



Build A Strong Fretboard Understanding 5/5

Print this out and use the following charts to keep track of your progress. Cross off the triads you feel confident with, or keep a tally chart of how often you've practiced each triad. This way, you can manage the number of triads effectively. Alternatively, create your own plan to tackle this. It's just my suggestion...

The Triad System (Overview)

Simplify the Fretboard

Divide the fretboard into **four string sets**:

1. E, B, G strings
2. B, G, D strings
3. G, D, A strings
4. D, A, low E strings

By focusing on one string set at a time, you can easily visualize triads *horizontally* across the fretboard.

Understand the Four Triad Types

In theory, there are only four triad types:

1. **Major**
2. **Minor**
3. **Augmented** (major's sibling)
4. **Diminished** (minor's sibling)

Each triad consists of **three notes**:

- A **root**, a **third**, and a **fifth**
- Arranged in **three inversions**:
 - Root position
 - 1st inversion
 - 2nd inversion

How to Practice Triads:

1st Horizontal Practice, **2nd** Vertical Practice

Use the **systematic approach** or the **music related approach**.

Systematic Approach

	A	B	C	D	D	E	F	G
Major								
Minor								
Diminished								
Augmented								

	A#	B#	C#	D#	D#	E#	F#	G#
Major								
Minor								
Diminished								
Augmented								

	Ab	Bb	Cb	Db	Db	Eb	Fb	Gb
Major								
Minor								
Diminished								
Augmented								

Music Related Approach

	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	Bdim
Key: C-Major							

	G	Am	Bm	C	D	Em	F#dim
Key: G-Major							

	D	Em	F#m	G	A	Bm	C#dim
Key: D-Major							

	F	Gm	Am	Bb	C	Dm	Edim
Key: F-Major							

1st String Set

4/4 C

Musical notation for the 1st string set, showing a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a common time signature (C). The notation consists of five measures, each containing a chord. The first measure has a C chord (C4, E4, G4). The second measure has a G4 chord (G4, B4, D5). The third measure has a B4 chord (B4, D5, F#5). The fourth measure has a D5 chord (D5, F#5, A5). The fifth measure has an F#5 chord (F#5, A5, C6). Below the musical notation is a tablature (TAB) section with three lines. The first line has fret numbers 0, 1, 0. The second line has fret numbers 3, 5, 5. The third line has fret numbers 8, 8, 9. The fourth measure has fret numbers 12, 13, 12. The fifth measure has fret numbers 15, 17, 17.

T	0	3	8	12	15
A	1	5	8	13	17
B	0	5	9	12	17

2nd String Set

Musical notation for the 2nd string set, showing a treble clef and five measures of chords. The first measure has a C chord (C4, E4, G4). The second measure has a G4 chord (G4, B4, D5). The third measure has a B4 chord (B4, D5, F#5). The fourth measure has a D5 chord (D5, F#5, A5). The fifth measure has an F#5 chord (F#5, A5, C6). Below the musical notation is a tablature (TAB) section with three lines. The first line has fret numbers 1, 0, 2. The second line has fret numbers 5, 5, 5. The third line has fret numbers 8, 9, 10. The fourth measure has fret numbers 13, 12, 14. The fifth measure has fret numbers 17, 17, 17.

T	1	5	8	13	17
A	0	5	9	12	17
B	2	5	10	14	17

3rd String Set

Musical notation for the 3rd string set, showing a treble clef and five measures of chords. The first measure has a C chord (C4, E4, G4). The second measure has a G4 chord (G4, B4, D5). The third measure has a B4 chord (B4, D5, F#5). The fourth measure has a D5 chord (D5, F#5, A5). The fifth measure has an F#5 chord (F#5, A5, C6). Below the musical notation is a tablature (TAB) section with three lines. The first line has fret numbers 0, 2, 3. The second line has fret numbers 5, 5, 7. The third line has fret numbers 9, 10, 10. The fourth measure has fret numbers 12, 14, 15. The fifth measure has fret numbers 17, 17, 19.

T	0	5	9	12	17
A	2	5	10	14	17
B	3	7	10	15	19

4th String Set

Musical notation for the 4th string set, showing a treble clef and five measures of chords. The first measure has a C chord (C4, E4, G4). The second measure has a G4 chord (G4, B4, D5). The third measure has a B4 chord (B4, D5, F#5). The fourth measure has a D5 chord (D5, F#5, A5). The fifth measure has an F#5 chord (F#5, A5, C6). Below the musical notation is a tablature (TAB) section with three lines. The first line has fret numbers 2, 3, 3. The second line has fret numbers 5, 7, 8. The third line has fret numbers 10, 10, 12. The fourth measure has fret numbers 14, 15, 15. The fifth measure has fret numbers 17, 19, 20.

T	2	5	10	14	17
A	3	7	10	15	19
B	3	8	12	15	20

Empty musical notation for the 5th string set, showing a treble clef and five empty measures. Below the musical notation is an empty tablature (TAB) section with three lines.

1st String Set

CM

	3	8	11	15	20
T	4	8	13	16	20
A	5	8	12	17	20
B					

2nd String Set

	1	4	8	13	16
T	0	5	8	12	17
A	1	5	10	13	17
B					

3rd String Set

	0	5	8	12	17
T	1	5	10	13	17
A	3	6	10	15	18
B					

4th String Set

	1	5	10	13	17
T	3	6	10	15	18
A	3	8	11	15	20
B					

1st String Set

CAUG

0	4	9	12	16
1	5	9	13	17
1	5	9	13	17

2nd String Set

1	5	9	13	17
1	5	9	13	17
2	6	10	14	18

3rd String Set

1	5	9	13	17
2	6	10	14	18
3	7	11	15	19

4th String Set

2	6	10	14	18
3	7	11	15	19
4	8	12	16	20

1st String Set

CDIM

Musical notation for the 1st String Set, measures 1-5. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature. The notes are: Measure 1: B-flat, D-flat, G; Measure 2: B-flat, D-flat, G; Measure 3: B-flat, D-flat, G; Measure 4: B-flat, D-flat, G; Measure 5: B-flat, D-flat, G. The TAB notation below the staff shows the fret numbers for each string (T, A, B) for each measure.

T	2	8	11	14	20
A	4	7	13	16	19
B	5	8	11	17	20

2nd String Set

Musical notation for the 2nd String Set, measures 1-4. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature. The notes are: Measure 1: B-flat, D-flat, G; Measure 2: B-flat, D-flat, G; Measure 3: B-flat, D-flat, G; Measure 4: B-flat, D-flat, G. The TAB notation below the staff shows the fret numbers for each string (T, A, B) for each measure.

T	4	7	13	16
A	5	8	11	17
B	4	10	13	16

3rd String Set

Musical notation for the 3rd String Set, measures 1-4. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature. The notes are: Measure 1: B-flat, D-flat, G; Measure 2: B-flat, D-flat, G; Measure 3: B-flat, D-flat, G; Measure 4: B-flat, D-flat, G. The TAB notation below the staff shows the fret numbers for each string (T, A, B) for each measure.

T	5	8	11	17
A	4	10	13	16
B	6	9	15	18

4th String Set

Musical notation for the 4th String Set, measures 1-5. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature. The notes are: Measure 1: B-flat, D-flat, G; Measure 2: B-flat, D-flat, G; Measure 3: B-flat, D-flat, G; Measure 4: B-flat, D-flat, G; Measure 5: B-flat, D-flat, G. The TAB notation below the staff shows the fret numbers for each string (T, A, B) for each measure.

T	1	4	10	13	16
A	3	6	9	15	18
B	2	8	11	14	20

Empty musical notation for the 5th String Set, consisting of a treble clef staff and a TAB staff.

Vertical In C

TAB 0 1 0	1 0 2	0 2 3	2 3 3	0 2 3	1 0 2	0 1 0

TAB 3 5 5	5 5 5	5 5 7	5 7 8	5 5 7	5 5 5	3 5 5

TAB 8 8 8	8 9 10	9 10 10	10 10 12	9 10 10	8 9 10	

TAB 8 9 8	12 13 12	13 12 14	12 14 15	14 15 15	12 14 15	

etc...

TAB 13 12 14	12 13 12