

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
A
B

p i m a m i p

Exercise #2).

C

T
A
B

p p i m a m i p

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

Exercise #7). "Yesterday" - The Beatles

G B7 Em C D7

let ring

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

G Em A7 C G

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

