

RIGHT HAND FINGERPICKING PATTERNS

"JUMP STARTING THE RIGHT HAND"



1

2

3

4

It is very important to have the thumb ahead of your other fingers and don't let it fall behind them or run into them. The thumb does not have to be too far out front but enough to not touch the other fingers while playing. Start with the easy patterns below.

*p = thumb
i = index finger/1st
m = middle finger/2nd
a = ring*

"Some men see things as they are and say why? I dream things that never were and say, 'why not?'"

— John F. Kennedy

INTERMEDIATE

128

5

p i m a m i p i m a m i

6

p a p a p a p a

7

p p i p p p i p

8

p a m i a m i m

p = Thumb i = index or 1st m = middle or 2nd a = ring finger or 3rd

"No man can serve two masters."

"If a man's education is finished, he is finished."

— Edward Filene

9

p i p m i a p m p i p m i a p m

10

m i m i a m i p m i m i a m i p m i m i a m i p m i m i
p p p p p p

11

a p i m p a m i a p i m p a m i a p i m p a m i a p i m p a m i
p p p p

12

p m i a p i

"Cruelty men condemn, simple men admire them, and wise men use them."

— Francis Bacon

CLASSICAL

The right hand should be relaxed and have no tension in any part of the body. Do not let the thumb move in behind the index finger and under the hand.

When striking the strings, strike not in the center of the fingertips but somewhat towards the upper corner of the nail.

The thumb is recommended to stand out and not be absolutely straight. This gives the thumb greater flexibility and power.

All movement is from the main knuckle, at the base of the finger. The finger maintaining it's bent shape moves in underneath the hand, along a line in the direction of the elbow.

The tip joint which is always relaxed, "flops", or flexes as it strikes the string. The arm must be relaxed from shoulder to fingertip.

The hand should remain quite still, a frame from which only the fingertips move.

Below are a few more right hand patterns to work on, with increasing difficulty.

9

p i p m i a p m p i p m i a p m

10

m i m i a m i p m i m i a m i p m i m i a m i p m i m i

p p p p p p

11

a p i m p a m i a p i m p a m i a p i m p a m i a p i m p a m i

p p p p

12

p m i a p i

"Crafty men condemn studies; simple men admire them, and wise men use them."

— Francis Bacon

Renaissance Allegro is a very popular piece from that period. Fingering in both hands are given. Another page from Guitar Journey teaching method to help you get better at picking those strings.

Renaissance Allegro

6th st.=D

Anonymous

Allegro

m i m i m m i m i m i m i m i

*See music notation above for left and right hand fingering

3 2 3 5 2 3 5 2 3 5 7 5 3 2 0 2

0

m i m i m m i m i m i m i m i m i

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

4 0 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4

2 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

a m i m i m i m i m i m i m i m i m i m i

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

0 4 5 0 4 5 0 4 5 0 4 5 0 4 5 0 4 5 0 4 5

i m i m

3 3 2 3

2 0 4

The Renaissance period of music dates from 1450-1600. This piece originally written for lute adapts well to the guitar. Oscar Chilesotti (1848-1916) an Italian musicologist transcribed the ancient lute tablature into modern notation.

Pay close attention to the left and right hand fingering. Those reading tab should look above at the music notation for fingering. If improper fingering is used, the piece will not be as easy to play as it should be!

♯ = Trill, is a musical ornament consisting of the rapid alternation of a given note with the diatonic second above it. It originated in the 16th century.

"We can learn much from the past."

The classical composition below was written as a study by Fernando Sor. The picking pattern in the right hand is basically the same and the left hand plays many beautiful voicings which create a rather melodious and harmonious study.

ETUDE IN E MINOR

Fernando Sor
(1778-1839)

Andantino

First system of musical notation (measures 1-6). The right hand (RH) part is marked with dynamics *p* and *mf* and includes accents (*a*) over the notes. The left hand part includes the instruction "Left hand fingering" and shows fingerings (1-4) and a triplet (3) for the first measure. The notation is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature.

Second system of musical notation (measures 7-12). The right hand part continues with chords and single notes. The left hand part includes fingerings (1-4) and a triplet (3) for the first measure of the system. The notation is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature.

Third system of musical notation (measures 13-18). The right hand part continues with chords and single notes. The left hand part includes fingerings (1-4) and a triplet (3) for the first measure of the system. The notation is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature.

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19

Musical notation for measures 19-24. The system consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff contains a bass line with eighth and quarter notes. Fingering numbers (1-4) are placed above or below notes. Measure numbers 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24 are indicated at the beginning of their respective measures.

25

Musical notation for measures 25-30. The system consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff contains a bass line with eighth and quarter notes. Fingering numbers (1-4) are placed above or below notes. Measure numbers 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 are indicated at the beginning of their respective measures.

31

Musical notation for measures 31-36. The system consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff contains a bass line with eighth and quarter notes. Fingering numbers (1-4) are placed above or below notes. Measure numbers 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 are indicated at the beginning of their respective measures.

37

Musical notation for measures 37-42. The system consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff contains a bass line with eighth and quarter notes. Fingering numbers (1-4) are placed above or below notes. Measure numbers 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, and 42 are indicated at the beginning of their respective measures.