

## Beginner Songs

Here is a collection of songs that you can use basic fingerstyle guitar with and learn with some degree of ease. We won't learn ALL of the parts of each of these songs yet, as each of them have some intermediate work involved, but we'll work with the basics of each song for now. We will be revisiting the more intermediate - advanced parts later as well as more work from the masters.

### "Fire and Rain" by James Taylor

Simple and sweet with smooth vocals, Fire and Rain is not too difficult to play. One of the best things about this song is that there is such a blue emotion put into the very notes. This tutorial takes you in-depth into learning the basic verse theme for this song. We'll hit the intro later in the course.

Here is the basic verse theme to this classic song. We'll reserve the intro for later in the course as it is a little more advanced.

The song tempo is set to 77 bpm with a capo on the third fret. If you do not have a capo, you can play this open. However, it will NOT sound the same. The tuning is standard.

As with all of our song study videos, I've slowed this down a bit AND added a slow motion feature so that you can really see the fretting and picking hand. I also like to create cut scenes so that you can instantly go back and re-watch some of the more intricate details measure by measure.

### Part I

Part I musical notation showing a sequence of chords (A<sup>v</sup>, G/D, D, A) and a corresponding bass line with fingerings (5, 3, 2, 0, 6, 0, 0, 2, 2, 2, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0). The notation includes a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B $\flat$ ).

### Part II

E Gmaj7sus2

0 2 0 0 3 2 3 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 3 3 3 3 3 3

H

## PIMA Legend

Here is a PIMA guideline that I used to play this song.

A<sup>v</sup> G/D D A

M M M M

5 3 2 0 0 2 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

6 5 3 0 P 2 2 P 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

0 P 0 0 P 0 0 P 0 0 P 0 0 P 0 0 P 0 0 P 0 0

H

E Gmaj7sus2

M M

0 2 0 0 3 2 3 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 3 3 3 3 3 3

2 2 2 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

0 P 0 P

H

## "If You Could Read My Mind" by Gordon Lightfoot

Here's another beauty that's best known for its covers by the likes of Stars on 54, Johnny Cash, and Olivia Newton-John. Yes, it sounds a little old but it's fun to play. This one is great for the beginner because there are few difficult techniques. The big thing here is hand cramping as the barre chords played using fingerstyle are a bit tricky.

We will work on the Intro and the opening Verse theme to this song. You'll need a capo on the 2nd fret to play this correctly. You CAN play this without the capo, but it won't sound the same.

The first and second measures are in the video. The third and fourth are a repeat, so I didn't include it on the video. The Verse has roughly the same theme in the fifth and sixth measures, so I didn't repeat that either. I went directly to the seventh and eighth measures. The song is meant to be played at 120 bpm, but that may be a little fast for now. Try following with the video for now.

## Intro

Moderately Fast ♩ = 120

A Aadd9 A Aadd9

Gtr I *mf*  
let ring

## Verse (Part I)

A Aadd9 A Aadd9 Em6/G

let ring

## PIMA Legend

Moderately Fast ♩ = 120

A Aadd9 A Aadd9

Gtr I *mf*  
let ring

[illegible]

## "Stairway To Heaven" by Led Zeppelin

So cliché that it's barely cool to play? Definitely. I mean, what guitarist hasn't tried learning Stairway to Heaven? Yet it maintains rank in the best songs of all time. The intro to this song is a great exercise to practice in building up your fingerstyle chops.

It's Stairway...enough said.

I've chopped the video down a little because every time I play this song for a student, they always ask me to slow down considerably. I did that here.

# Intro Part I

$\text{♩} = 74$

Gtr I *mf* (set to the left channel on amp) ...finger picking mostly  
let ring

T 5 7 7 8 8 2 2 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 0 1 1 1

A 5 5 5 5 5 3 2 1 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 2 2 2

B 7 6 5 5 4 2 3 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 7

sk

## Intro Part II

let ring

let ring

T 0 2 3 2 0 1 0 1 3 3 3 2 2 2

A P 0 0 2 3 2 2 0 1 0 0 3 3 2 2

B 3 P 0 0 2 3 P 3 P 0 2

P

let ring

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

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

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

## "Time In A Bottle" by Jim Croce

This piece will force you to use your pinky (if that's something you've avoided) and is even more meaningful because of the tragic death of Jim Croce. This one is much more challenging, and may not be playable by the learning fingerstyle guitarist, but I've slowed it down considerably so that you can practice along and build up your finger strength.

Here we're going to play the Verse theme using a capo on the 7th fret. I chose this theme because I felt it was the easier of the two, as the notes are closer together than the other part. Try your best to fingerstyle pick these passages.

### Part I (Measures 1 and 2)

$\text{♩} = 140$

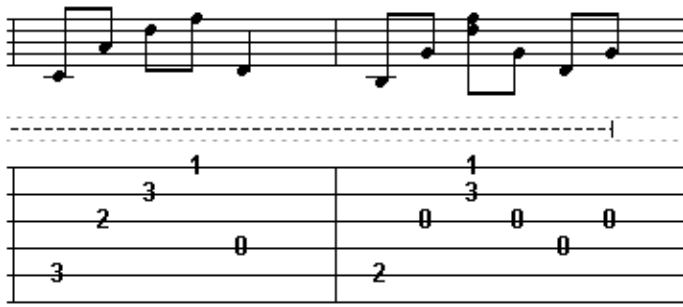
let ring

T 1 3 1

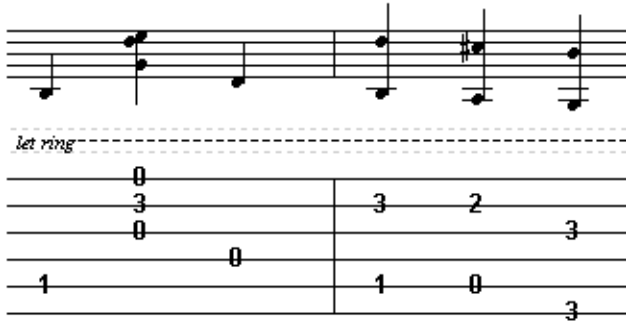
A 0 0 2 2 3 0

B 0 0 2 4 0

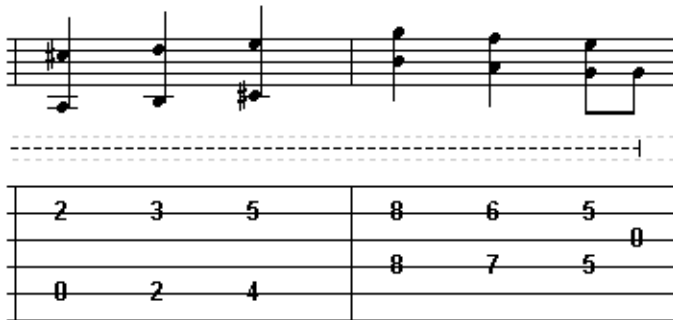
### Part II (Measures 3 and 4)



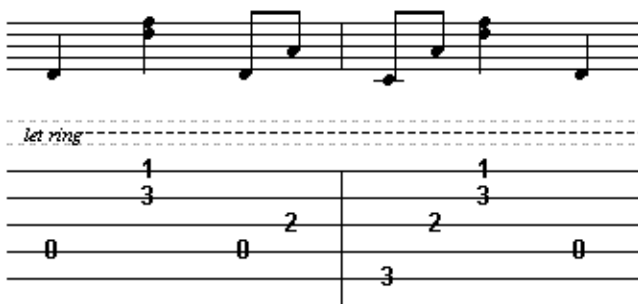
### Part III (Measures 5 and 6)



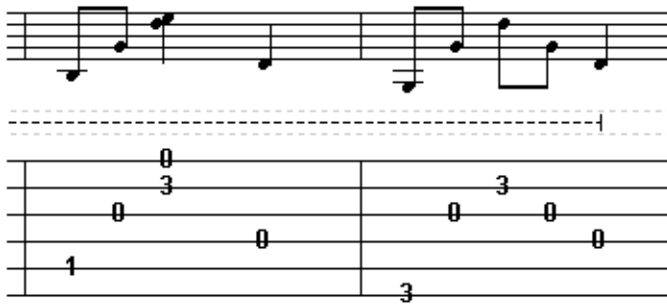
### Part IV (Measures 7 and 8)



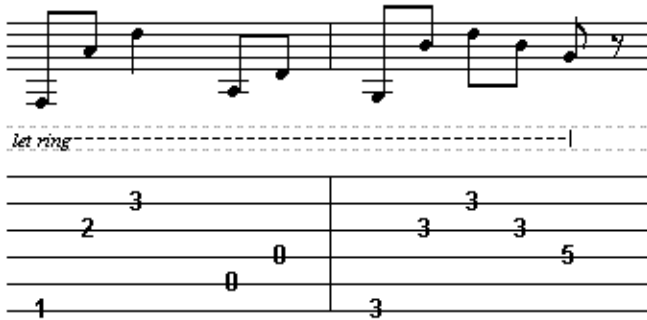
### Part V (Measures 9 and 10)



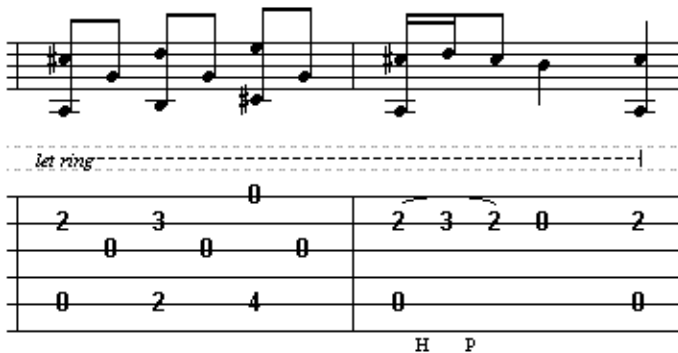
### Part VI (Measures 11 and 12)



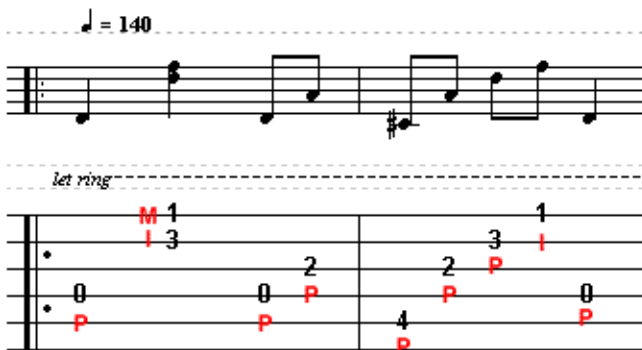
## Part VII (Measures 13 and 14)



## Part VIII (Measures 15 and 16)



## PIMA Legend





First system of musical notation. The melody line consists of two measures. The first measure contains a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. The second measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The guitar chord diagram below shows the following frets and fingerings: Measure 1: G (1st fret, index), A (2nd fret, middle), B (3rd fret, ring), D (3rd fret, pinky). Measure 2: G (1st fret, index), F# (2nd fret, middle), E (2nd fret, ring), D (2nd fret, pinky).

Second system of musical notation. The melody line consists of two measures. The first measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The second measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The guitar chord diagram below shows the following frets and fingerings: Measure 1: G (1st fret, index), F# (2nd fret, middle), E (2nd fret, ring), D (2nd fret, pinky). Measure 2: G (1st fret, index), F# (2nd fret, middle), E (2nd fret, ring), D (2nd fret, pinky).

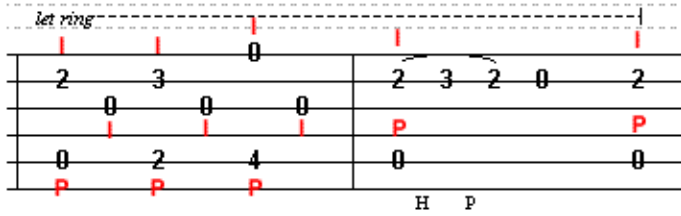
Third system of musical notation. The melody line consists of two measures. The first measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The second measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The guitar chord diagram below shows the following frets and fingerings: Measure 1: G (1st fret, index), F# (2nd fret, middle), E (2nd fret, ring), D (2nd fret, pinky). Measure 2: G (1st fret, index), F# (2nd fret, middle), E (2nd fret, ring), D (2nd fret, pinky).

Fourth system of musical notation. The melody line consists of two measures. The first measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The second measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The guitar chord diagram below shows the following frets and fingerings: Measure 1: G (1st fret, index), F# (2nd fret, middle), E (2nd fret, ring), D (2nd fret, pinky). Measure 2: G (1st fret, index), F# (2nd fret, middle), E (2nd fret, ring), D (2nd fret, pinky).

Fifth system of musical notation. The melody line consists of two measures. The first measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The second measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The guitar chord diagram below shows the following frets and fingerings: Measure 1: G (1st fret, index), F# (2nd fret, middle), E (2nd fret, ring), D (2nd fret, pinky). Measure 2: G (1st fret, index), F# (2nd fret, middle), E (2nd fret, ring), D (2nd fret, pinky).



let ring-----|



**Video Reference:** Much more material is covered in our Fingerstyle 101 DVD. Please refer to Chapter 1 "Beginner Songs" on the DVD for additional information.