

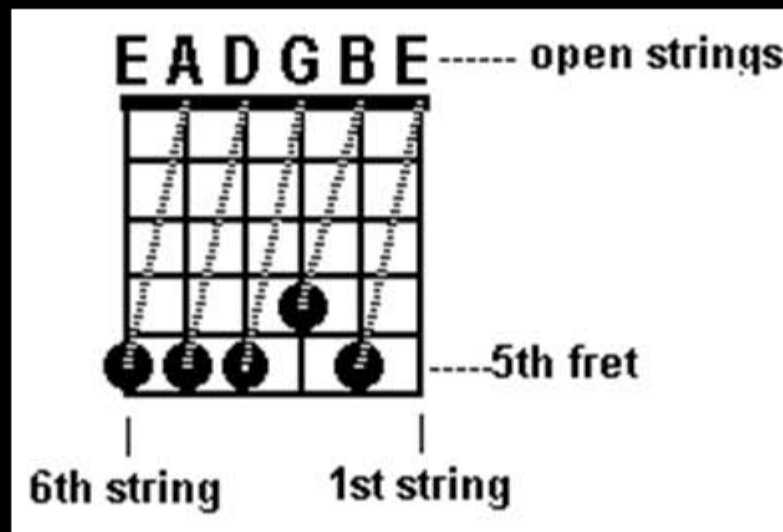
Open Source Music

Lesson 2:

Introduction to single-note techniques

Fall 2012

While we wait... Tune your guitar!

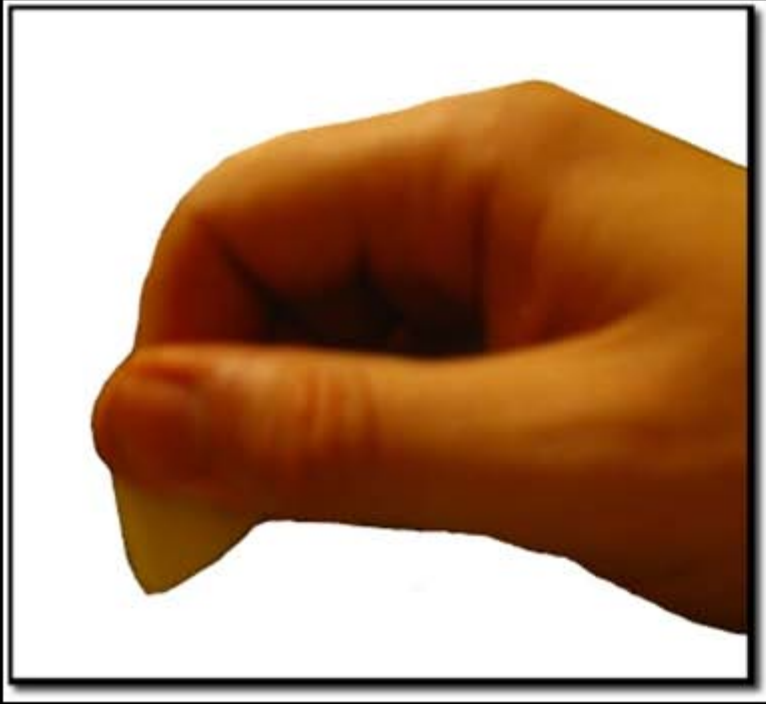


Getting into it: How to hold your guitar

- There are a few ways to hold a guitar, but for our purposes, the way we do it:
 - Position the middle of the guitar on your right thigh (sitting down)
 - Picking hand sits in front of the bridge near the bottom of the soundhole
- Don't worry about learning to play standing up just yet!
- Find a *comfortable* position—this is not an exact guide!



Holding the pick



- The pick generally goes between your thumb and forefinger.
- The smaller side of the pick protrudes from the thumb at approximately 90 degrees.
- The amount of pick protruding is determined by play style and personal preference
- Strum a little and figure out how you like to hold your pick!

Right Hand Positioning



- Right hand rests on the bridge
- Keeps you from tiring out
- One less thing to think about!
- Will simplify palm-muting

Single-note picking 101

- Use the pick to pluck 1 string at a time.
- Downward motion using the pick on the string, using a rotation of your wrist to make the motion.
- If the string rattles excessively, use less of the pick.



Example 1: Simple open note picking

- Here we have a tab—what we covered in class last time.
- We will have a metronome sounding a steady beat
 - try to pick the string in time with the metronome clicks.

E-0-0-0-0-----
B-----0-0-0-0-----
G-----0-0-0-0-----
D-----0-0-0-0-----
A-----0-0-0-0-----
E-----0-0-0-0-----

Picking: Direction Matters!

- So, you may have figured—the pick has two sides, both of which are used to strum.
- Strum directions on tab often use ‘u’ and ‘d’ or ^ and v.
- We will be using ‘u’ and ‘d’ to denote direction of picking/strumming.

Up/Down picking!

- Very good example of single-note picking: Dick Dale – “Miserlou.”
- He picks very fast and in an alternating motion—we can’t promise you speed like his, but we’ll give you the basics that you can practice to accomplish this!

Example 2: Up/down open note picking

- Open note up/down, changing strings every 4 picks

- E--0--0--0--0-----
- B-----0--0--0--0-----
- G-----0--0--0--0-----
- D-----0--0--0--0-----
- A-----0--0--0--0-----
- E-----0--0--0--0-----

Adding in the left hand

- Knuckles are not touching the edge of the fingerboard!
- Fingers come straight down to fret in middle of the fret
- Thumb in upper back of neck (depending on hand size)



Fretting and Picking

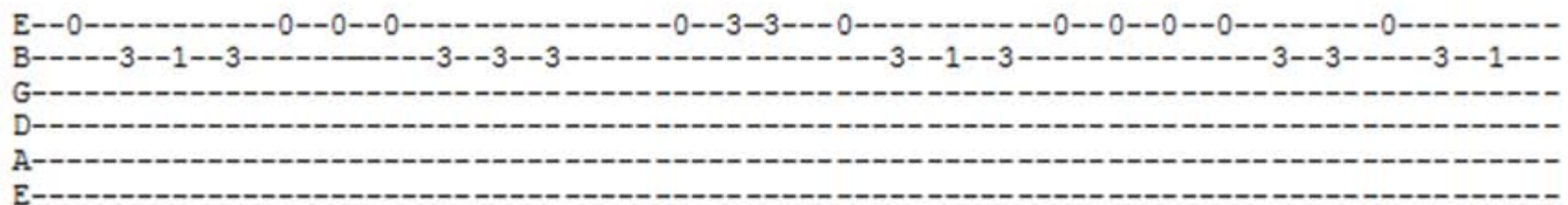
- When getting started on fretting notes, make sure your index finger is aligned with the first fret of the guitar, middle is on the second, and so on.
- Resist the temptation to stretch your ring finger to cover for your pinky—it's important to make your pinky finger strong too!



This is the position you want. Don't worry about what he's fretting, we'll get to that later!

Example 3: Fretting notes AND picking!

- First, play with downstrokes only. If it's too easy to do like that, then switch to up/down.
- Start very slow and make sure your technique is right!
- Mary had a Little Lamb



Example 4: Doubletime!

- Pick alternating up and down
- This is the opening riff from “Stacy’s Mom”

E:-----|
B:-----|
G:-----|
D:-----|
A:-----6--7--0--0--0--0--7--|
E:-0--0--0--5--5--5--5--5--7-----|

Example 5: The Super Mario Bros Theme!

- Self explanatory, go at it! Use up/down strokes when possible.

E-0-0-0-0-0-3-----0-3-5-1-3-0-----1-3-0

B-----1-----1-----1-3-0

G-----0-2-4-3-2-0

D-----2

A-----

E-----3

Example 6- Rolling Stones!

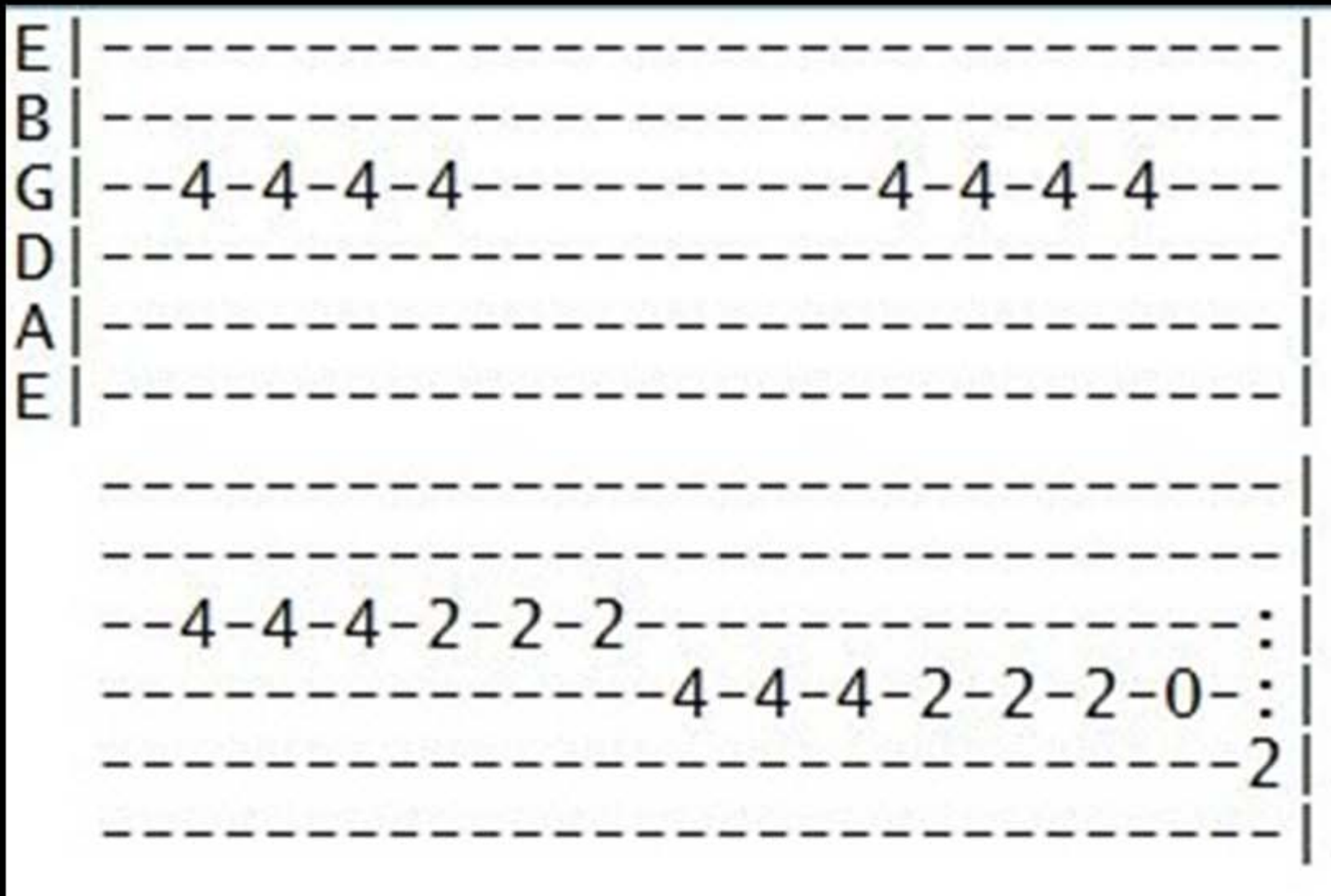
0	0	0
5	7	8

0	0	0	0
10	8	7	5

0	0	0	
5	4	5	7

5	4	2	4

Example 7- Welcome to the Jungle



Extension: Caterpillar exercise

- Proven to improve fret-pick coordination in just a week!

E-----1-2-3-4-
B-----1-2-3-4-
G-----1-2-3-4-
D-----1-2-3-4-
A-----1-2-3-4-
E----1-2-3-4-

5-4-3-2-
5-4-3-2-
5-4-3-2-
5-4-3-2-
5-4-3-2-
5-4-3-2-

E-----3-4-5-6-
B-----3-4-5-6-
G-----3-4-5-6-
D-----3-4-5-6-
A-----3-4-5-6-
E--3-4-5-6-

7-6-5-4-
7-6-5-4-
7-6-5-4-
7-6-5-4-
7-6-5-4-
7-6-5-4-

Syllabus

1. Intro to the guitar, guitar tabs, and the class
2. Single note technique
3. Power Chords
4. Chords I – Major Chords
5. Chords II – Minor Chords
6. Barre Chords
7. Advanced Techniques, “Where do I go from here?”