

# 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)

Musical notation for Exercise 1, showing four measures corresponding to chords G, C, D, and G. The notation includes a treble clef staff with notes and a three-string fretboard diagram (Treble, Acoustic, Bass) with fingerings (0-3) and string numbers (1-3).

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 2 (A Group – D Group – E Group – A Group)

Musical notation for Exercise 2, showing four measures corresponding to chords A, D, E, and A. The notation includes a treble clef staff with notes and a three-string fretboard diagram (Treble, Acoustic, Bass) with fingerings (0-3) and string numbers (1-3).

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 3 (A Group – E Group – E Group – A Group)

Musical notation for Exercise 3, showing guitar chords and fretting patterns for strings T, A, and B. The exercise is divided into four measures, each with a specific chord: C, F, G, and C.

Chord progressions: C, F, G, C.

Fretting patterns (T, A, B strings):

|         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| C       | F       | G       | C       |
| 0 0 0 0 | 1 1 1 1 | 3 3 3 3 | 0 0 0 0 |
| 1 1 1 1 | 2 2 2 2 | 0 0 0 0 | 1 1 1 1 |
| 2 0 2 0 | 3 3 3 3 | 0 0 0 0 | 2 0 2 0 |
| 3 2 3 2 | 1 3 1 3 | 3 2 3 2 | 3 2 3 2 |
|         | 1 1     | 3 3     |         |

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)

Musical notation for Exercise 4, showing guitar chords and fretting patterns for strings T, A, and B. The exercise is divided into four measures, each with a specific chord: D, G, A, and D.

Chord progressions: D, G, A, D.

Fretting patterns (T, A, B strings):

|         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| D       | G       | A       | D       |
| 2 2 2 2 | 3 3 3 3 | 0 0 0 0 | 2 2 2 2 |
| 3 3 3 3 | 0 0 0 0 | 2 2 2 2 | 3 3 3 3 |
| 0 2 2 2 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 2 2 2 | 0 2 2 2 |
| 0 0 0 0 | 3 2 3 2 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 |
|         | 3 3     |         |         |

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)

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)