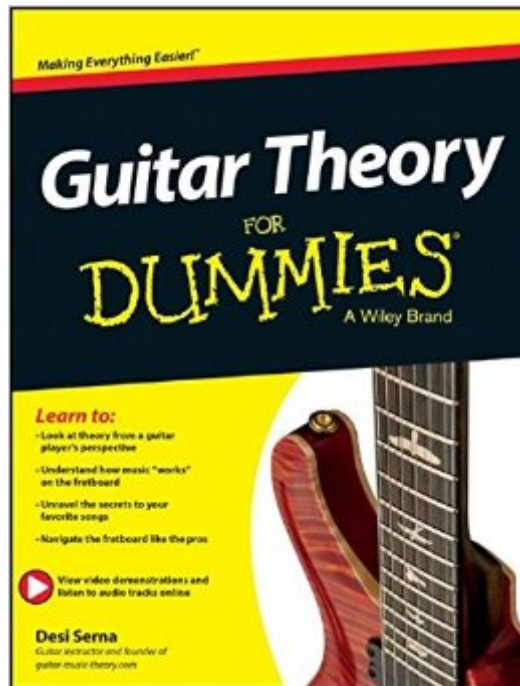


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# Guitar Theory For Dummies: Book + Online Video & Audio Instruction



## Synopsis

Serious about jamming, understanding, and creating guitar-driven music? Easy. With an approachable and engaging style, *Guitar Theory For Dummies* goes beyond guitar basics, presenting the guidance intermediate to advanced players need to improve their improvisational and compositional skills. Plus, with access to audio tracks and video instruction online you can master the concepts and techniques covered in the book. Key content coverage includes: pentatonic and major scale patterns; the CAGED chord system, chord progressions, and playing by numbers; roots, keys, and applying scales, plus modes and modal scales; intervals and chord extensions; popular song references and theory applications that help you understand how to play popular music and contemporary guitar styles, and create music of your own. This title also features companion audio tracks and video content hosted online at [Dummies.com](http://Dummies.com). The expert instruction and easy-to-digest information provides comprehensive guidance on how to apply music theory concepts to fretted instruments. If you already have a handle on the basics and want to know more about the building blocks and theory behind guitar music, *Guitar Theory For Dummies* has you covered.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have been struggling to understand and learn guitar for twenty years. (Not a typo.) In that time I've had seven guitar teachers. Some were expensive. A couple had good technique. All failed to make sense to me. I own a LOT of guitar books - spiral bound books packed with mysterious chord shapes, theory books from famous schools, method books, classical books - all gathering dust. I've

tried it all. Only once I found Desi's book and his free podcasts did it all "click" so I could begin to play. I'm not performing yet, but for the very first time, I understand the full "landscape" of the guitar, why I'm learning scales, why a chord is what it is, how all the pieces fit together. Words can't describe how grateful I am for this book. I hope it brings you similar joy. (And if, like me, you prefer to "understand" what you're doing, I'm sure it will.)

First off: If you're interested in music theory strictly in the context of jazz or classical music, there are many more in-depth and narrowly-focused texts out there that I'd recommend over this one. For that matter, if you're interested exclusively in a particular genre, such as metal, you'd probably prefer a book that deals just with that in more detail. But if you're a "by ear" player of any genre of rock, blues, or pop, or a songwriter who wants to better understand what you're doing and use that knowledge to broaden your options for writing and improvising, there's a lot of useful material here, presented in a friendly straightforward way. The material covered is essentially chords (the commonly used CAGED system of fingerings), chord progressions and scales. The book assumes you already play at an intermediate level and is really about giving you the knowledge behind what you already know and the tools to build upon your current skills. The book refers to a large number of rock and popular tunes to illustrate chord progressions and the use of particular scales. It seems purposely designed to appeal to a wide range of players, covering titles from the 60s through the past decade, so you're bound to find a couple of tunes you know well that really nail down some of the ideas. The presentation uses primarily chord diagrams and tab, with a relatively small amount of traditional notation that's always accompanied by tab. The author makes the point (and I strongly agree) that learning traditional music notation doesn't mean becoming as proficient as an orchestral conductor or a concert violinist. It means, for the most part, understanding rhythmic subdivision up to 16th notes. We all choose the effort we put into music and what we get from it. I'll just say that if you have the patience to learn tab, you have the patience to learn basic notation, and you'll never regret the musical doors that open up to you as a result.

This book is a perfect combination of theory and practical information. One minor quibble is that instead of just referencing classic rock pieces that exemplify a technique, it would be helpful for a short video segment playing the excerpt so that we better understand how it is constructed.

I also have his DVD's and his Fretboard Theory book. I am 40+ I've attempted to learn on my own in

my early twenties, it was a lost cause back then; we did not have the you tube & all back then. I went through 5 teachers and finally found one that knew what Desi was talking about and took the time to watch his DVD's & look over his book's. I was a beginner about a year ago when I purchased Desi's dvd's and book. By the time I started looking for a good teacher, because of Desi's material, I knew more than some of the teachers. He puts a disclaimer saying that all his materials are for intermediate and not for beginners; yes you have to know a little bit to get his material and his teachings but if you really want to learn to play his teachings makes you more curious and gets you to do more. So if you don't know a think or two at the beginning that is not included in his material they are easy to find on line. I am a equipment junky, I have several guitars and I have books and DVD's up to the ceiling. Nothing comes close to his method. If you can not learn from his material go pick up Golf or something. I highly recommend you to stick with it and apply how he is telling you to apply his material, trust me I play golf too (I don't know why) I also studied Bill Edwards Fretboard Logic. One could say Desi makes it a bit more fun and easy to learn. After owning his material for little over a year I wanted to write this ( I don't much care to do) not so much to benefit him, I think he is doing just fine, but to save some folks the pain, expense and most of all not to quit. I consider myself still a beginner but I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Not that there is an end to this life long commitment but the tunnel is bright now (Thank you Desi). Some folks may not even need a teacher with this material to learn and get very good. Also a software like Garage band. I just like the enforcement of weekly lessons with a teacher who understands the Desi method.

I have purchased all of Desi's books. He has a talent for making concepts that appear difficult easy to learn. You will find all those holes that exist with regards to music theory in your knowledge will be fulfilled and understood after reading this book. Yeah's it is a Dummy book, but some are awesome and this is one of the jewels of the series. It is simple stuff that answers the questions that most guitar instructors just take for granted and miss teaching you that cause you problems further down the line, that are answered here. For example: Why and when do we use # (Sharp) or b (Flat)? The answer is so simple you want to kick your self in the butt for not seeing it. BTW, the answer is so we can have one instance of each letter representing the 7 notes in each scale. Do yourself a favor and buy this book along with Fretboard Theory I and Fretboard Theory II. Work your way through them slowly each week and I promise your ability to play and understand what you are playing as well as why will just happen. I recommend this book and the Fretboard Theory series above any other books on the subject of music and guitar.

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