

# The **Guitar** Player's **App** Guide



**T**here are thousands of guitar apps in the iOS and Android app stores. For example, if you're looking for the best guitar tuner app, you might search the iOS App Store for "guitar tuner" ...and you'll get 452 results. That's a lot of guitar tuners. Way too many to try!

Use this Quick Start to get right to the good stuff. Apps have been selected based on several factors:

- Total number of downloads
- User Reviews
- Usability
- Aesthetics

Keep reading to get guitar app recommendations for: Tuners, Metronomes, Chords, Tablature, and Recording.

**Bonus Section:**

Check out the extra recommended Podcast list to stay informed and inspired.

Thanks for reading, feel free to send me any comments at [jesse@theguitarjournal.com](mailto:jesse@theguitarjournal.com).

Happy jamming,

Jesse  
theguitarjournal.com

# Tuners

## VitalTuner (iOS) \$4.99



Vitaltuner, by Otreus Apps, is a full-feature tuner for stringed and wind instruments. The performance and design are great, of course. But the real added value is in the alternate tunings, dobro tunings, and “sweeter” tunings. The sweeter tuning, in particular, will surprise you with how good it sounds.



## ClearTune (iOS & Android) \$3.99



ClearTune by Bitcount Ltd., is a clean, accurate interface for tuning any instrument. Highly reviewed, recommended in the forums, with testimonials like Roseanne Cash, Ezra Oklan, Acoustic Guitar Magazine, etc. One of the overall best guitar tuner apps out there.



## Pano Tuner (iOS & Android) Free



One of the most downloaded tuner apps out there, Pano Tuner by Jung-Gun Lim is a great basic tuner for guitar and bass. And you can't beat the price. Available for iOS and Android.



For more info, visit: <http://www.theguitarjournal.com/the-9-best-guitar-tuner-apps/>

# Metronomes

## Tempo (iOS & Android) \$1.99



Tempo packs in lots of advanced metronome features, but the real strength is in its different “modes”. It has modes for practice sessions, setlist setup, and gigging. There are tons of great reviews from musicians using it for the full range of practice sessions to live performance.



## Pro Metronome (iOS) \$2.99



Highly customizable and very hip looking, Pro Metronome has received a lot of good press. And judging by the reviews, it's been able to deliver on the good press. Has a nice retro UI and can even play back on your TV via AirPlay. Free version available also.



## Mobile Metronome (Android) Free



The highest ranking free metronome in the Android store. Packed with functionality and very well reviewed by the user base. A “Pro” option allows you to opt out of ads.



For more info, visit: <http://www.theguitarjournal.com/7-best-metronome-apps-guitar/>

# Chords

## Chord! Free (Guitar Chords)

(Android) Free



The Chord! Free app for Android boasts some impressive numbers with over 1 million downloads, and over 10k reviews at 4.1 stars. That's because the app does a great job of delivering complete chords and scales in all keys for guitar, bass, ukulele, dobro, or any fretted instrument.



## 7 Chords

(iOS) \$1.99



A definitive chord library. 7 Chords, by Handplant Studios, provides over 1500 easy-to-read chord diagrams in a nice clean format. This is a great reference guide for new to mid-level players. Also nice to note that the latest version has a full five stars.



## Chord! Guitar Songbook, Chords, and Scales

(iOS) \$4.99



The iOS version of the Chord! suite of guitar chord apps is fairly young, but seems to be getting great reviews. The app includes chord references, scales, and even an engine for making your own songsheets. While the Android app has a nice dark dashboard, the iOS app has light, more "helvetica-ish" interface.



For more info, visit: <http://www.theguitarjournal.com/5-great-guitar-chord-apps-for-ios-android/>

# Tablature

## Ultimate Guitar Tabs

(iOS & Android) \$2.99



This is the #1 guitar tab app in Apple's app store, and in Google Play. The ultimateguitar.com website is also a super popular choice for finding tabs directly. It benefits from a huge base of users who upload, correct, and comment on tabs. A really amazing community. The app itself is well made, and comes with a variety of In App Purchase upgrades.



## Songsterr

(iOS & Android) \$4.99/month

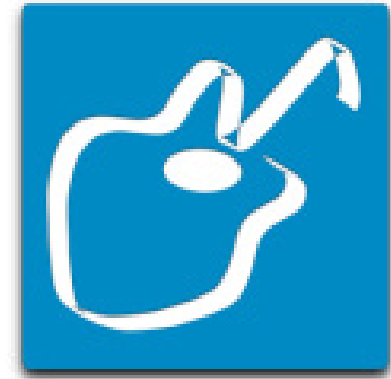


Songsterr takes guitar tab to another level. Rather than simply presenting plain tablature, Songsterr plays the tablature in tempo. The music scans across the screen while the song is played, allowing the player to play along in real time. Common requests from users are for the ability to slow the tempo, which seems an obvious need. Also has a huge selection of 500,000 tabs. Although, they note that all tabs are accurate and there's only one version of each song.



## Achording

(iOS & Android) Free



Achording is a 'meta-search' app, meaning it really just searches other websites and imports the data in real time to present you with access to a lot of the tabs normally available on line. Original? Not really. Effective? Yes.



For more info, visit: <http://www.theguitarjournal.com/top-7-guitar-tab-apps-ios-android/>

# Recording

## GarageBand

(iOS) \$4.99



## Voice Memo

(iOS) Free



## Smart Voice Recorder

(Android) Free



Apple's GarageBand is the 'go to' software for most musicians. It's intuitive, powerful, and usually came free on your Mac. Apple's GarageBand app matches up to the desktop expectations. Record multiple tracks, play other instruments, create drum loops...it's a pretty powerful app.

For simplicity and ease of use, you can't beat the built-in Voice Memo app on your iOS device. I've recorded more song ideas, practice riffs, and arrangements here than anywhere else.

One of the most downloaded voice apps in the Google Play store (over 261k reviews). A great app to handle basic recording of your own guitar playing, a rehearsal, or a concert.



For more info, visit: <http://www.theguitarjournal.com/top-7-guitar-tab-apps-ios-android/>

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# Bonus Section: Podcasts

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**P**odcasts are a great way to stay informed on the guitar world, learn some new skills, and get inspired. There are quite a few folks out there working hard every week to put together quality material.

So, the big question is: Where to get started? With so many podcasts, which are the best guitar podcasts to begin listening to? We've listed the top 9 podcasts below that are worth taking a look at. Several factors went into consideration when recommending these: Frequency of updates, Recency of updates, Quality of recording, Follower Reviews, and last, but certainly not least, Quality of Content.



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## The Guitar Podcast



A great general guitar podcast with fundamental episodes on the basics of guitars, amps, effects pedals, accessories and more.



## Flatpicking Guitar Podcast



Put out by Dan Miller of Flatpicking Guitar Magazine, this Podcast focuses on flatpicking through features celebrity interviews, music, and flatpicking news and information.



## Fretboard Journal



Produced by Fretboard Journal Magazine, this is a weekly podcast highlighting interviews with legendary guitarists, luthiers and more.



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## At Guitar Center with Nic Harcourt



Put out by Guitar Center, this is a video-oriented podcast (or a 'vodcast') covering the gamut of guitars, amps, pedals, accessories, etc..



## The Guitar Channel



Pierre Journal began this podcast with the mission to “help discover all the facets of the guitar via encounters with musicians, luthiers, amp or effect builder and also via soundseeings of instruments, effects as well as any equipment having a role in creating a sound.”



## The Double Stop with Brian Sword



Weekly Podcast with in-depth profile interviews with a variety of Musicians and Producers of guitar based music.



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## 60 Cycle Hum



Started in January 2014, 60 Cycle Hum is a podcast of two guys talking about guitar, music, and whatever else runs through their minds.



## Learning Guitar Now



John W. Tuggle produces this podcast focusing on blues and slide guitar lessons in the style of BB King, Eric Clapton, and Duane Allman.



## Chasing Tone by Wampler Pedals



The guys at Wampler Pedals talk about guitars, guitar pedals, amps, and other guitar gear, answer questions, and discuss all things guitar related as well as how to get the most out of your gear to get the best guitar tone.



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