note a half step or more with the bar before muting the note.

## NATURAL HARMONICS

Pick only open strings, muting the strings at the indicated frets with the edge of the left palm.

## HAMMER ON

Pick the open string then sound second note by placing bar at the indicated fret without picking.

## BAR PHRASING

Pick the first note and then move the bar toward the second note before picking it.

## PALM HARMONICS

Rake across the strings with the thumbpick while lightly muting strings with the edge of the right palm 12 frets above bar.

## PULL OFF

Pick the first note at the indicated fret and then sound the open note by lifting the bar off the string without picking.

## HULA PICK

With thumb, pick the bottom note slightly ahead of the beat, then play the other note(s) on the beat.

## HIGHER ORDER HARMONICS

Same as palm harmonics except you mute 7 frets up (2nd order) or 5 frets up (3rd order). The order is shown in parentheses.

## SLIDE

Pick the first note at the indicated fret and then slide the bar to the next note without picking.

## TREMOLO

Alternate the notes in rapid succession for the duration indicated. If a chord is notated, alternate the bottom note with the rest of the chord.

## FINGER HARMONICS

Use finger or knuckle to mute notes, letting notes ring together. Play higher order harmonics as indicated in italics next to the tab fret number.