

Part 6. Fingerpicking

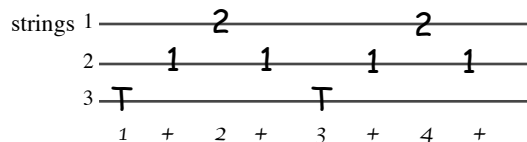
You do not have to play the Strumstick with a pick only: you can also use your fingers. The fingers give a little softer, less bright sound than a pick. The simplest way to use your fingers is to simple pluck a string with your thumb (use the side of your thumb, moving down) or with your 1st finger (use the tip of your finger, curling up across the string). This is a good way to play single notes, and to get used to using thumb and finger (you may use the 2nd finger also).

There are a few more complicated ways to use your fingers, let's look at a few of them. These patterns are most useful at first with chords; even simple melodies need certain strings played over and over, and that does not happen with these patterns, You can add bits of melody in though, with some of the later ones.

These are diagrams for fingerpicking with the right hand. The horizontal lines are the strings. The top string, number 1 in the diagram, is the 1st string (closest to the ground) on the Strumstick. The diagram is "upside-down: because that is the way you see your fingers on the strings as you watch yourself play.

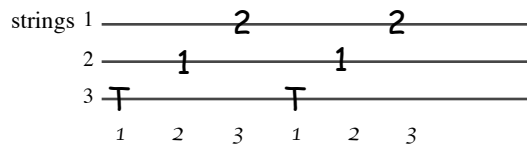
The bold numbers (**T**, **1**, or **2**) are thumb, 1st finger, or 2nd finger. The italic numbers on the bottom are the rhythm. Practice any one pattern slowly and steadily until it feels like you do not have to think about each note to keep it going. Then work on speeding it up a bit until it feels like it is "rolling along" all by itself. These patterns sound different (more sparkly) when they are at a faster speed than you will use when you first learn them.

Pattern # 1



This pattern is a simple arpeggio, up and down. Do it while fingering any note or chord. You could change notes or chords as you go along, also.

Pattern # 2



This is an arpeggio in 3 (3 beats to the measure). Count 1 2 3 1 2 3 , like a waltz.

Pattern # 3

strings 1 — 2 — 2 —

2 — 1 — 1 —

3 — T — T —

1 2 3 1 2 3

This is another arpeggio in 3

Pattern # 4

strings 1 — 1 — 1 — 1 —

2 — T — T —

3 — T — T —

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

This is an alternating pattern. Note you could use the 2nd finger instead of the 1st:

strings 1 — 2 — 2 — 2 — 2 —

2 — T — T —

3 — T — T —

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +