

This is a very simple fingerstyle chord exercise with bass run connectors between chords. We have given you 3 major keys to work on. Also work on the chords in the keys of G Major, D Major and F Major. Hold your chord forms as long as possible when playing these chords.

This is called a pinch because the thumb strokes down and the remainder of your fingers picks up in a pinch-like fashion

Alternating Bass Keys of C, A, E

Chord diagrams for C, F, G7, A, D, E7, E, and B7 with their respective fingerings: C (-3 2 - 1 -), F (- - 3 2 1 1), G7 (3 2 - - - 1), A (- - 1 2 3 -), D (- - - 1 3 2), E7 (- 2 - 1 3 -), E (- 2 - 1 3 -), B7 (- 2 1 3 - 4).

Form The Chords Prior To Playing Anything With The Right Hand. Notice The Left Hand Fingering Beneath Each Chord

4/4 Timing or Common Time. 4 beats per measure and quarter notes receive the beat.

Moderate ♩ = 120

Musical notation for the first system (measures 1-5). Includes a treble clef, 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). Chord diagrams for C, F, and G7 are shown above the staff. Fingerings for the left hand are indicated below the staff.

Right Hand Fingering: T A A, M M, I I, T T

Right Hand Fingering A=Ring; M=Middle; I=Index; T=Thumb

Let your notes ring through each other as much as possible

Musical notation for the second system (measures 6-10). Includes a treble clef, 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). Chord diagrams for C, G7, and F are shown above the staff. Fingerings for the left hand are indicated below the staff.

This is the fingerstyle equiv. of up and down picking. Play alternate notes with thumb and index fingers RH.

Play alternating bass on the lower 2 strings with your RH Thumb. Play the Root or C first Then The G.

All of the chords played in this lesson are summarized in the header of the song. Memorize all of them and be able to play them and change between them effortlessly.

This is the key signature and it signals a change in keys for the measures that follow. The 3 sharps signify a change to the key of A

This is the root of the D major Chord

This is the root of the A major Chord

T A T A T A T I T I T M T M T M T I T I T A T A
 M M M I I I I M I I M M I I
 T T T I I I T T T T T T T T T

Quite often you will play 3 note chords as shown here. You can play 2, 3 or even 4 note chords. It's your choice.

Hold this chord form as long as possible and let the notes ring.

T A T I T I T A T A T A T A
 M M M M M M M M M M
 I I I I I I I I I I
 T T T T T T T T T T

Key change to the key of E Major

T A T A T A T I T I T A T A T A T A T A
 M M M M M M M M M M
 I I I I I I I I I I
 T T T T T T T T T T

You will find that fingerstyle guitar is most easily played in the keys of D major, A Major and E Major because of the number of open strings that are associated with these scales and chords. By utilizing Drop D, Drop G or Drop C tuning you will find that playing in the keys of C and G Major will be equally easy and rewarding. We will study those tunings in future Fingerstyle Guitar Lessons.

There are of coarse an infinite number of ways to play these chords. We will explore a couple of additional methods that were developed by Chet Atkins and Jerry Reed - Both absolute masters of fingerstyle guitar.

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Chord diagrams and fingerings:

- E: 0 2 3 1 - -
- B7: X 2 0 2 2 4
- B7: X 2 0 2 2 4
- B7: X 2 0 2 2 4
- E: 0 2 3 1 - -
- E: 0 2 3 1 - -
- E: 0 2 3 1 - -

Tablature:

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0 4-2 3-4 2 2 2 4-2 3-4 0 2 0
T A T I T I T A T A T A T I T I T A T A T A T A
M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M
I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I
T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T
    
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Release the chord form at this point to play the transitional run. This is typical for all runs in this piece.

This is a dotted half note. It receives 3 beats total; 2 for the half note and the dot gives it 50% more of the note value for a total of 3 beats.

A common method to bring a little bit of variety to your fingerstyle chords is to add an arpeggio-style roll for certain chords. An arpeggio means to play the notes one-at-a-time and not all together. You do this by rolling from your RG Thumb, then index finger, next middle and finally the ring finger. The space between each note is very short and it still should sound like a chord, but a more stretched out chord. This takes a bit of practice to get it smooth, but when you do it is a very appealing effect in the right locations of your music. Do not overuse it though and save it only for special sections.

The best way to execute this is to form the chord with your left hand, then place all four of your RH fingers on each string they are to play. Then release RH fingers one at a time to play the arpeggio.

A likely spot to play an arpeggio chord is the final chord of each key, or just before the key change - at the dotted half note.