

Fingerstyle Guitar Primer

Plucking Hand Fingering Indicators: “The P-I-M-A Technique”

Thumb = **p** Index = **i** Middle = **m** Ring = **a** Pinky = **ch**

Hand Position:

It is important to develop the “X-Shape” so that your thumb is positioned in front of the other fingers. Each finger needs it’s own space for doing the plucking.

Simple Plucking Exercises:

Practice plucking across the strings using 4-string, 5-string and 6-string chords. use a simple motion “sweeping” across the notes of the chord. Keep your index, middle and ring fingers, (i, m, a), of the plucking hand on the top three guitar strings.

Exercise #1).

D

T 2 3 2 3
A 0 2 3 2
B 0 2 3 2

p i m a m i p

Exercise #2).

C

T 0 1 0 1
A 2 0 1 0
B 3 2 0 2

p p i m a m i p

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Exercise #3).

G

T 0 0 0 3 0 0 | 0 0 0 3 0 0 | 0 0 0 3 0 0 | 0 0 0 3 0 0

A 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0

B 3 2 0 0 0 0 | 2 3 0 0 0 0 | 3 2 0 0 0 0 | 2 3 0 0 0 0

p p p i m a m i p p p

Exercise #4).

C G Am Em

T 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 | 1 2 1 2 0 0 0 | 1 2 1 2 0 0 0 | 1 2 1 2 0 0 0

A 2 2 3 2 0 0 0 | 0 2 2 2 2 0 0 | 0 2 2 2 2 0 0 | 0 2 2 2 2 0 0

B 3 3 3 3 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

m p p i p m p i p p i p m p i

Exercise #5). "Babe I'm Gonna Leave You" - Led Zeppelin

Am A7sus4/G Am7/G D/F# D7/F# F E Am7 Am

T 2 2 1 2 2 1 | (1) 3 0 1 | (1) 3 2 1 | (1) 1 1 0 | (0) 3 0

A 2 2 2 2 1 | 2 0 2 0 1 | 0 2 0 2 1 | 2 2 2 1 0 | 2 2 2 2

B 0 0 0 0 0 | 3 3 2 2 1 | 1 0 0 0 0 | 1 0 0 0 0 | 0 2 0 2 2

Am7/G D/F# D7/F# F E

T 3 0 | (0) 3 0 2 1 | (1) 2 1 1 0

A 2 0 2 0 | 0 2 3 0 2 1 | 2 2 1 2 1 0

B 3 3 2 2 1 | 2 2 1 0 0 0 0

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Exercise #6). "Ode To Joy" - Ludwig van Beethoven

C G7 G (G) G7 C G/B C G/B C (C) G

let ring

T	0	0	1	3	3	1	0	3	1	0	1	3	0	0	3	3					
A	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0
B	3	3					2	0	3	2			2	2	2	3			3	2	

C G7 G (G) G7 C G/B C G/B C G/B C

let ring

T	0	0	1	3	3	1	0	3	1	0	1	3	0	3	1	1					
A	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0
B	3	3					2	0	3	2			2	2	2	3			2	3	

Exercise #7). "Yesterday" - The Beatles

G B7 Em C D7

let ring

T																							
A	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	2
B	3						2						0		0	2	0		3	2	0		

G Em A7 C G

T	1	0	0		0	0			0	0	0		0	0	0
A	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0		0	0	0
B	0	0			2		2	2	2		0		2	0	
B	3	3			0		0		3				3		

