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Track 1

The CD that accompanies this book can make learning with the book easier and more enjoyable. The symbol shown above will appear next to every example that is on the CD. Use the CD to help insure that you are capturing the feel of the examples, interpreting the rhythms correctly, and so on. The track numbers below the symbols correspond directly to the examples on that page. Track 1 will help you tune your guitar to this CD.

4/4 Patterns Part One

The first pattern in this chapter is the simplest of all possible $\frac{4}{4}$ fingerpicking patterns. It is composed entirely of single notes, with two bass notes in each measure. The patterns that follow it are variations on this popular arpeggio. They are most often played at a slow tempo but can also be effective at faster speeds. Each example may be used as the only pattern in a song or instrumental piece, or the variations can be combined in the same piece. Be sure to keep the eighth notes steady. Also try to balance the sound and play each string at the same volume.

In pattern #1, the bass notes, played on beats 1 and 3, are the roots of each chord.



Pattern 1



Track 2.1

Musical notation for Pattern 1, Track 2.1. The notation is in 4/4 time and G major. The top staff shows the melody with chords G, C, D, and G. The bottom staff shows the bass lines for Treble (T), Alto (A), and Bass (B) strings. The bass line consists of two notes per measure, alternating between the root and the fifth of the chord. The melody consists of eighth notes, with the first note of each measure being the root of the chord. The notation includes fingerings (i, m, a) and dynamics (p, etc.).

Pattern 2 is identical to Pattern 1 except for the bass. Here, instead of repeating the root of each chord, the thumb moves from a root to an alternate bass. This is the most common bass style in pattern picking and is the approach taken with most of the patterns in this book. Of course, you may prefer the repeated root (Pattern 1) on some occasions. Although not as interesting as the root/alternate bass pattern, it does provide a strong sound. You should try to incorporate repeated root bass parts into the other patterns in this chapter, and throughout the book.



Pattern 2



Track 2.2

Musical notation for Pattern 2, Track 2.2. The notation is in 4/4 time and G major. The top staff shows the melody with chords G, C, D, and G. The bottom staff shows the bass lines for Treble (T), Alto (A), and Bass (B) strings. The bass line consists of two notes per measure, alternating between the root and the fifth of the chord. The melody consists of eighth notes, with the first note of each measure being the root of the chord. The notation includes fingerings (i, m, a) and dynamics (p, etc.).

Double Stops on Upper Strings

This section will introduce a pattern with two simultaneous upper-string notes. We will also look at some of the many possible variations it can have. These will include variations on the lower strings as well as the upper strings.

Pattern 160 is the basic double stop pattern. The double stops occur on the first, stronger part of each beat. This pattern has the simplest bass note approach possible, with one whole note per bar.



Pattern 160



Track 72.1

Musical notation for Pattern 160 in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff shows a sequence of double stops on the upper strings (G, C, D, G) with fingerings (a, m, i, a, m, i) and a 'p' (pizzicato) marking. The bass clef staff shows a single whole note per bar (G, C, D, G) with a 'p' marking. The guitar staff shows fret numbers (0, 3, 2, 3, 0, 3, 0, 3) and a 'p' marking.

In Pattern 161, we add an alternate bass note on the third beat.



Pattern 161



Track 72.2

Musical notation for Pattern 161 in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff shows a sequence of double stops on the upper strings (G, C, D, G) with fingerings (a, m, i, a, m, i) and a 'p' marking. The bass clef staff shows a sequence of bass notes (G, C, D, G) with a 'p' marking. The guitar staff shows fret numbers (0, 3, 2, 3, 0, 3, 0, 3) and a 'p' marking.

Pattern 162 has the same upper-string sequence as Patterns 160 and 161. This time, the bass plays the roots of the chords in steady quarter notes, which give us a stronger, fuller sound.



Pattern 162



Track 72.3

Musical notation for Pattern 162 in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff shows a sequence of double stops on the upper strings (G, C, D, G) with fingerings (a, m, i, a, m, i) and a 'p' marking. The bass clef staff shows a sequence of bass notes (G, C, D, G) with a 'p' marking. The guitar staff shows fret numbers (0, 3, 2, 3, 0, 3, 0, 3) and a 'p' marking.