

Fingerstyle Guitar *In a Flash*: Module 1 – The Basics

Putting Together The Pieces

By this point you will have a pretty steady grasp on the 3-digit method of basic fingerstyle application. You are now ready to put some of that fingerstyle to practical use with a healthy series of progressive tempo fingerstyle exercises unlike anything you've ever worked with before.

Now is when you will REALLY be able to test your ability with these fingerstyle passages. I will be giving you the exact same pattern exercises from before, but this time you'll need to see how well you can keep up. I'll walk you through how I would like you to try and approach this real quick.

1. You will have a video and audio* backing track to work with, which features:
 - a slow and steady starting point of 60 bpm
 - a gradual increase in tempo at around every 18 seconds
 - the tempo increase is in increments of 5 (60 – 65 – 70 etc.) up to 140 bpm
 - the tempo will then decrease the same way back down to 60 bpm
2. As you move up in tempo, you'll likely get tripped up.
 - Either write down (or make a mental note) of where the tempo got difficult on the page provided below.
 - Back up the video track (or audio track) to the beginning and start over.
 - Do this until you get at least a little better, but keep it within reason – see below:
 - Most songs won't be toooooo fast in tempo, but there are times where it might happen.
 - I would rather you be prepared, but fingerstyle does take time. Don't dwell on it too much.

*Big Point: Unless you are really good at hearing tempo changes, I highly recommend using the video track. It will show you when the tempo changes and it'll give you just a second or so before it starts to matter too much. The audio track is meant for some serious guitarists that want a challenge.

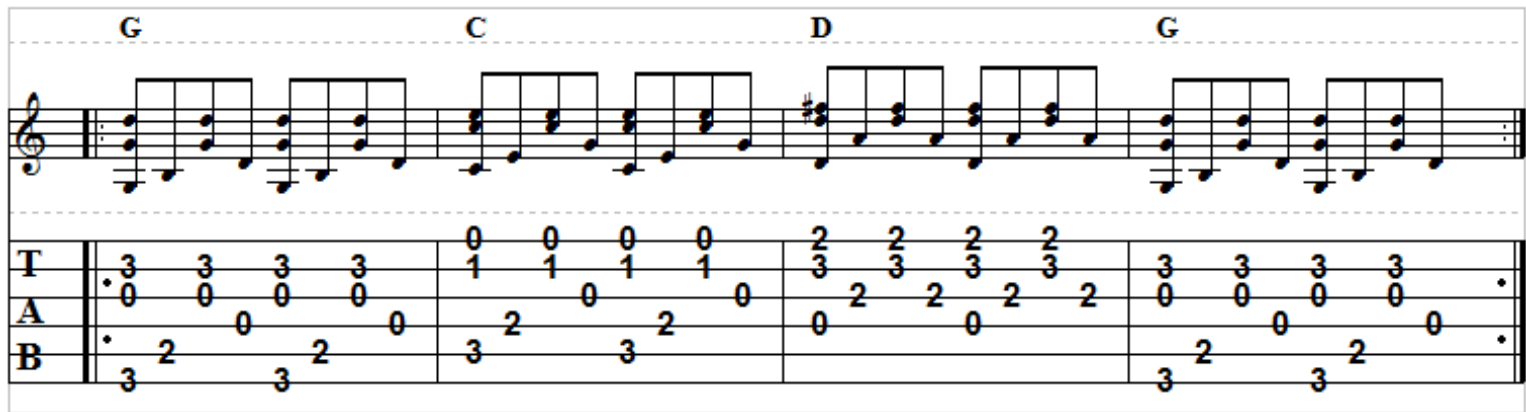
4-Step Pattern Exercise 1 (E Group – A Group – D Group – E Group)

G

C

D

G



The musical notation for Exercise 1 consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The exercise is divided into four measures, each corresponding to a chord: G, C, D, and G. Each measure contains a sequence of eighth notes. Below the staff are three rows of fret numbers for the Treble (T), Alto (A), and Bass (B) staves. The first row (T) contains fret numbers 3, 0, 3, 0, 3, 0, 3, 0 for each measure. The second row (A) contains fret numbers 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2 for each measure. The third row (B) contains fret numbers 3, 2, 3, 2, 3, 2, 3, 2 for each measure. Below the fret numbers are three rows of red text: '2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T', '1 1 1 1', and 'T T' for each measure.

2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T
1 1 1 1
T T

Best Tempo: _____

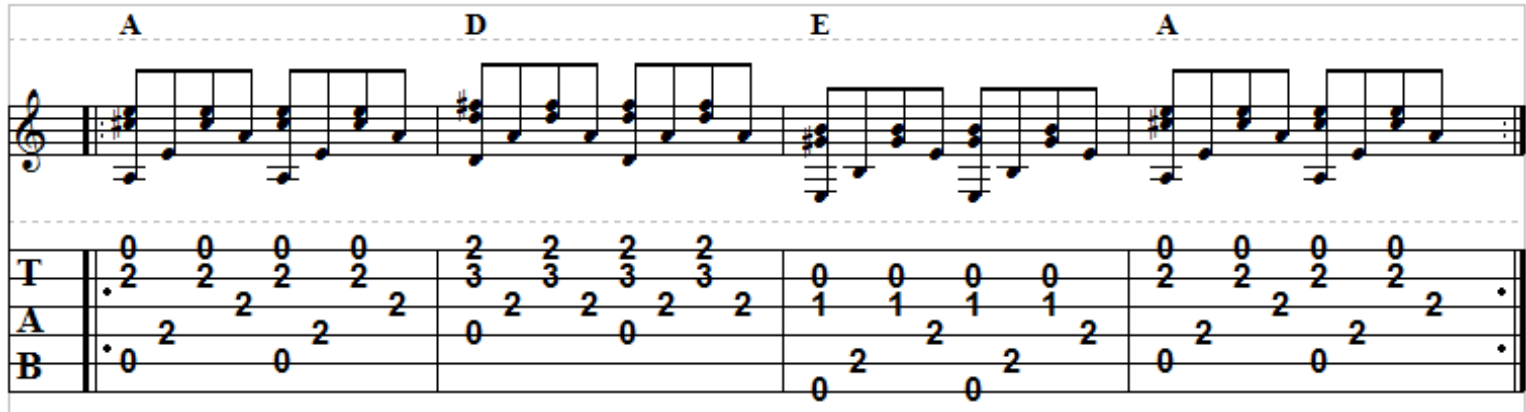
4-Step Pattern Exercise 2 (A Group – D Group – E Group – A Group)

A

D

E

A



The musical notation for Exercise 2 consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The exercise is divided into four measures, each corresponding to a chord: A, D, E, and A. Each measure contains a sequence of eighth notes. Below the staff are three rows of fret numbers for the Treble (T), Alto (A), and Bass (B) staves. The first row (T) contains fret numbers 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2 for each measure. The second row (A) contains fret numbers 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0 for each measure. The third row (B) contains fret numbers 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2 for each measure. Below the fret numbers are three rows of red text: '2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T', '1 1 1 1', and 'T T' for each measure.

2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T
1 1 1 1
T T

Best Tempo: _____

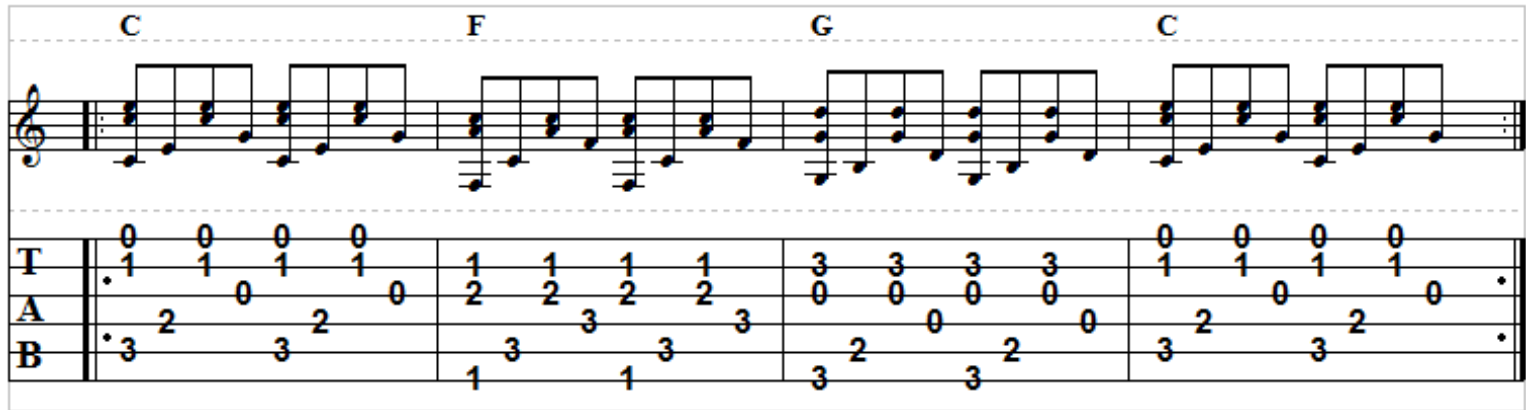
4-Step Pattern Exercise 3 (A Group – E Group – E Group – A Group)

C

F

G

C



Musical notation for Exercise 3, showing four measures corresponding to chords C, F, G, and C. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: C4, E4, G4, A4 for C; F3, A3, C4, E4 for F; G2, B2, D3, F3 for G; and C4, E4, G4, A4 for C. The bass line consists of single notes: C3, F2, G2, C3.

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

2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
T T T T

Best Tempo: _____

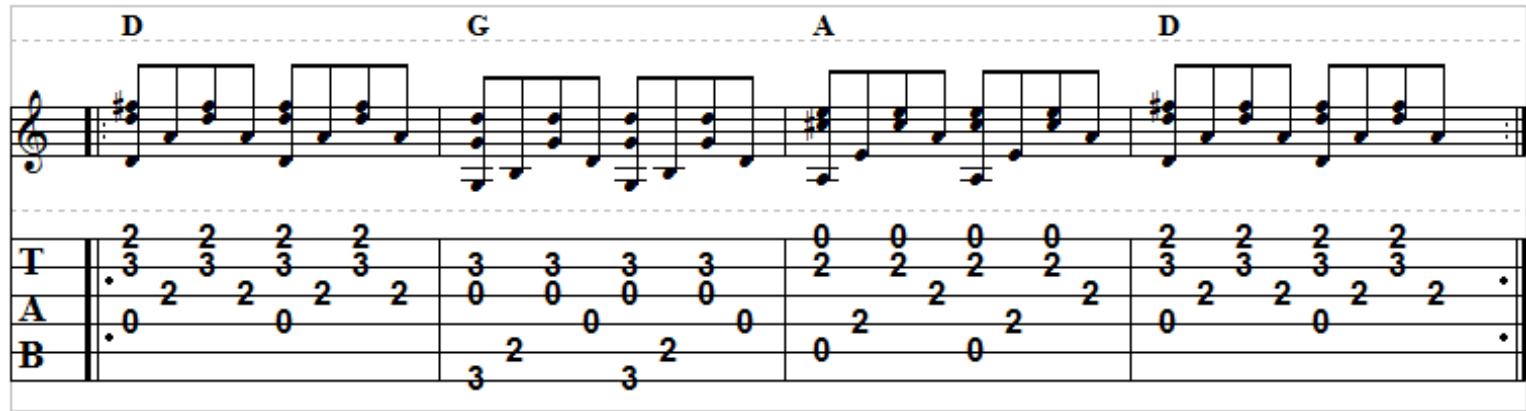
4-Step Pattern Exercise 4 (D Group – E Group – A Group – D Group)

D

G

A

D



Musical notation for Exercise 4, showing four measures corresponding to chords D, G, A, and D. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: D4, F#4, A4, B4 for D; G3, B3, D4, F#4 for G; A3, C#4, E4, G4 for A; and D4, F#4, A4, B4 for D. The bass line consists of single notes: D3, G2, A2, D3.

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

2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
T T T T

Best Tempo: _____

4-Step Pattern Exercise 5 (E Group – A Group – A Group - E Group)

E

A

B

E

2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T 2 T

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

T T T T

Best Tempo: _____

Additional Notes: (feel free to write anything you might need to remember when you revisit this series below)