King Of The Strings - Advanced Guitar Course

Welcome to the advanced guitar course of King Of The Strings.

In this guitar course I'd like to share all my knowledge and skills with you. I've been a classical guitar student for many years, studying at the conservatoire, and I've had many great teachers. Unfortunately also many boring and demotivating ones. In the world of studying guitar (especially classical) it's common for teachers to keep repeating the same old exercises and to keep on using the same old books, over and over again. There are of course useful techniques in these books, but I'd prefer to apply those on modern compositions and more exiting songs!

If you like to play acoustic or classical guitar, but want to learn it by playing modern songs (by Iron Maiden, Dream Theater, The Who, Deep Purple, Alice Cooper, Kiss,..) you came to the right place!

Lesson 1 (Behind Blue Eyes).

It would of course not be fun to start this course with scales or other technical exercises, so let's start with a nice arrangement of a very famous song, Behind Blue Eyes by The Who.

In many of the arrangement I make, I use different tunings. When you're trying to play the vocal melodies, guitar parts and bass lines of a song all in one guitar, this can make it so much easier! In the case of Behind Blue Eyes two of the most used chords in the song are Em and G. The E is an open string, so that's easy. Playing the G chord and meanwhile playing the vocal melody is very difficult, so I tuned the **A string to a G**.

Try it, and see how easy it becomes to play a G chord!!

In the second chorus of Behind Blue Eyes I'm using a technique called *Tremolo.* For more info on this please watch my **Tremolo guitar lesson** from the King Of The Strings beginners - intermediate book.

This is the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSnzL5yR_ZQ

Other techniques used in this arrangement are Hammer-on and Pull-off, Barre chords and something we didn't do in King Of The Strings before; **slides**.

When you play a slide you press a fret in your left hand and then, while you keep pressing, slide to another note. If you press with enough power and slide fast enough the other note should sound as well, without your right hand touching the strings.

Another new technique used in this song is **bending**. When you bend the strings you press a fret and then, without lifting the finger from that fret, bend the string till it reaches another tone.

Behind Blue Eyes

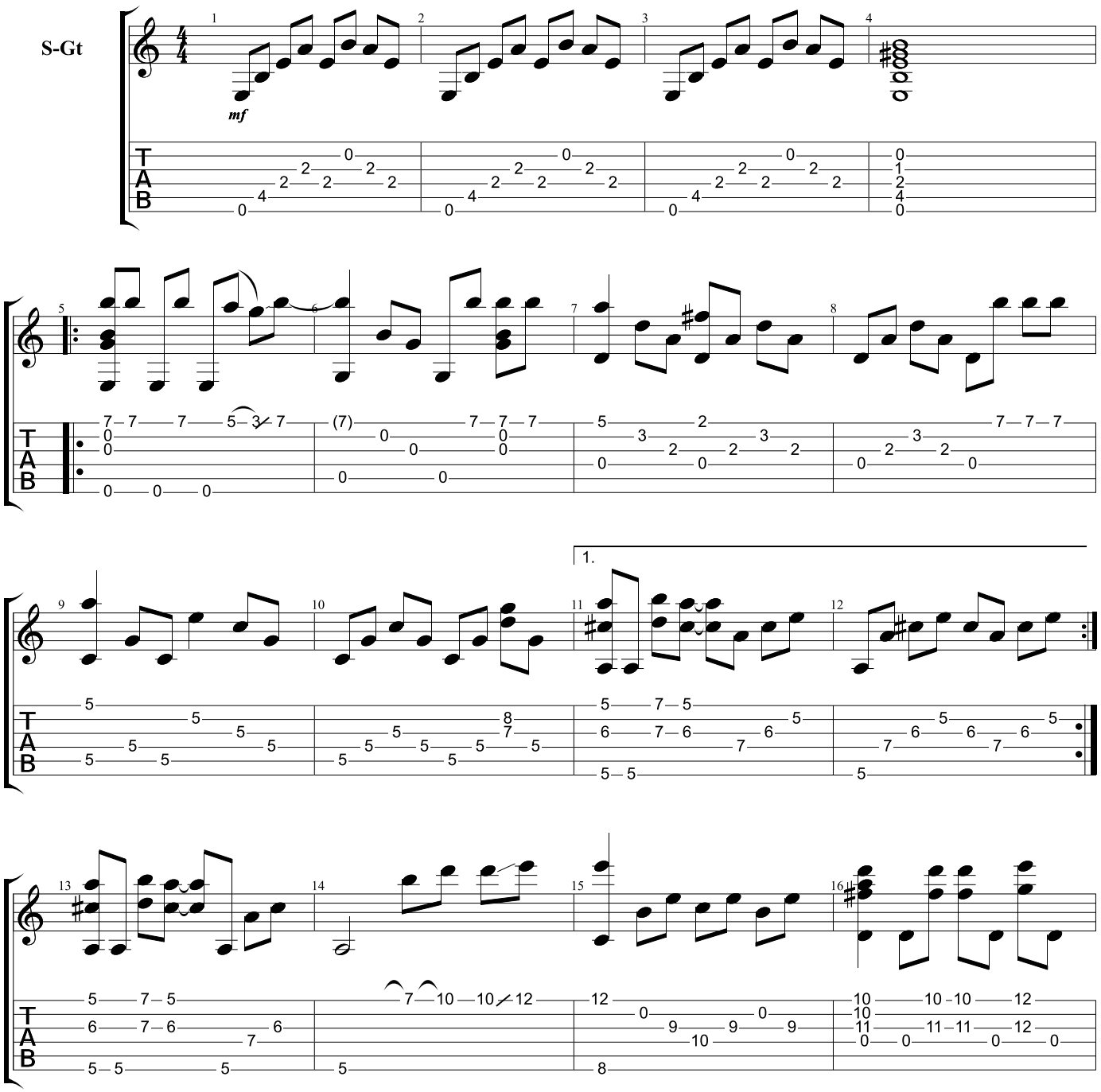
solo guitar arrangement

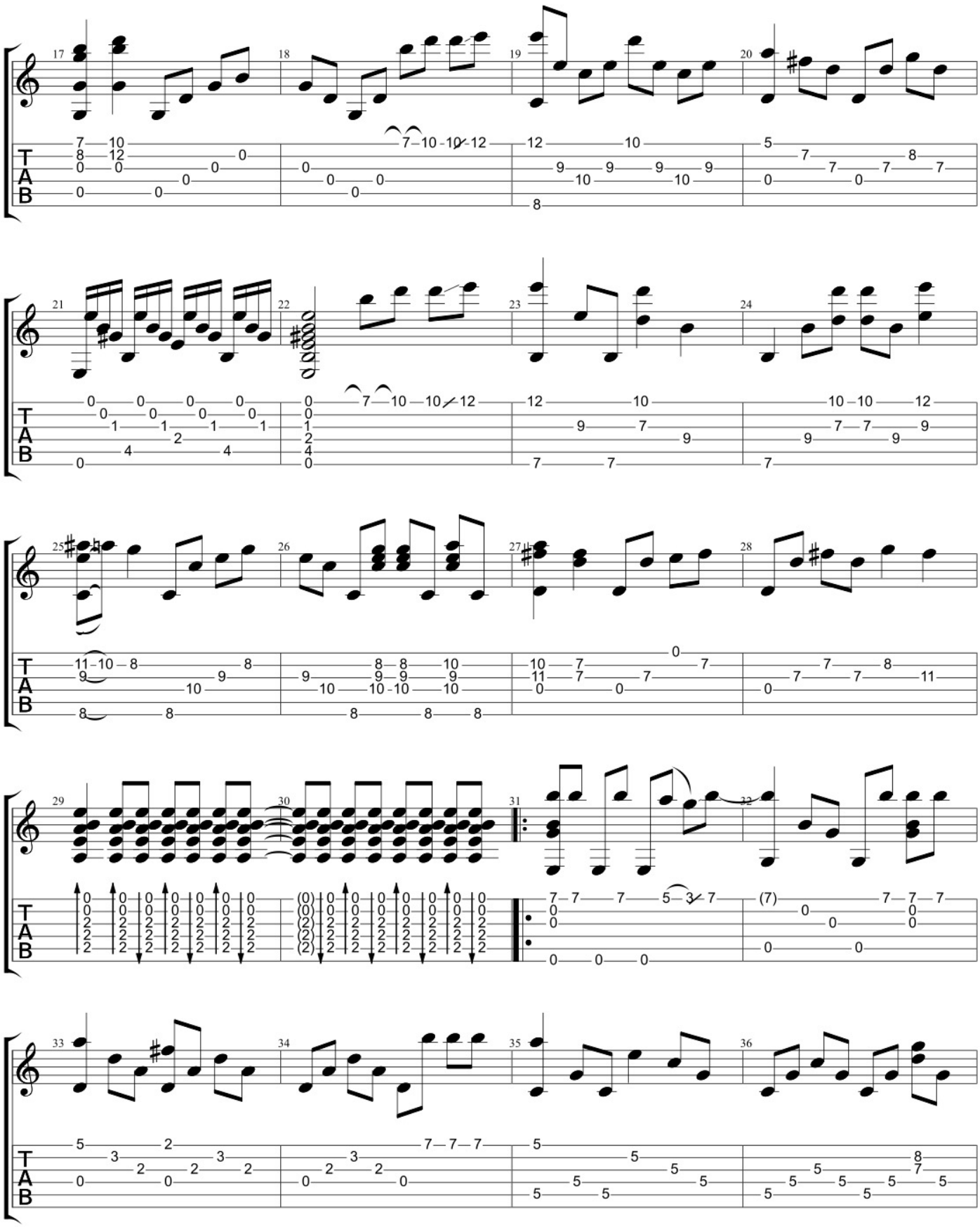
Thomas Zwijsen

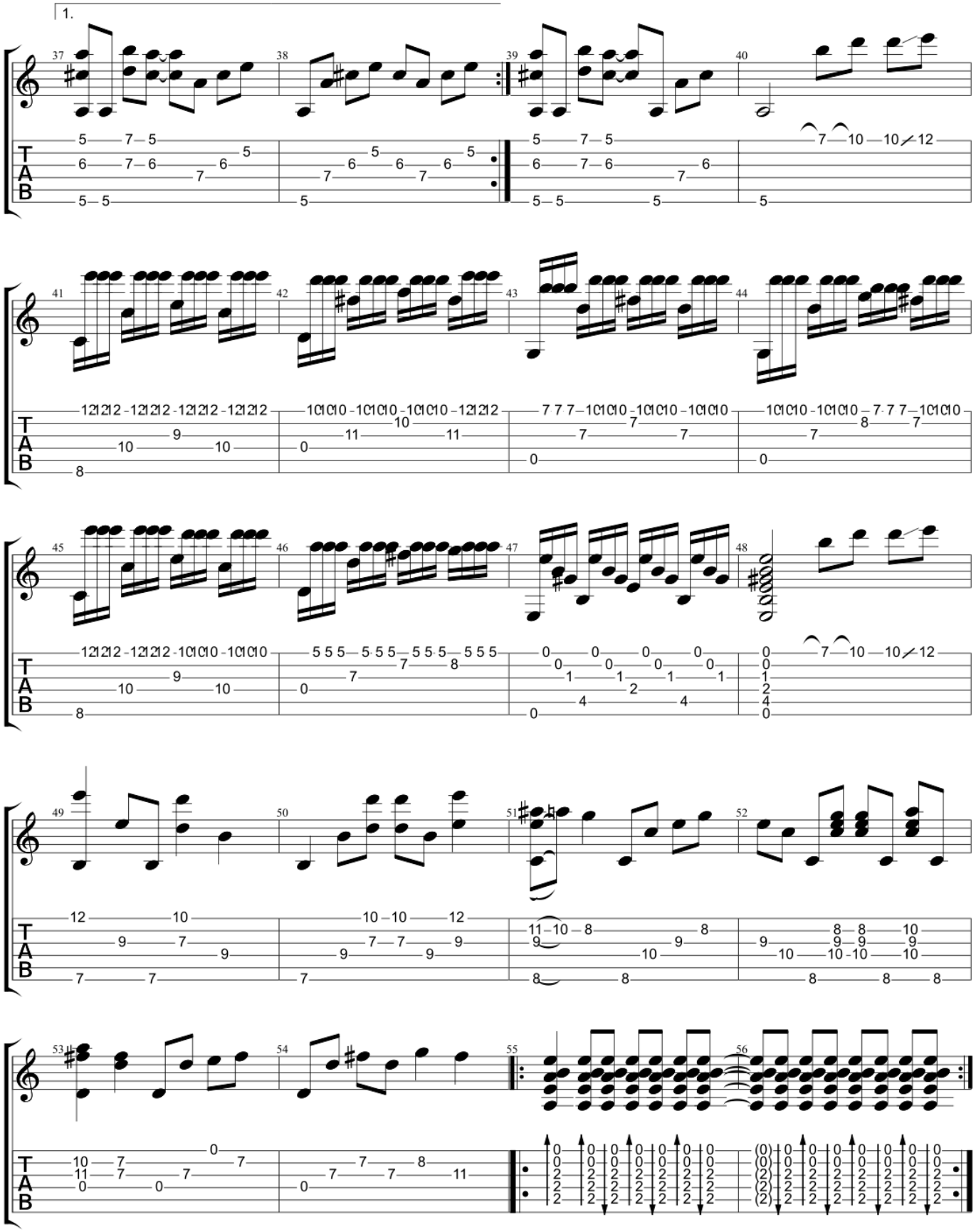
E G D G B E
⑤= G

♩ = 120

S-Gt



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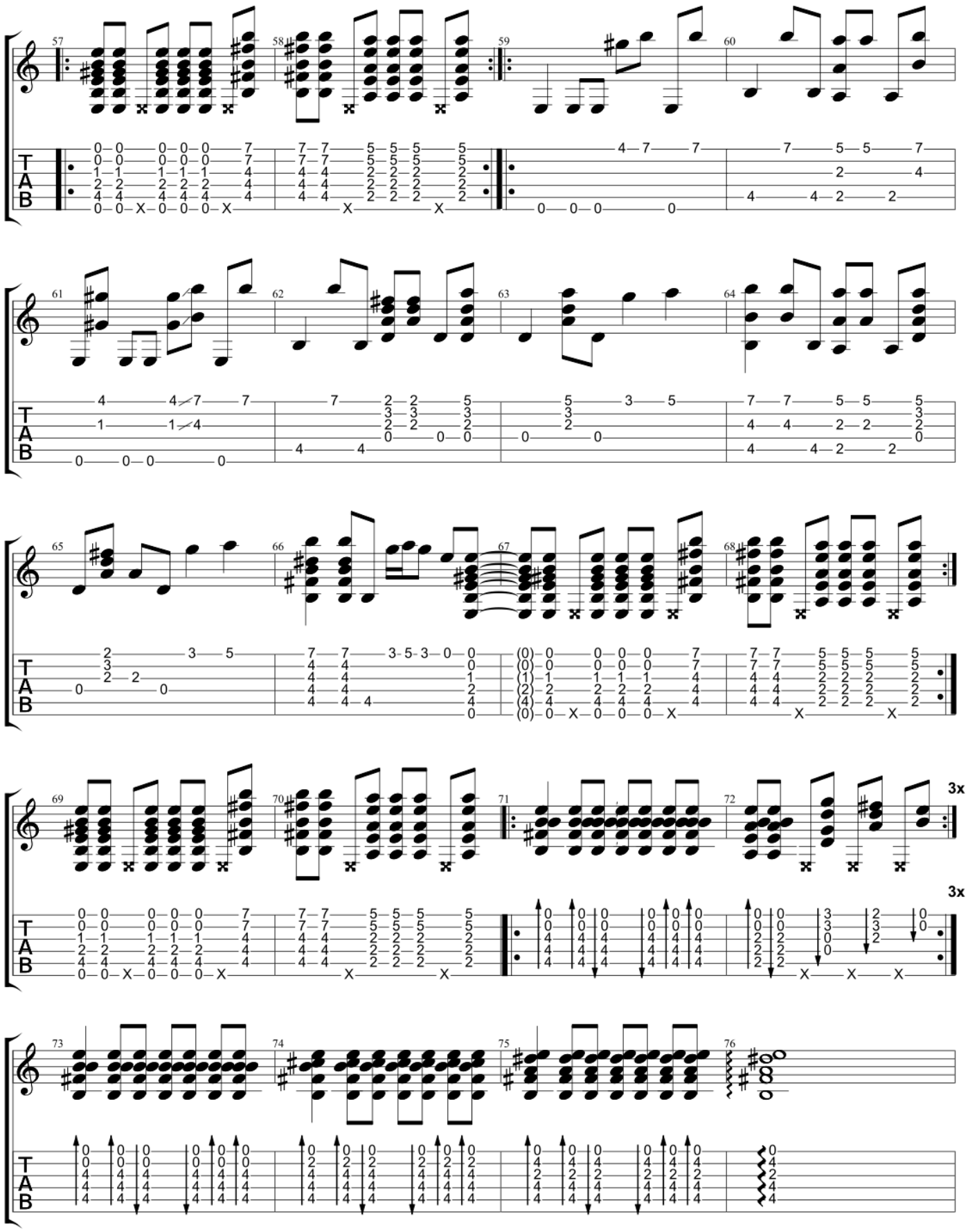
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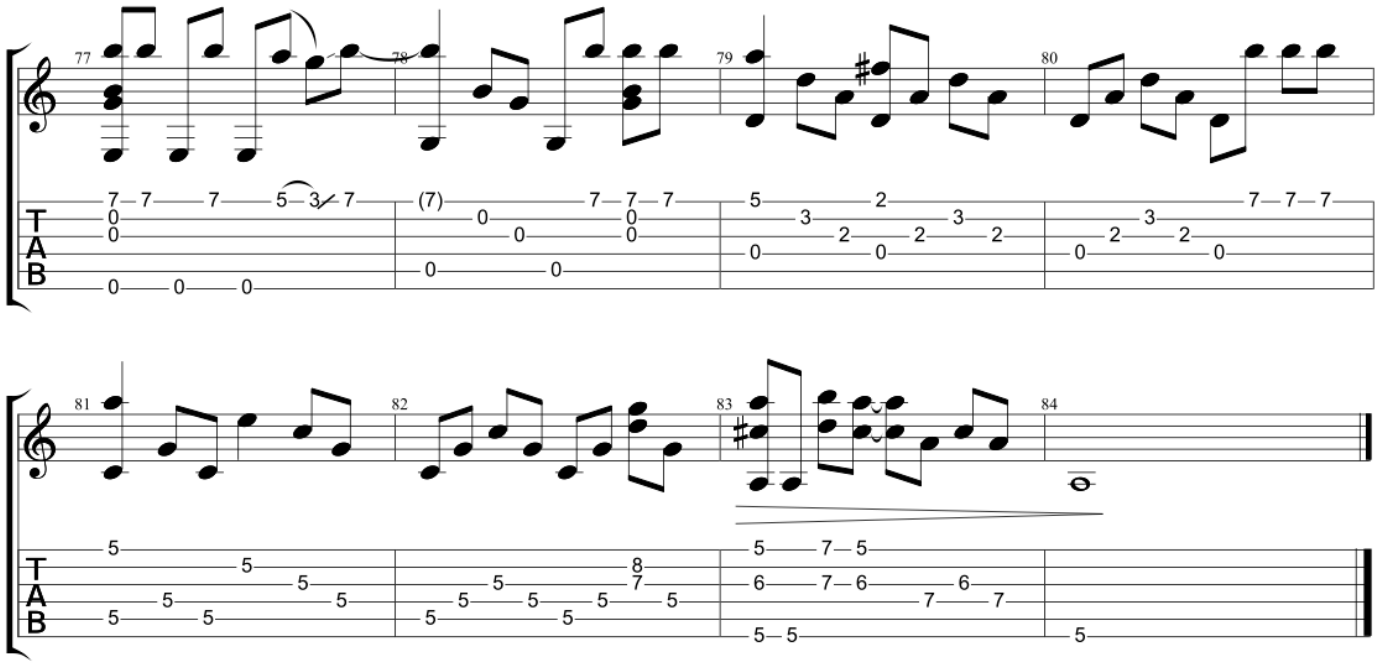
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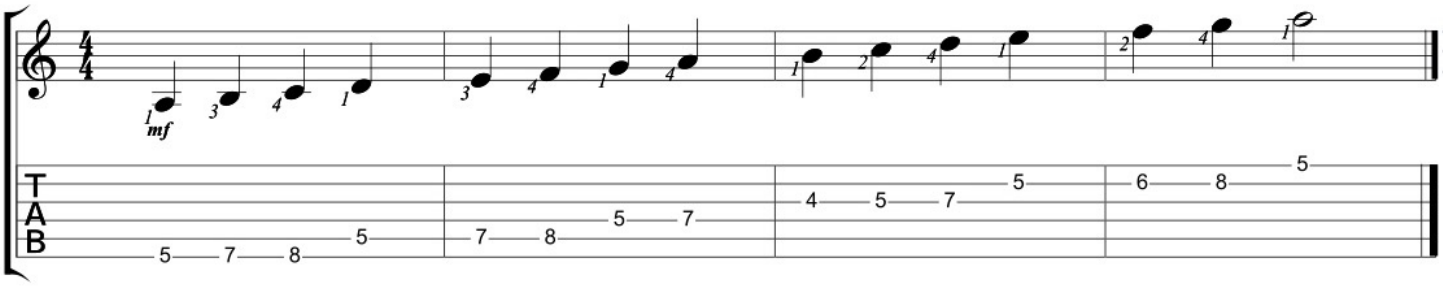
Lesson 2. Scales

In the first King Of The Strings book I've showed you some scales. There are of course many more scales to learn, and every scale on a guitar can be played at several positions.

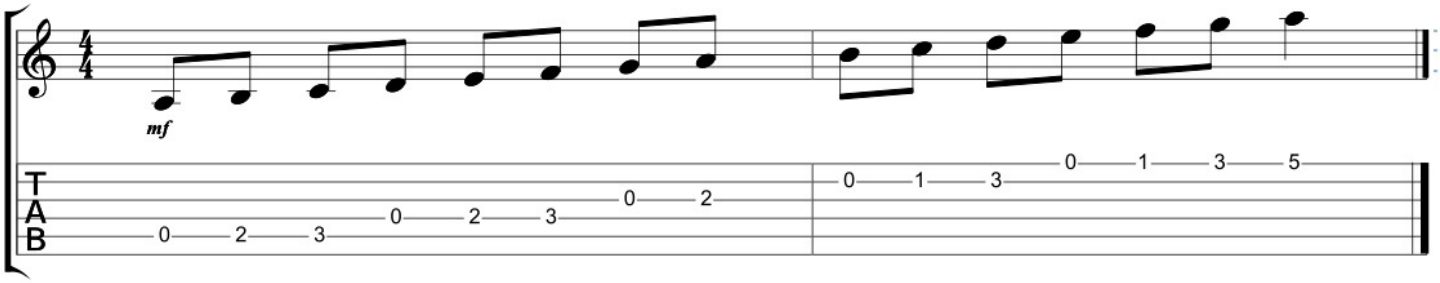
Let's look at the A-minor scale again. One of the possible ways to play it is like this:



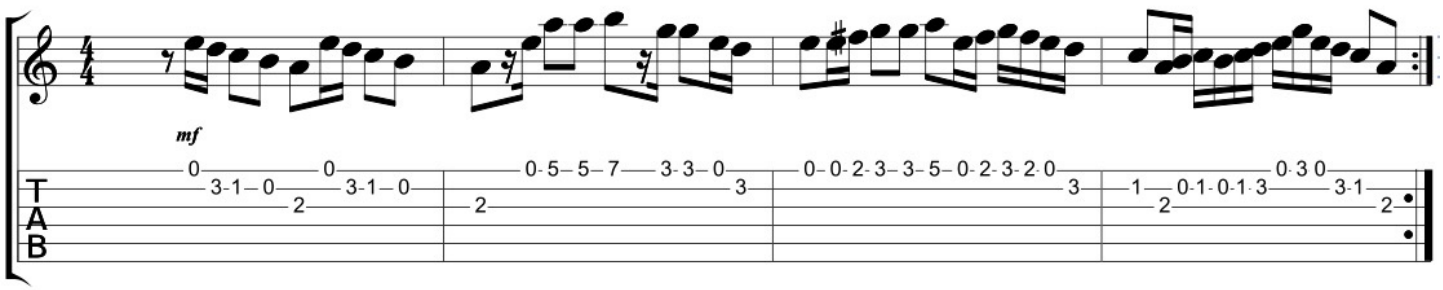
By using this fingering, these positions on the fretboard, you'll be able to gain a very high speed.

This is another way to play the A-minor scale.

Standard tuning



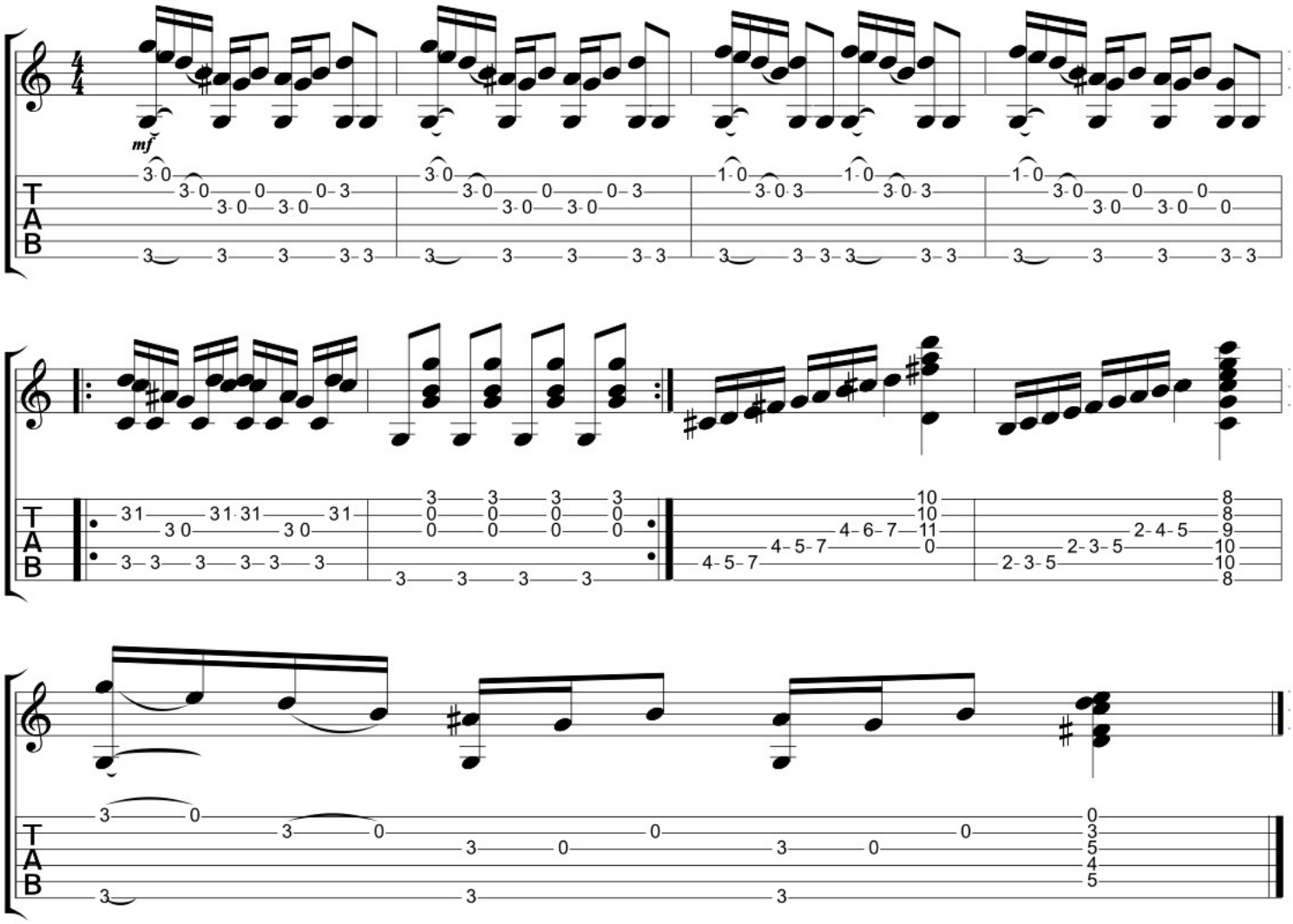
A nice song to practice fast A-minor scales is this Irish Traditional, **the Raggle Taggle Gypsy**.



Lesson 3. Independence between 3rd and 4rd finger

People often ask me how to create more power and independence in the 3rd and 4rd finger on the left hand. Moving these fingers independently is difficult but very important to be able to play difficult chords and arrangements.

I wrote a special exercise for this!



In the first four bars, the third finger in the left hand remains on the G (third fret of the E string) all the time. The fourth finger plays most of the other notes, so it's a great exercise to gain strength in those fingers! As you notice the exercise is mainly based on a G chord.
In the seventh and eight bar you'll find some major scales. Further down in this guitar course you'll find a lesson that's entirely dedicated to playing major scales. For now, focus on the 3rd and 4rd finger of the left hand.

Lesson 4, Intervals.

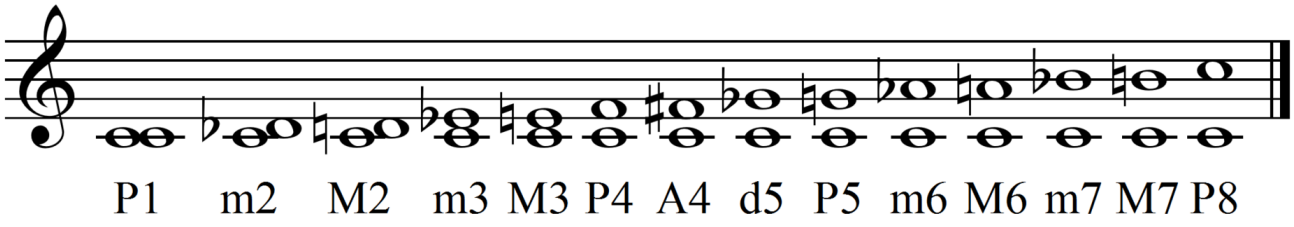
To understand how harmonies and chords are built it's necessary to understand intervals. An interval is the distance between two tones.

Every interval has a name. They are classified by the amount of **semitones** they hold. The smallest interval is a **unison**, consisting of 0 semitones. An interval of 1 semitone is called a **minor second**.

Here's an overview:

Number of semitones:	**Interval:**
0	Perfect Unison/Perfect Prime
1	Minor Second
2	Major Second
3	Minor Third
4	Major Third
5	Perfect Fourth
6	Augmented Fourth/Diminished Fifth/Tritone
7	Perfect Fifth
8	Minor Sixth
9	Major Sixth
10	Minor Seventh
11	Major Seventh
12	Perfect Octave

Let's see that in a scale:



Try to memorize these! It will be very useful in improvisations as wel as in the process of learning new songs (especially by ear).
Also it will enable me to explain new songs and melodies more quick in future lessons.

Lesson 5 (Wasted Years - Iron Maiden)

To make classical/acoustic guitar more modern, I made many arrangements of pop, rock and metal songs for solo guitar. This Iron Maiden arrangement includes some of the techniques of previous lessons. It's played in a **dropped-G tuning** (see lesson 1). In the chorus many of the important melody parts are played by the third and fourth finger in the left hand. (see lesson 3).

WASTED YEARS

(Smith)

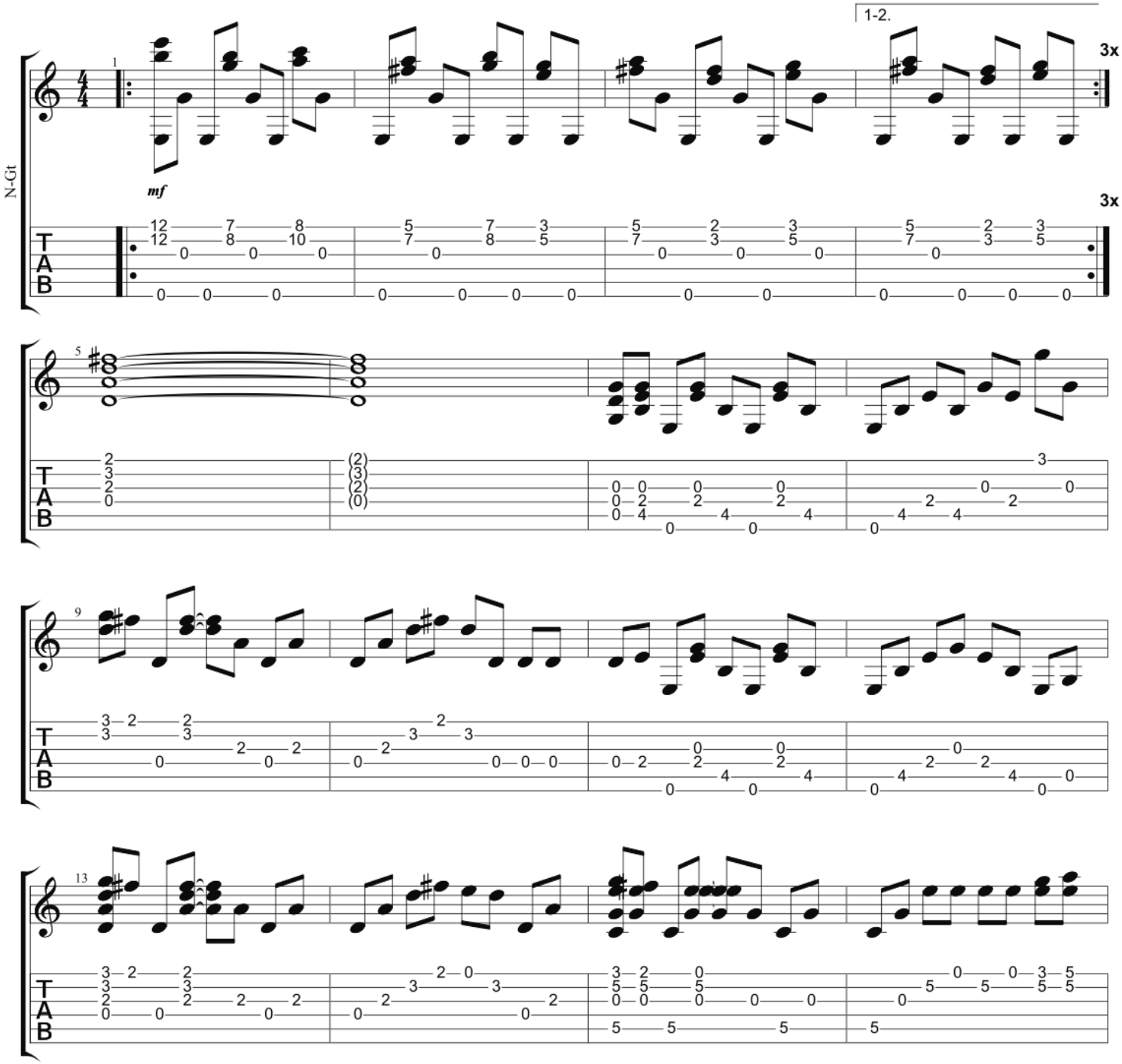
Solo Guitar Arrangement

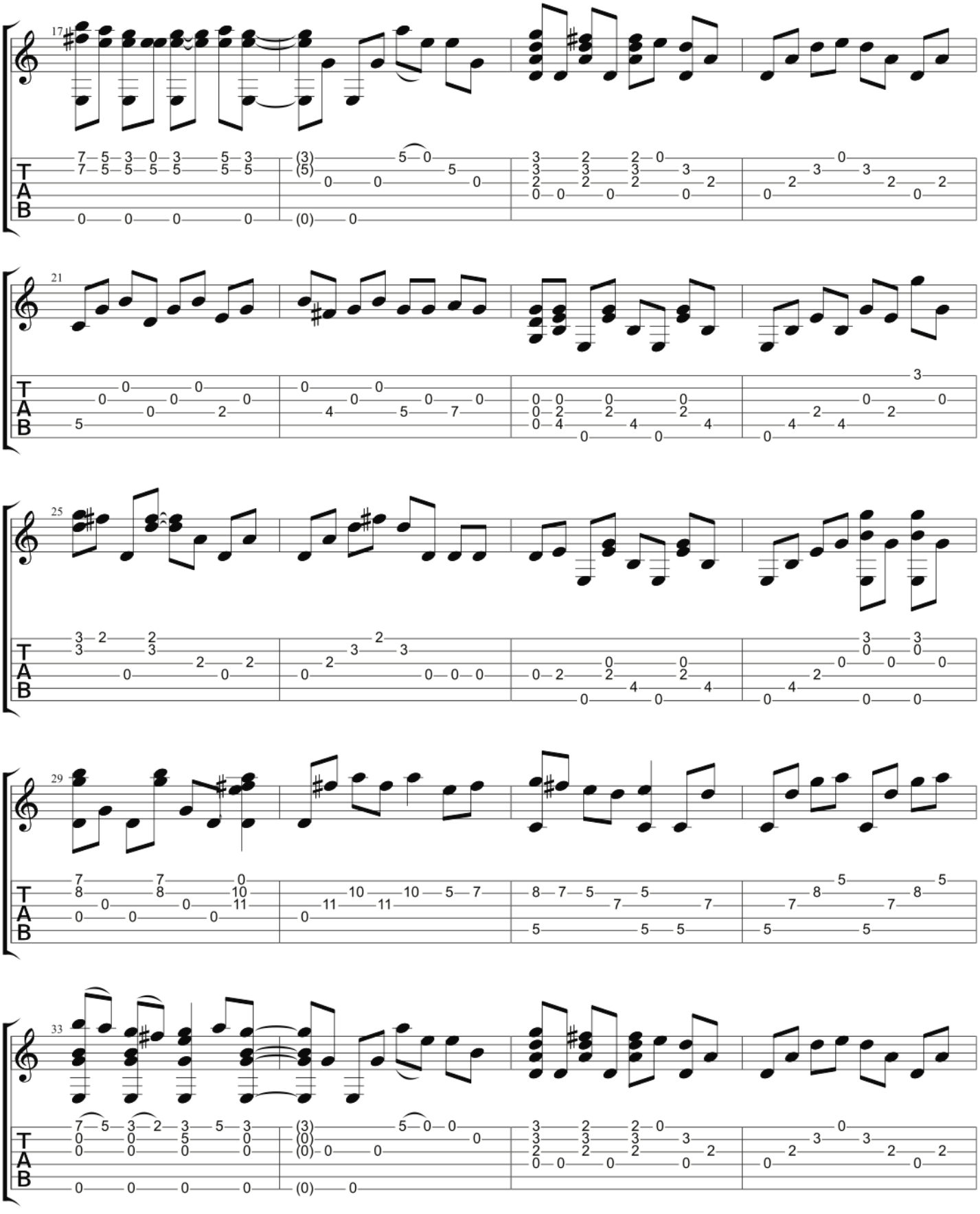
Thomas Zwijsen

Nylon Maiden

E G D G B E
⑤= G

♩ = 160

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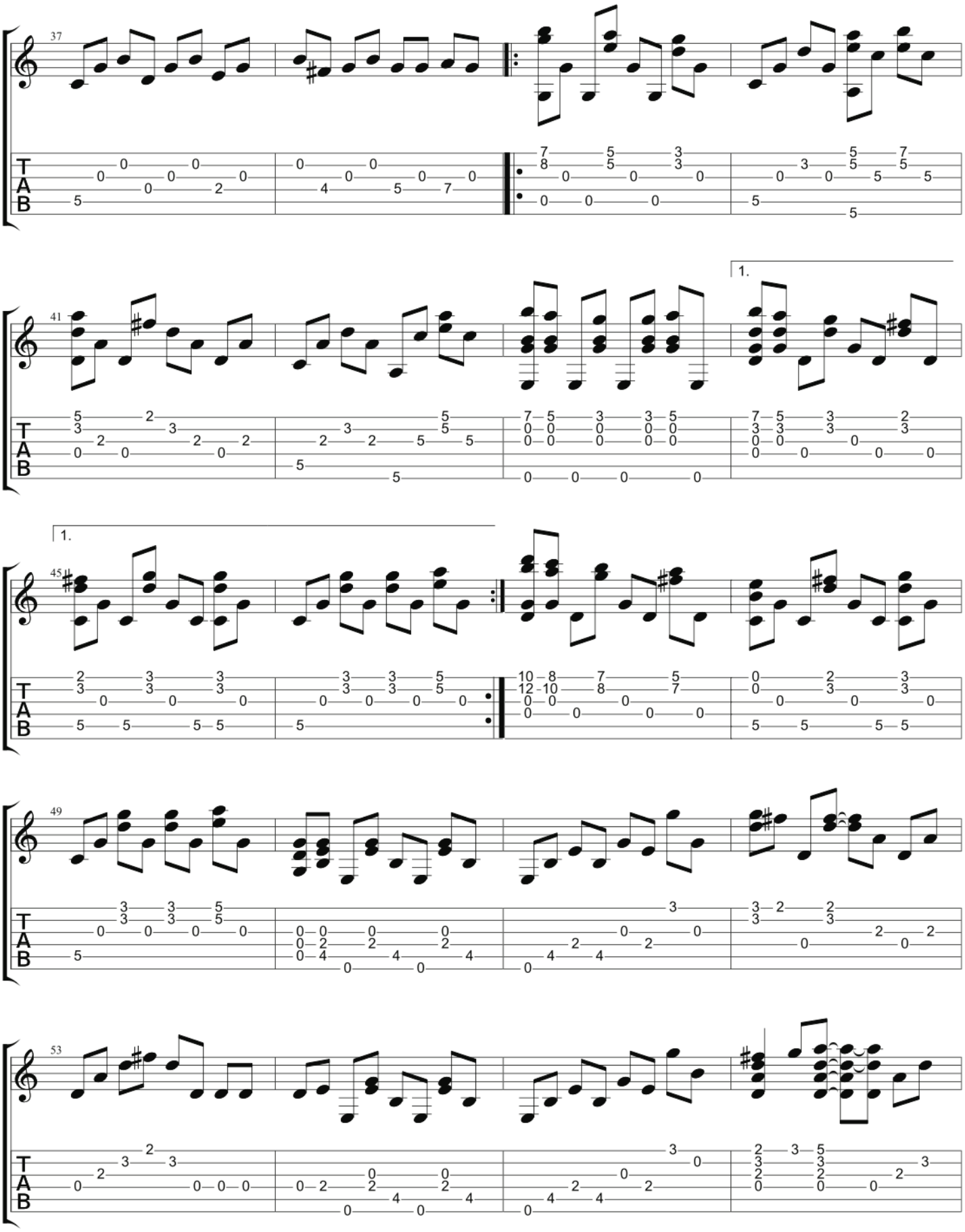
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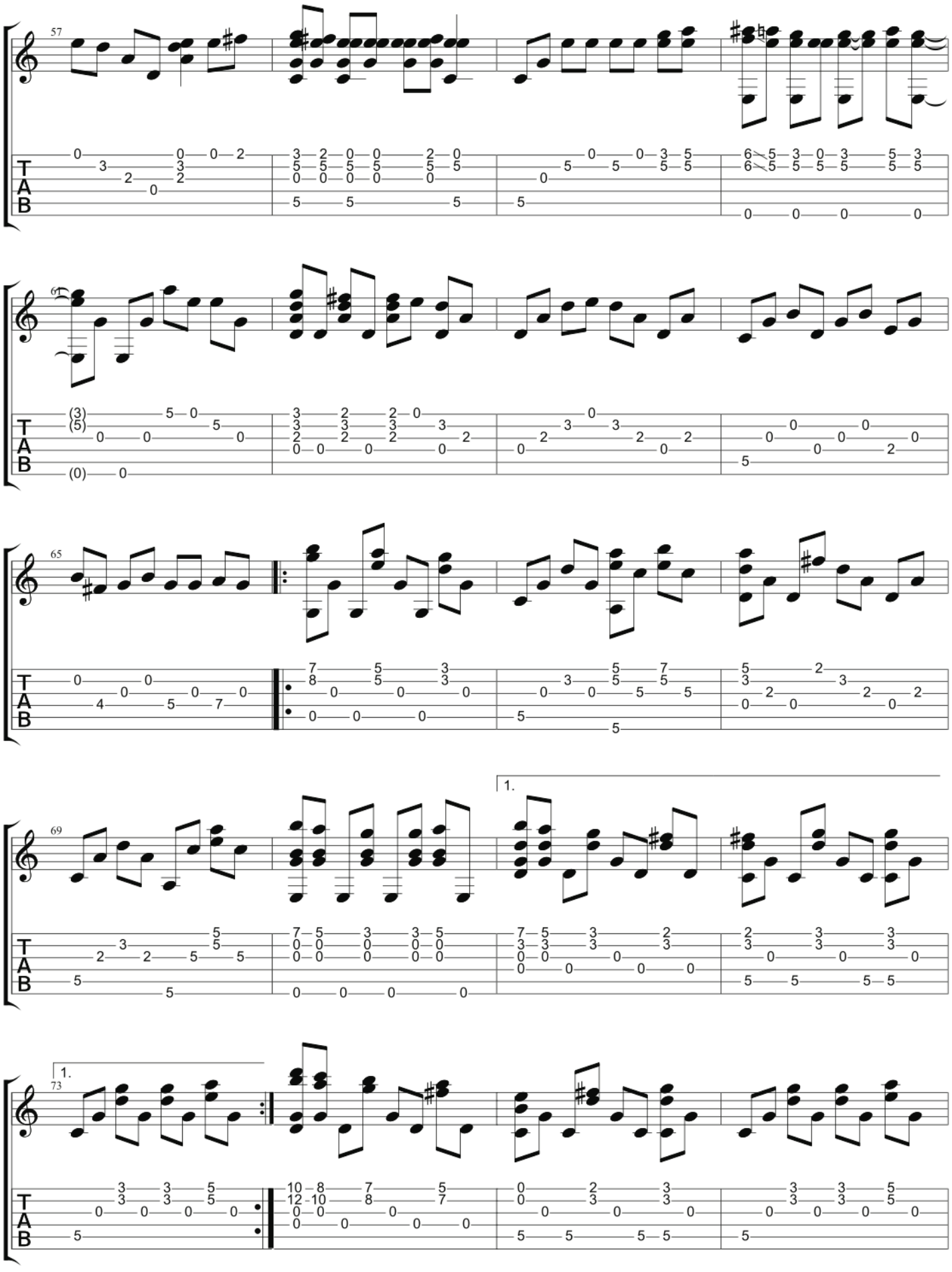
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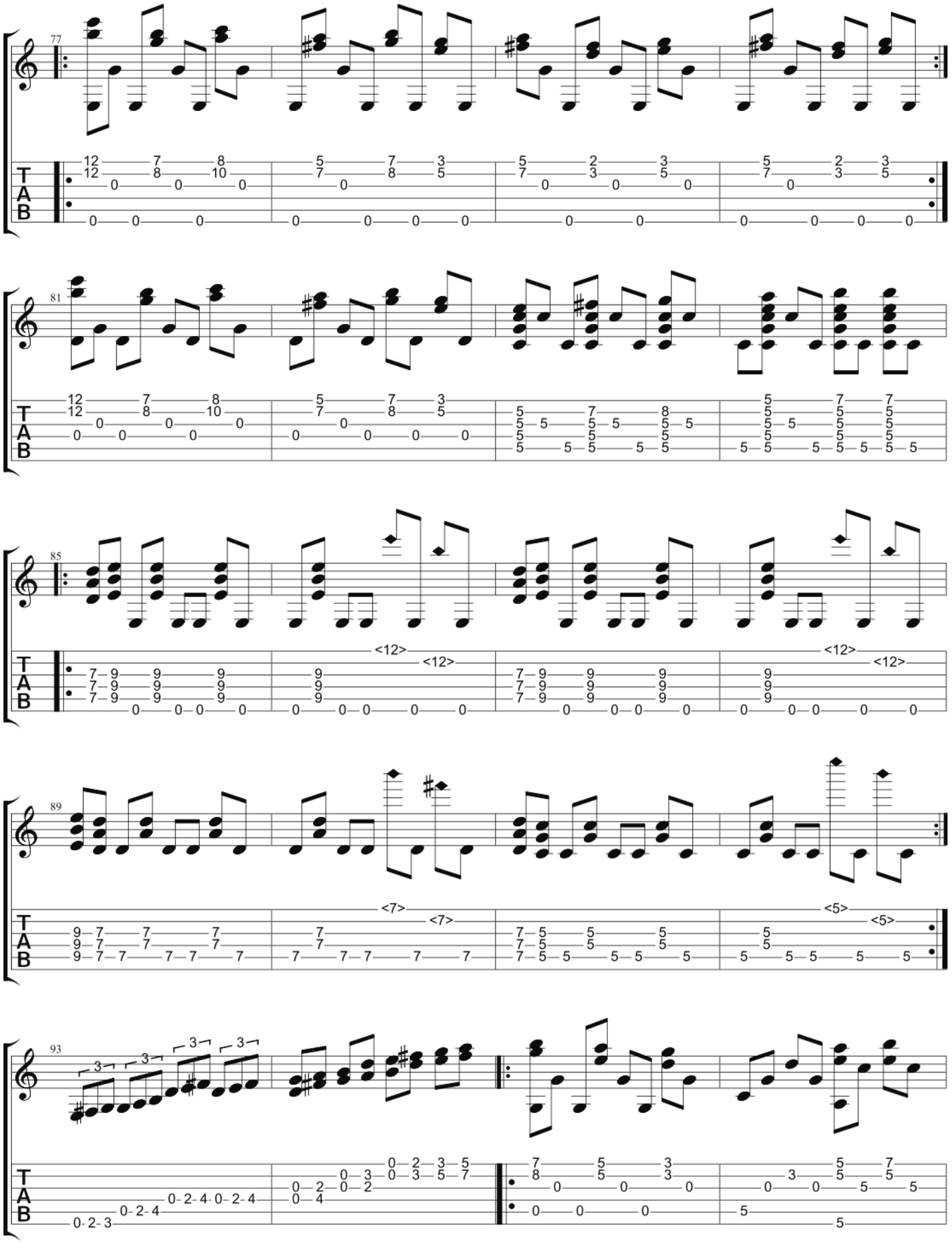
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Buy the Complete Advanced Guitar Course and get:

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