



4 EASY PIECES FOR CLASSICAL GUITAR + EASY NOTATION

Kuffner Study Andantino

Sor Study Op 60 No 1

Sor Study Op 60 No 2 (Extract)

Sor Study Op 31 No 1 (Extract)

Learn **basic sight reading skills** and connect notes on the page to notes on the guitar. The pieces are studies by the great Fernando Sor from the 18th century which are still played today. The fingering suggestions are by us folks at NylonPlucks.com.

Learning Guitar Notation: Basics

Nylon Plucks

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time. The first staff contains notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F, and G. The second staff contains notes E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, and F. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 0, 1, 2, and 3 above the notes. String assignments are indicated by text below the notes: '3rd string', '2nd string', '1st string', '6th string', '5th string', and '4th string'. A large watermark of a guitar headstock and the text 'NYLON PLUCKS' is visible in the background.

Some common notes for the beginner to memorize. These are notes on the first three frets of the guitar.

The numbers on top of the staff lines represent **left hand fingers** to use:

0 - Open string, no finger of the left hand used

1 - Index finger (usually on the first fret)

2 - Middle finger (usually on the second fret)

3 - Ring finger (usually on the third fret)

4 - Pinky finger (usually on the fourth fret)

In actual pieces that follow, the string to use for any given note is marked below the staff lines with numbers 1 to 6 inside a circle: 1 for first string, 2 for second string and so on.

Op 60 No. 1

Sor Study Arranged By Nylon Plucks

Fernando Sor

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

5 1 0 0 1 0 3 0 2 1 0 3 4 0 0 3
② ③ ② ① ② ③ ② ④ ① ② ③ ④ ② ③ ④ ⑥

9 3 0 0 3 1 0 3 1 0 0 1 0 3 0 0 3
① ③ ① ③ ② ① ③ ② ① ③ ② ① ② ③ ④

13 2 0 1 2 3 2 0 3 2 0 3 2 3 0 3
③ ② ④ ③ ④ ③ ④ ③ ⑥ ⑤ ③ ① ② ③ ⑤

This study focuses on single note playing except for an occasional chord. It familiarizes the student with notes on the top 3 strings of the guitar and the notes they represent. Learning this is a good foundation for developing sight reading skills. Doesn't get easier!

Remember the numbers inside a circle are the string numbers (1 to 6) and the top numbers identify fingers of the left hand (1 to 4).

Op 60 No 2

Sor Study Extract Arranged by Nylon Plucks

Fernando Sor

The musical score is presented in four staves, each starting with a measure number (8, 5, 9, 13) and containing eighth notes with various fingering numbers (0, 1, 2, 3) written above them. The time signature is 3/4. A large watermark for 'NYLON PLUCKS' is visible in the background.

The main feature of this piece by Spanish composer Fernando Sor is it is in 3/4 time - 3 beats to the measure. All the notes are mainly in the top 3 strings and the student gets further grounding on reading notes off the page. The study also introduces faster eighth notes, which are played two to a beat.

Op 31 No 1

Sor Study Excerpt Arranged by Nylon Plucks

Fernando Sor

The musical score is presented in four systems, each with two staves. The first staff (measures 1-4) shows a melody in the upper staff and accompaniment in the lower staff. The second staff (measures 5-8) continues the piece. The third staff (measures 9-12) includes a key signature change to one sharp (F#). The fourth staff (measures 13-16) concludes the excerpt. Circled numbers indicate fingerings for both melody and bass notes.

This is one of Sor's simple and elegant studies for the student. The music is in two lines (and a third line of accompaniment briefly). The study is more challenging because you have to read two lines of music simultaneously. But it will be rewarding for the ambitious beginner.

Because the music is in two lines, for easy readability, circled numbers relating to the melody notes are shown above the staff lines. Those relating to the bass notes are shown below.

Nahayan Kumar

Andantino

Study in 3/4 time

Joseph Kuffner

$\text{♩} = 102$

5

9

13

The circled number above or below each note indicates the **string** to be played.

Non-circled numbers indicate the **left hand finger** to use: 1 for index finger, 2 for middle finger, 3 for ring finger, 4 for pinky finger and 0 for no finger to be used (open string).

Small letters *i*, *m*, *a* and *p* indicate right hand fingering: *i* for index finger, *m* for middle finger, *a* for ring finger and *p* for thumb.

Once you get the hang of these symbols over a few bars by playing slowly, they become easier to recognize. And eventually the notes themselves familiar enough without the need for extra notation. Be patient, take your time and this change to reading mainly the notes will happen sooner than you think.