

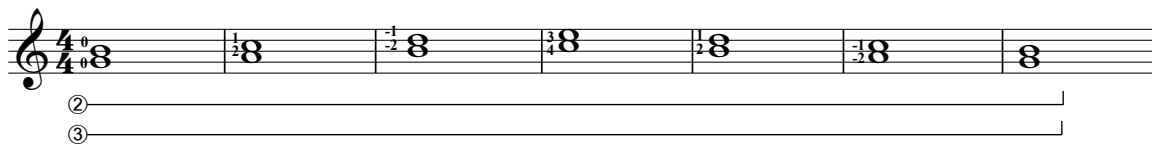
Lesson 2

Free Stroke Right Hand Development Patterns

The presented patterns provide a systematic approach to develop initial Free Stroke Technique. The patterns are grouped based on a natural progression of easiest to difficult finger movement (IE – playing notes together in 3rds/chords is easier then individual fingers).

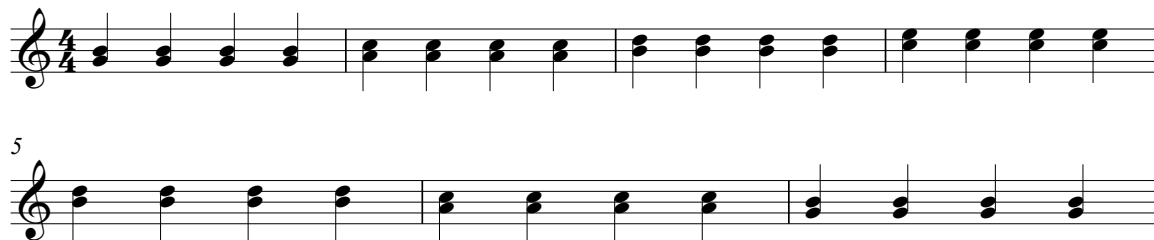
Harmonized G Major Scale (partial)

The following harmonized G major scale in 3rds will be used throughout the whole series of exercises in Lesson 2. Familiarize yourself with the scale below. For the purpose of practicing the scale, use the *i* and *m* fingers.



Remember that the hyphen (-) before the numbers indicates the use of a guide finger. This means that you will use the same left hand fingers as the previous chord. Shift while keeping your fingers in contact with the string to ensure a smooth transition from one note to another.

Practice this scale not in the whole note rhythm presented above, but also as quarter notes. Keeping a slow pulse, repeat each dyad 4 times trying to achieve an even sound each time. Keep the notes played together, remember to use a quick release so the fingers may be in position to play again, and remember to maintain a consistent long articulation between chords during shifts.



Group 1: Notes Together

The first group of patterns develops playing notes together to form dyads and chords. Remember that the left hand fingering from the harmonized G major scale will be used throughout all of the patterns while the right hand pattern changes.

Pattern 1

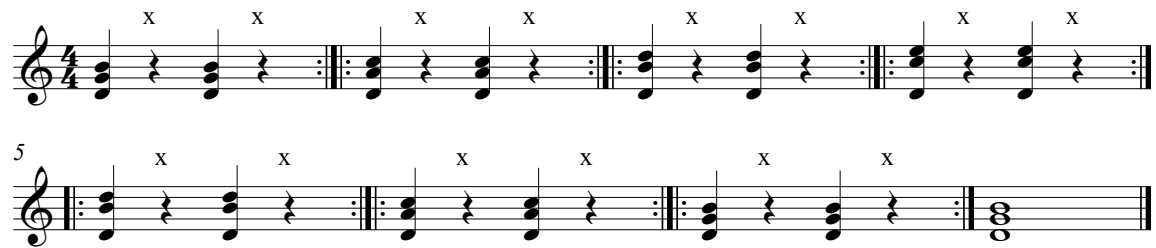
Use *i* and *m* throughout:



x = place the fingers on the strings

Pattern 2

Use *p*, *i* and *m* throughout:



x = place the fingers on the strings

Pattern 3

Use *i*, *m* and *a* throughout

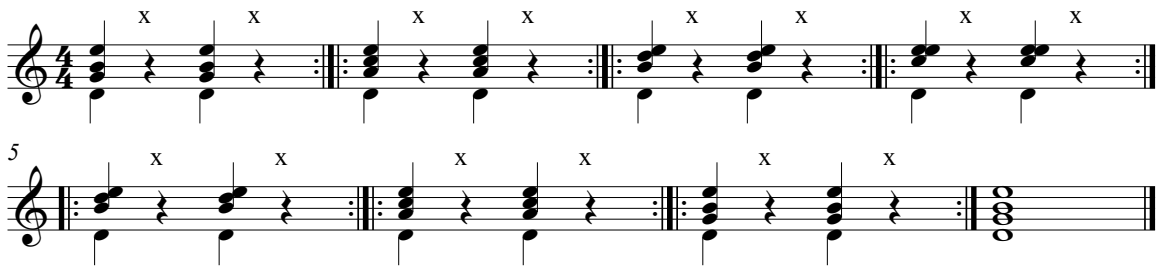


x = place the fingers on the strings

Notice that in the 4th measure you have 2 E notes. One of them is the open 1st string which you've been playing throughout the whole Pattern 3. The other is the fretted E note on the 2nd string/5th fret. You'll see this occur in several other patterns.

Pattern 4

Use *p*, *i*, *m* and *a* throughout



x = place the fingers on the strings

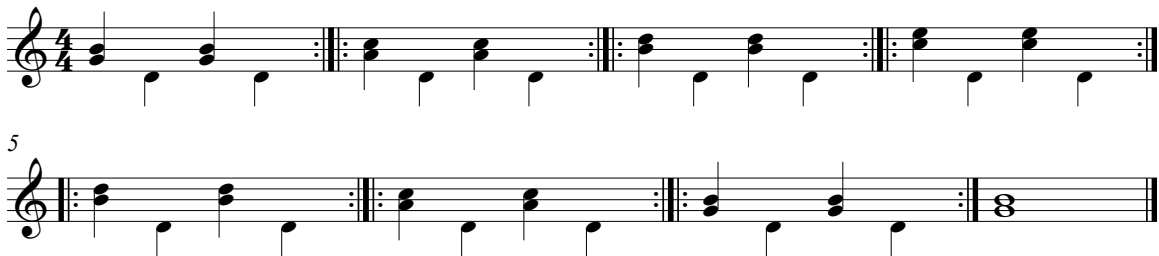
Group 2: Bass-Chord

Group 2 deals with separating the bass note (played with *p*) with the chord (either *i* and *m*; or *i*, *m* and *a*). We call this texture “Book-Chick” or “Bass-Chord”. These patterns are very common in the classical guitar repertoire. When executing these patterns, pay attention to the following:

- 1) When the thumb plays, the fingers come out of the hand and place on the strings.
- 2) When the fingers play, the thumb prepares on the string.

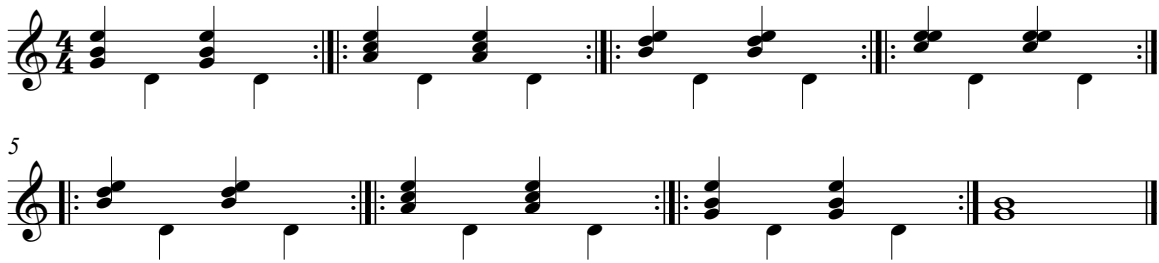
Pattern 5

Use *p*, *i*, and *m* throughout:



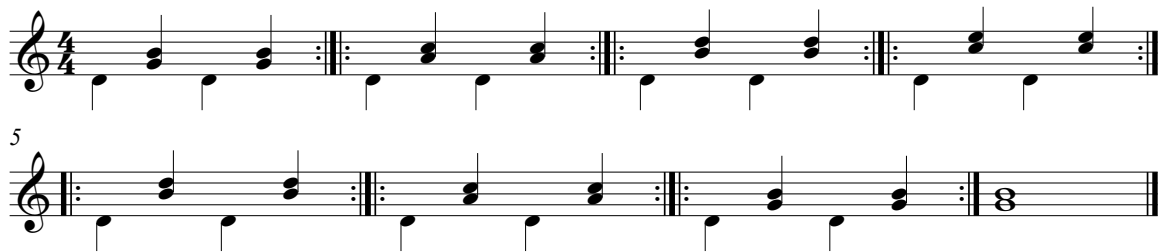
Pattern 6

Use *p*, *i*, *m* and *a* throughout



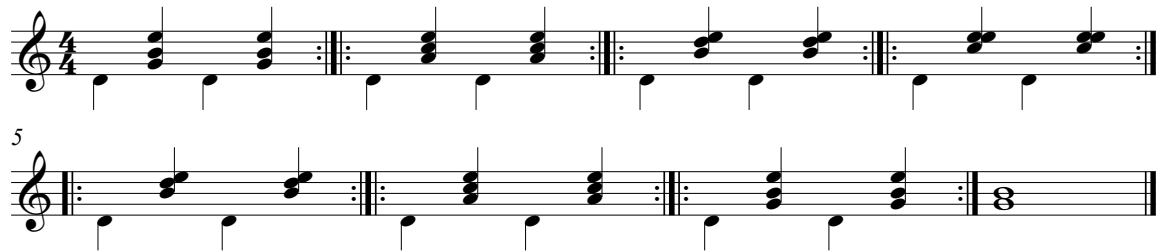
Pattern 7

Use *p*, *i* and *m* throughout:



Pattern 8

Use *p*, *i*, *m* and *a* throughout



Group 3: Individual Free Strokes

This final group deals with playing individual free strokes with the *i*, *m* and *a* fingers. While we are still keeping the assigned one finger per string, it is important to maintain the exchange between the fingers as they play. IE – *m* finger plays, the *i* finger releases and comes out, etc...

Pattern 9

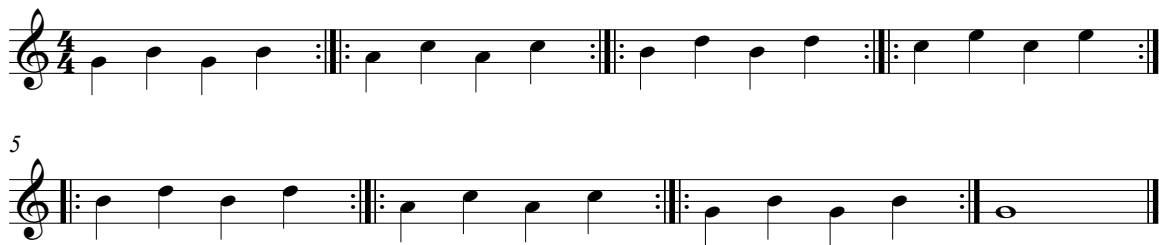
Use *i* and *m* throughout:



Remember: Keep the exchange between *i* and *m* consistent, just like in your rest stroke playing.

Pattern 10

Use *i* and *m* throughout:



Remember: Keep the exchange between *i* and *m* consistent, just like in your rest stroke playing.

Pattern 11

This final pattern combines all 4 fingers in the right hand. Here, either the *m* or *a* finger will be accompanied with the thumb while the *i* finger will play the 3rd string on it's own. Watch in the 4th measure for the E notes on different strings. When the E note is played with the 4th finger/5th fret of the 2nd string, remember to use the *m* finger. Likewise, when the E note is played on the open 1st string, remember to use the *a* finger.



The material from this lesson excerpt comes from Nick Cutroneo's book entitled *Free Stroke Development* published by GANEmusic Publications. If you wish to read the whole lesson, the book is available for purchase at <http://www.nickcutroneo.com>