

USING YOUR LEFT HAND

Hand Position

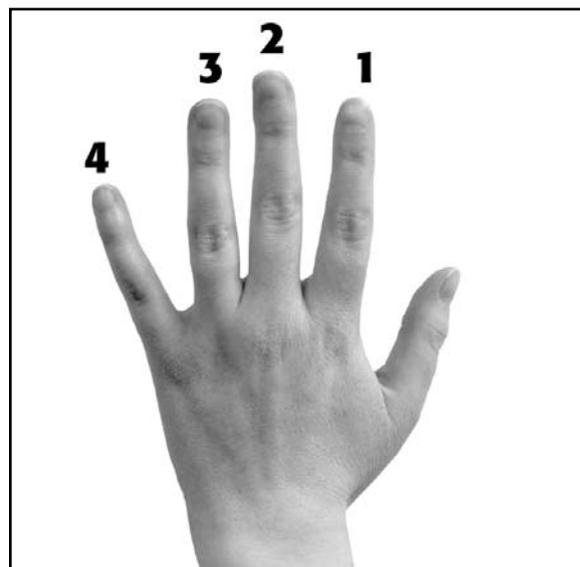
Learning to use your left-hand fingers easily starts with a good hand position. Place your hand so your thumb rests comfortably in the middle of the back of the neck. Position your fingers on the front of the neck as if you are gently squeezing a ball between them and your thumb. Keep your elbow in and your fingers curved.



Keep elbow in and fingers curved.



Like gently squeezing a ball between your fingers and thumb.



Finger numbers.

Placing a Finger on a String

When you press a string with a left-hand finger, make sure you press firmly with the tip of your finger and as close to the fret wire as you can without actually being right on it. Short fingernails are important! This will create a clean, bright tone.



RIGHT

Finger pressing the string down near the fret without actually being on it.



WRONG

Finger is too far from fret wire; tone is "buzzy" and indefinite.



WRONG

Finger is on top of fret wire; tone is muffled and unclear.