



Lead Guitar
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Lead Guitar “Karate Belt” Evaluation System

This system is designed to reward elementary, middle, and high school students for completing each Level of Method Book I. The test is designed as an individual oral exam. The tests for Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 (White, Yellow, Green, and Brown Belts) should be given at school by the students’ teacher of record, but the test for Level 5 (Black Belt) must be given by a Lead Guitar staff member, such as a Regional Director for the city or the Director of Instruction.

The test is pass/fail. As the student exhibits each skill or answers each question, they should be given a check mark. Whether or not the student receives a check mark is at the teacher’s discretion. If the student is missing any check marks at the end of the test, they must retake the test at a later date.

If you would like to request wristbands or have questions email us at: info@leadguitar.org

White Belt - Book I, Level I

Name: _____

Date: _

Check off skills as students exhibit them. Students must receive a check for every skill in order to receive a belt.

SET-UP	Sitting with the guitar and basic technique:	Check:
	4 points of contact between body and guitar	
	Right thumb on low E string	
	Wrist straight with space between wrist and guitar	
	m finger resting on B string at back of soundhole	

READING	Reading and playing each note:	Check:
	G on the 3rd (G) string	
	A on the 3rd (G) string	
	B on the 2nd (B) string	
	C on the 2nd (B) string	
	D on the 2nd (B) string	
	E on the 1st (E) string	

PLAYING	Counting and clapping each piece:	Check:
	<i>Duerme mi Tesoro</i> Rhythmic accuracy	
	<i>Fire Dance (solo)</i> Rhythmic accuracy	
	Reading and playing each piece:	
	<i>Un Elefante Se Balanceaba</i> Rhythmic and note-reading accuracy	
	Alternating RH fingers	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	<i>Chant (solo)</i> Rhythmic and note-reading accuracy	
	Alternating RH fingers	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	<i>Free Choice Piece, Student Composition or Improv</i> Tone production	
	Variation in pitch, rhythm and timbre	
	Maintaining pulse	

Yellow Belt - Book I, Level 2

Name: _____

Date: _

Check off skills as students exhibit them. Students must receive a check for every skill in order to receive a belt.

READING	Answering each question accurately:	Check:
	What do the two numbers in a time signature mean?	
	How many beats does an eighth-note get in 4/4 time?	
	How many beats does a quarter-note get in 4/4 time?	
	How many beats does a half-note get in 4/4 time?	
	How many beats does a whole-note get in 4/4 time?	
	How does a dot after a note change its rhythmic value?	
	How does a tie between two notes change their rhythmic value?	

PLAYING	Counting and clapping each piece:	Check:
	<i>Freight Train</i> Rhythmic accuracy	
	<i>Sundance Opera</i> Rhythmic accuracy	
	Reading and playing each piece:	Check:
	<i>Eine Kleine Nachtmusik</i> Rhythmic and note-reading accuracy	
	Alternating RH fingers	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	<i>12 Bar Blues</i> Rhythmic and note-reading accuracy	
	Alternating RH fingers	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	<i>Free Choice Piece, Student Composition or Improv</i> Tone production	
	Variation in pitch, rhythm and timbre	
	Maintaining pulse	

Green Belt - Book I, Level 3

Name: _____

Date: _

Check off skills as students exhibit them. Students must receive a check for every skill in order to receive a belt.

READING	Reading and playing each note:	Check:
	Read and play D on the 4th (D) string	
	Read and play E on the 4th (D) string	
	Read and play F on the 4th (D) string	
	Read and play F# on the 4th (D) string	
	Read and play F# on the 1st (E) string	
	Read and play G# on the 3rd (G) string	
	Read and play A on the 1st (E) string	
	Read and play D# on the 2nd (B) string	

PLAYING	Reading and playing each scale:	Check:
	<i>Transposable Major Scale in 3 positions</i>	
	Rhythmic and note-playing accuracy	
	Alternating RH fingers	
	Maintaining LH position and finger pattern	
	Reading and playing each piece:	
	<i>Cielito Lindo</i>	
	Rhythmic and note-reading accuracy	
	Alternating RH fingers	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	<i>Minuet in G</i>	
	Rhythmic and note-reading accuracy	
	Alternating RH fingers	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	<i>Free Choice Piece, Student Composition or Improv</i>	
	Tone production	
	Variation in pitch, rhythm and timbre	
	Maintaining pulse	

Brown Belt - Book I, Level 4

Name: _____

Date: _

Check off skills as students exhibit them. Students must receive a check for every skill in order to receive a belt.

SET-UP	Basic technique:	Check:
	Play thumb free strokes with m finger anchored and same hand position as with finger rest strokes	

READING	Reading and playing each note:	Check:
	Read and play F# on the 6th (E) string	
	Read and play A minor chord	
	Read and play E major chord	
	Read and play all ledger line notes	

PLAYING	Reading and playing each scale:	Check:
	<i>Any Two of the Six Rock Riffs</i>	
	Rhythmic and note-playing accuracy	
	Alternating RH fingers	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	Reading and playing each piece:	
	<i>Occam's Razor</i>	
	Rhythmic and note-reading accuracy	
	Good thumb free strokes	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	<i>Leyenda (full version)</i>	
	Rhythmic and note-reading accuracy	
	Alternating finger rest strokes with thumb free strokes	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	<i>Free Choice Piece, Student Composition or Improv</i>	
	Tone production	
Variation in pitch, rhythm and timbre		
Maintaining pulse		

Black Belt - Book I, Level 5

Students must take this test at Lead Guitar Headquarters

Name: _____

Date: _

Check off skills as students exhibit them. Students must receive a check for every skill in order to receive a belt.

SET-UP	Basic technique:	Check:
	Show free stroke hand position and finger movement as described on page 50	
	Play exercises on page 51	

PLAYING	Reading and playing each piece:	
	<i>Study in G</i>	
	Rhythmic and note-reading accuracy	
	Alternating RH fingers	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	<i>Malaguena</i>	
	Rhythmic and note-reading accuracy	
	Alternating RH fingers	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	<i>Study in A minor</i>	
	Rhythmic and note-reading accuracy	
	Use of 'a' finger free strokes	
	Maintaining hand and sitting positions	
	<i>Free Choice Piece, Student Composition or Improv</i>	
	Tone production	
	Variation in pitch, rhythm and timbre	
	Maintaining pulse	