

p = thumb m = middle
i = index a = ring

Fingerpicking Basics

Fingerpicking is a prominent technique in folk music and acoustic guitar playing in general. Strive for an even balance between low/high strings and try not to play too softly. Practice with a metronome to help improve rhythm. A common variation is to exclude the last 8th note of the pattern (the 'and' of 4).

1)

Exercise 1 consists of four measures. The first measure is in C major, the second in Am, the third in F, and the fourth in G. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat. The bass clef staff shows the fretting hand positions with fingerings (1-3) and string numbers (3, 2, 0, 3, 2, 0). The fingerpicking pattern for the first measure is p p i p m p i.

2)

Exercise 2 consists of four measures. The first measure is in C major, the second in Am, the third in F, and the fourth in G. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat. The bass clef staff shows the fretting hand positions with fingerings (1-3) and string numbers (3, 2, 0, 3, 2, 0). The fingerpicking pattern for the first measure is p p i p m p i.

3)

Exercise 3 consists of four measures. The first measure is in C major, the second in Am, the third in F, and the fourth in G. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat. The bass clef staff shows the fretting hand positions with fingerings (1-3) and string numbers (3, 2, 0, 3, 2, 0). The fingerpicking pattern for the first measure is p p i p m p i.

4)

Exercise 4 consists of four measures. The first measure is in C major, the second in Am, the third in F, and the fourth in G. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat. The bass clef staff shows the fretting hand positions with fingerings (1-3) and string numbers (3, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0). The fingerpicking pattern for the first measure is p i p m.

5)

Exercise 5 consists of four measures. The first measure is in C major, the second in Am, the third in F, and the fourth in G. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat. The bass clef staff shows the fretting hand positions with fingerings (1-3) and string numbers (3, 2, 0, 1, 3, 2, 0, 1). The fingerpicking pattern for the first measure is p i m a.