

THE TRAVIS PICKING SHORTCUT

LEARN THE 3 STEPS THAT MAKE YOU SOUND LIKE A FULL BAND ON GUITAR

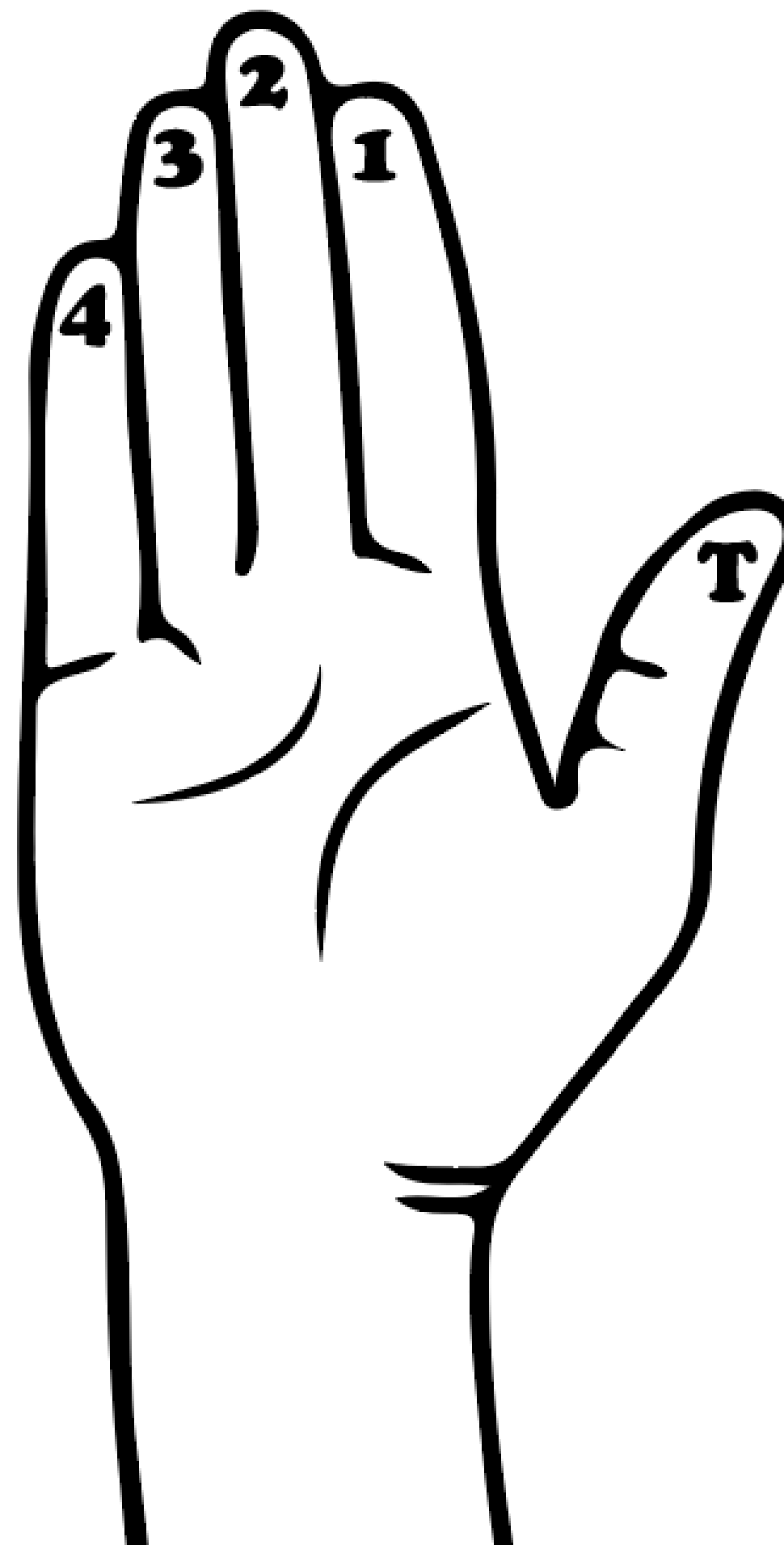


Prerequisite Stuff

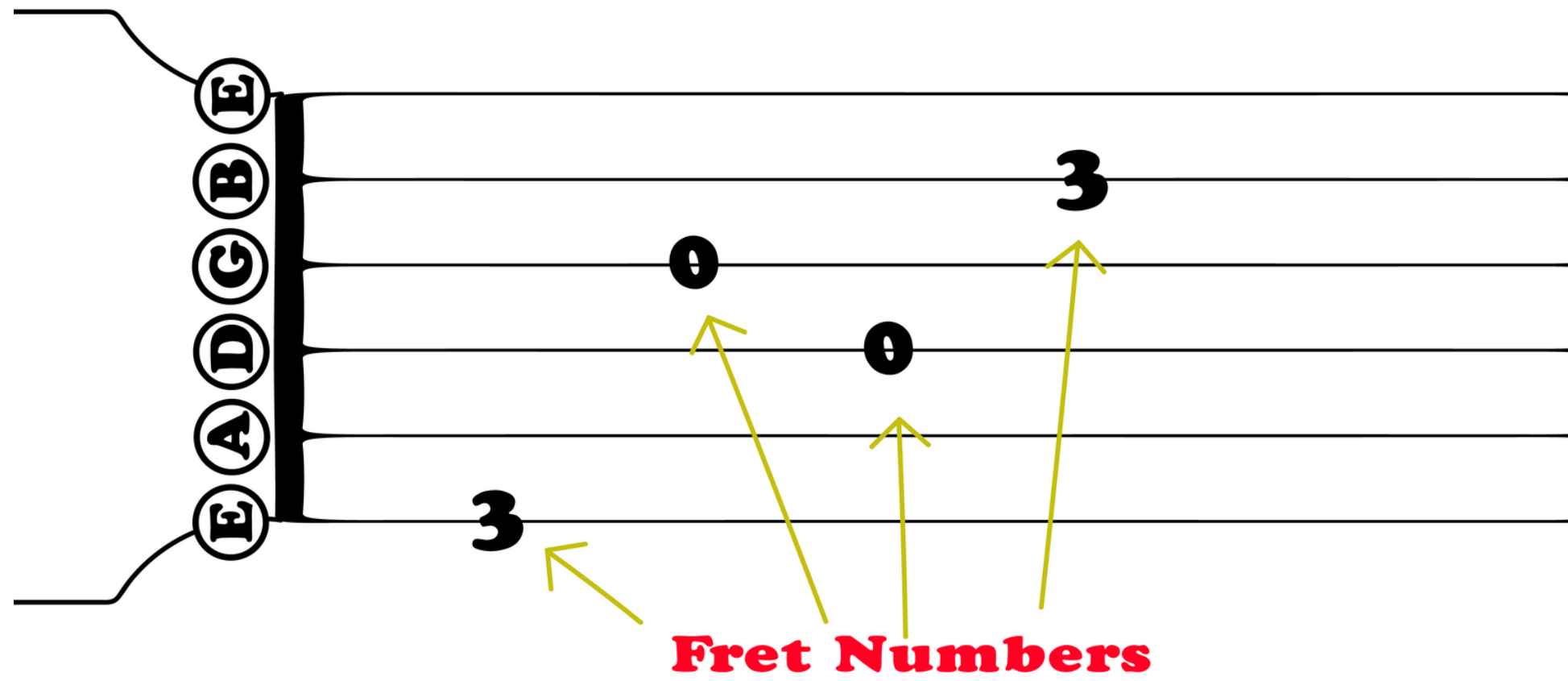
E A D G B E

String Names

Picking Hand Finger Symbols



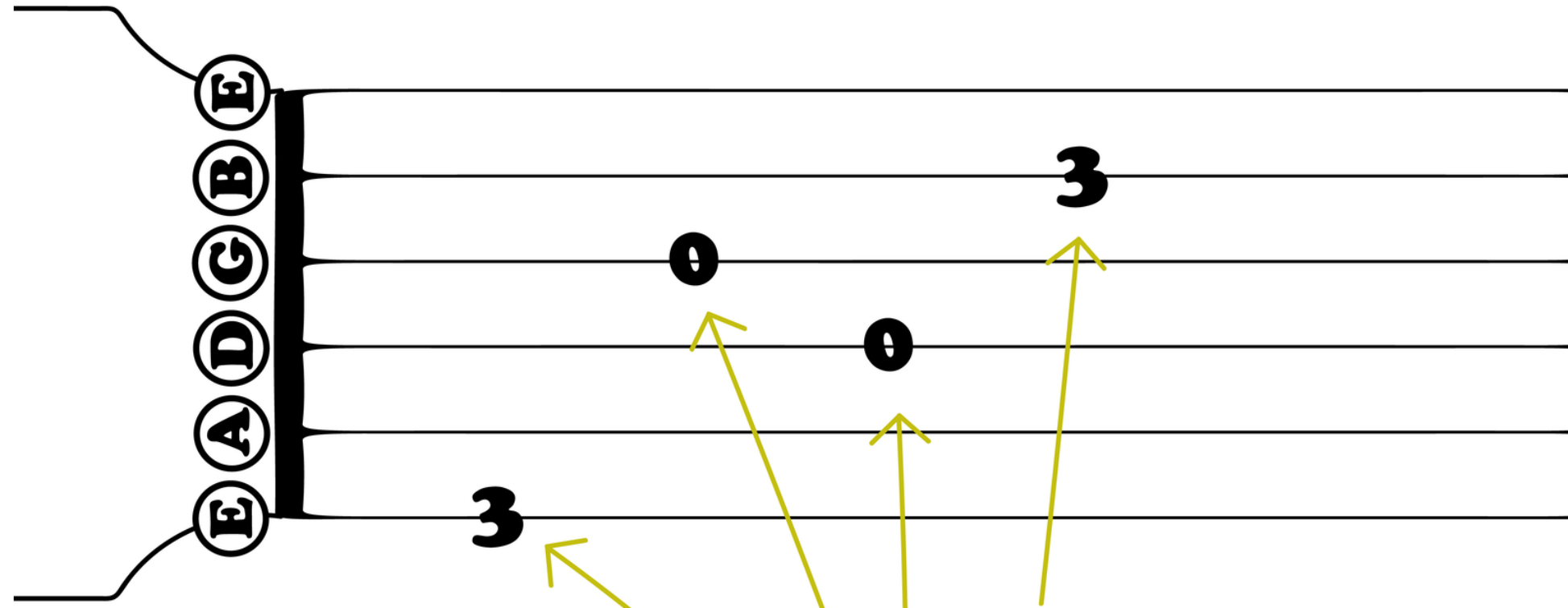
How to Read Tabs



Time →

**Chord Hand
Chord Symbol**

G



Fret Numbers

Time →

Getting In Position



Straight wrist

Hand over soundhole

Hand slightly cupped

Arm Posture

Goalies in Place

Thumb (T) Above E string

- E, A, D strings

Index (1) Below G string

Middle (2) Below B string



Hand Posture

Thumb Contact:

- On the side, where your thumb and pinky touch

Fingers 1, 2, 3 Contact:

- Tips of the fingers

Optional:

- Using Pinky (4) for support



The Picking Pattern

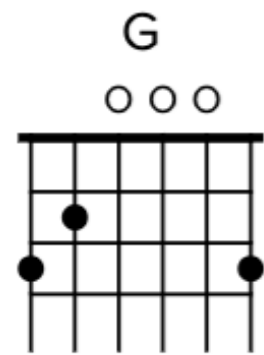
1. Low Position Pattern

Chords with bass note on E string:

G, E, Em, E-based bar chords

Thumb Only

LOW - Just Thumb

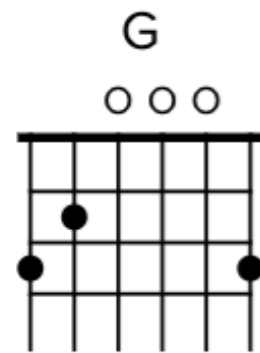


T T T T

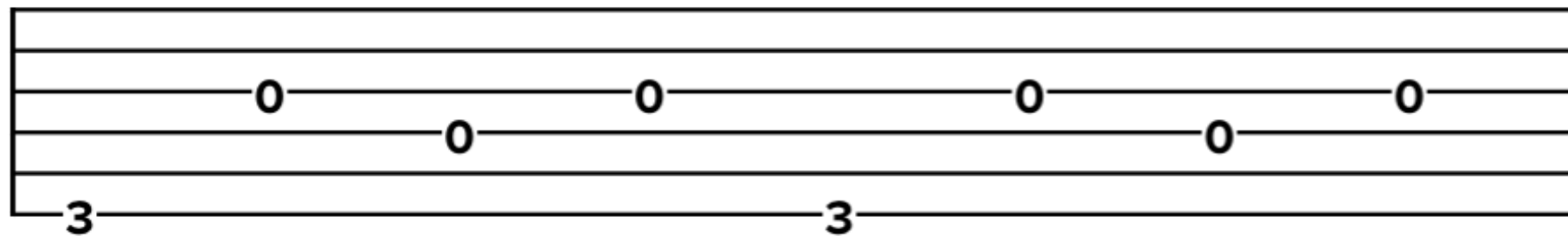
A musical staff with five lines. The first line is empty. The second line is empty. The third line has a whole note chord symbol '0' centered between the first and second measures. The fourth line is empty. The fifth line has a whole note chord symbol '3' centered between the first and second measures. The staff is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines. Above the staff, the letter 'T' is centered above each of the four measures. The chord symbols '0' and '3' are positioned on the third and fifth lines of the staff, respectively.

Thumb + Finger 1

LOW - T & 1

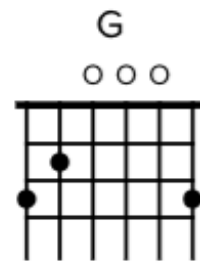


T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1



Thumb + Fingers 1 & 2

LOW - T & 1 & 2



7 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2

A guitar tablature for the G major chord. It consists of four horizontal lines representing the strings. The notes are: 3rd fret on the 6th string, 2nd fret on the 5th string, 0th fret on the 4th string, 2nd fret on the 3rd string, 3rd fret on the 2nd string, and 3rd fret on the 1st string. Above the lines, the letters 'T' and numbers '1', '2' are placed above the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th strings respectively. Below the lines, the number '3' is placed below the 6th and 2nd strings.

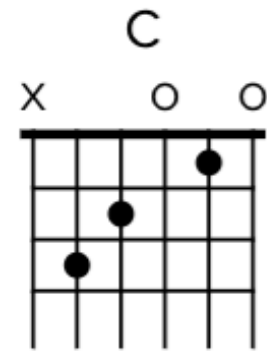
2. Middle Position Pattern

Chords with bass note on A string:

C, A, Am, A-based bar chords

Thumb Only

MIDDLE - Just Thumb

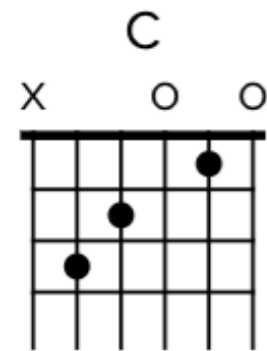


3 T T T T

A diagram showing the placement of fingers on the strings for the C major chord. It consists of four horizontal lines representing strings. The bottom line (4th string) has a '3' at the first fret. The second line (3rd string) has a '2' at the second fret. The third line (2nd string) has a '2' at the third fret. The top line (1st string) has a '3' at the fourth fret. Above the strings, the letters 'T' are placed above the first, second, third, and fourth frets, indicating that the thumb is used to press down on all four strings.

Thumb + Finger 1

MIDDLE - T & 1

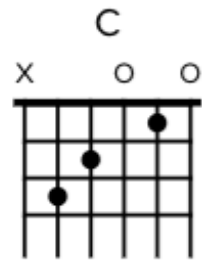


3 T 1 T 1 T 1

A diagram showing the placement of fingers on the strings. It consists of four horizontal lines representing strings. The top line is empty. The second line from the top has a '0' at the 1st fret, a '0' at the 3rd fret, and a '0' at the 5th fret. The third line from the top has a '2' at the 2nd fret and a '2' at the 4th fret. The bottom line has a '3' at the 1st fret and a '3' at the 3rd fret.

Thumb + Fingers 1 & 2

MIDDLE - T & 1 & 2



9 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2

			1			1	
	0				0		
3		2		3		2	

3. High Position Pattern

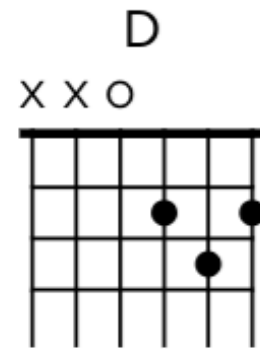
Chords with bass note on D string:

D, Dm, F

(The whole Picking Hand position shifts down one string)

Thumb Only

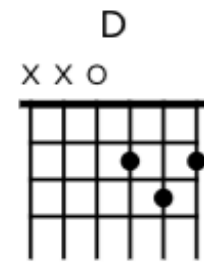
HIGH - Just Thumb



5 T T T T

Thumb + Finger 1

HIGH - T & 1

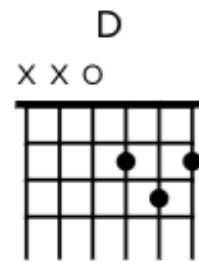


5 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1

		3		3		3		3
			2			2		
0				0				

Thumb + Fingers 1 & 2

HIGH - T & 1 & 2



¹¹ T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2

PICKING PATTERN
changes with each new
CHORD POSITION

(Low – Middle – High)

**If the chords are in the
SAME POSITION,
the picking pattern
STAYS THE SAME**

(ex: G to Em, both Low Position),

Troubleshooting

✘ It's Hard to Change Between Chords and Keep the Picking Pattern

✔ Break Chord Progressions into 3 Phases

1. Thumb only
2. Thumb & Index
3. Thumb & Index/Middle

**These exercises
gradually increase in difficulty
and make position changes
feel smoother.**

1. Thumb Only

LOW

G

T
↑

T
↑

T
↑

T
↑

Em

T
↑

T
↑

T
↑

T
↑

A guitar fretboard diagram for the 'LOW' register. It is divided into two measures. The first measure contains the G major chord (3-0-3-0) and the second measure contains the Em chord (0-2-0-2). Above each fret, there is a 'T' with an upward-pointing arrow, indicating a thumb stroke. The strings are numbered 1 to 4 from top to bottom.

MIDDLE

C

T
↑

T
↑

T
↑

T
↑

Am

T
↑

T
↑

T
↑

T
↑

A guitar fretboard diagram for the 'MIDDLE' register. It is divided into two measures. The first measure contains the C major chord (3-2-3-2) and the second measure contains the Am chord (0-2-0-2). Above each fret, there is a 'T' with an upward-pointing arrow, indicating a thumb stroke. The strings are numbered 1 to 4 from top to bottom.

HIGH

F

T
↑

T
↑

T
↑

T
↑

D

T
↑

T
↑

T
↑

T
↑

A guitar fretboard diagram for the 'HIGH' register. It is divided into two measures. The first measure contains the F major chord (2-3-2-3) and the second measure contains the D major chord (0-2-0-2). Above each fret, there is a 'T' with an upward-pointing arrow, indicating a thumb stroke. The strings are numbered 1 to 4 from top to bottom.

2. Thumb & Index Finger

LOW

G Em

T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1

↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

The LOW section consists of two measures. The first measure is for the G chord, with fret numbers 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 on the strings from top to bottom. The second measure is for the Em chord, with fret numbers 0, 2, 0, 0, 2, 0. Above the notation, there are 14 pairs of arrows: 'T' with an upward arrow and '1' with a downward arrow, alternating between the two measures.

MIDDLE

C Am

T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1

↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

The MIDDLE section consists of two measures. The first measure is for the C chord, with fret numbers 0, 2, 0, 0, 2, 0. The second measure is for the Am chord, with fret numbers 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2. Above the notation, there are 14 pairs of arrows: 'T' with an upward arrow and '1' with a downward arrow, alternating between the two measures.

HIGH

F D

T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1

↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

The HIGH section consists of two measures. The first measure is for the F chord, with fret numbers 1, 2, 1, 1, 2, 1. The second measure is for the D chord, with fret numbers 3, 2, 3, 3, 2, 3. Above the notation, there are 14 pairs of arrows: 'T' with an upward arrow and '1' with a downward arrow, alternating between the two measures.

3. Thumb, Finger 1 & Finger 2

LOW

G Em

T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2

↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

MIDDLE

C Am

T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2

↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

HIGH

F D

T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2

↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

4. Thumb Only

LOW **MIDDLE** **MIDDLE** **HIGH**

G C C D

T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑

3 3 3 3

LOW **HIGH**

G D

T T T T

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑

3 3

LOW **MIDDLE** **HIGH** **MIDDLE**

G C D C

T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑

3 3 3 3

6. Thumb, Finger 1 & Finger 2

LOW **MIDDLE** **MIDDLE** **HIGH**

G C C D

T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2

↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

LOW **HIGH**

G D

T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2

↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

LOW **MIDDLE** **HIGH** **MIDDLE**

G C D C

T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2

↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

**✘ It Feels
Really Slow**

**✔ Do the BPM
Stair-Climb
Exercise**

- Practice with a metronome
- Set at a slow pace (60–70 BPM)
- Raise the BPM by 10 at a time

Play one note for each metronome click.

LOW **MIDDLE** **MIDDLE** **HIGH**

G C C D

T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2

↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

LOW **HIGH**

G D

T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2

↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

LOW **MIDDLE** **HIGH** **MIDDLE**

G C D C

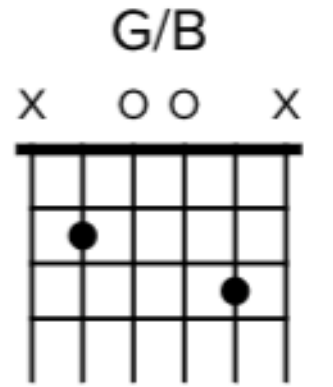
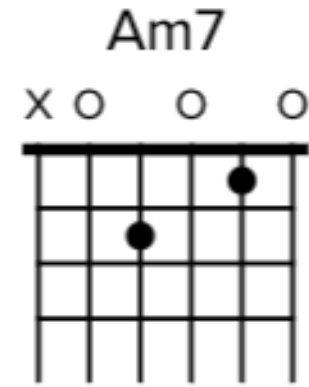
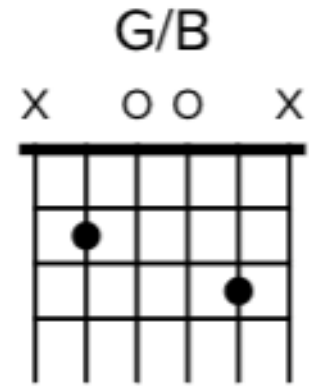
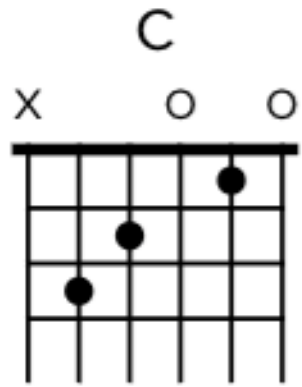
T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2

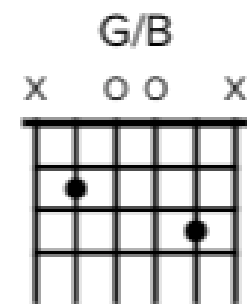
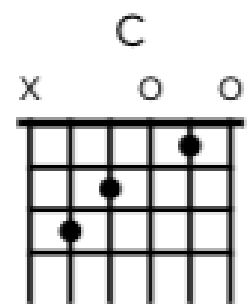
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Let's Learn a Classic Song Using Travis Picking

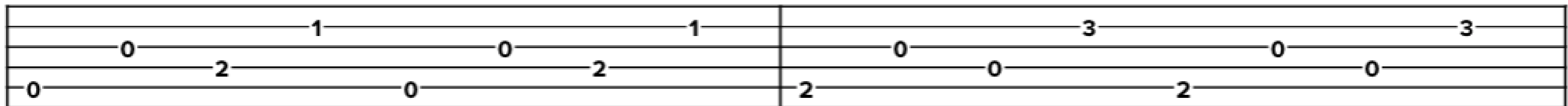
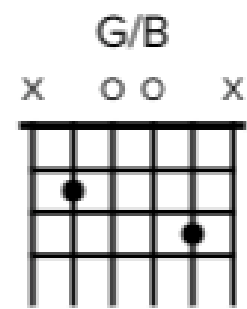
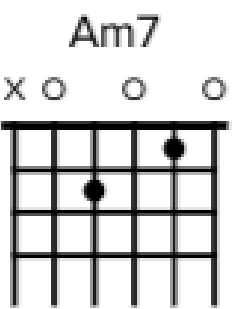
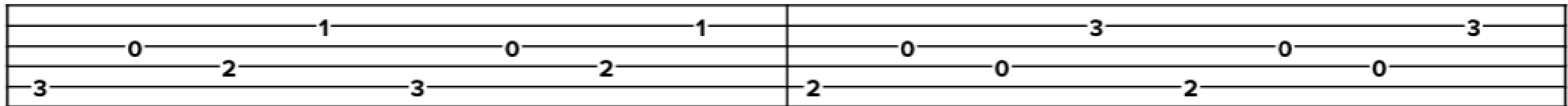
The verse of "Landslide" (Fleetwood Mac)

The Chord Hand





T 1 T 2 T 1 T 2





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PILLAR 1
EXPRESSIVE PICK
STRUMMING



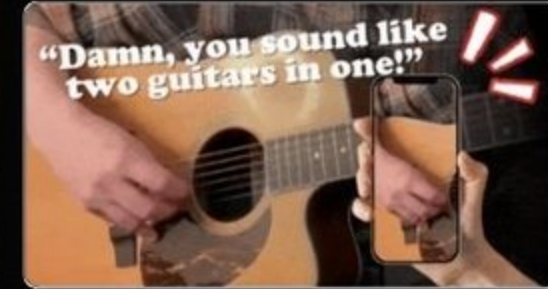
PILLAR 2
FOLK ORNAMENTATIONS



PILLAR 3
FOLK CHORD VOICINGS



PILLAR 4
TRAVIS PICKING



PILLAR 5
EXPRESSIVE FINGER
STRUMMING





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Next

4%

Welcome

Pick Strumming

Ornamentations

Chord Voicings

Travis Picking

Finger Strumming



WATCH THIS FIRST!



Hey, James here.



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Welcome

Pick Strumming

- 1. Strumming Dynamics
- 2. Low/High Strumming (Part 1)
- 3. 16th Note Pendulum Strumming
- 4. Chord Change Anticipation
- 5. Low/High Strumming (Part 2)
- 6. Bass Melodies (Pick Strumming)
- 7. Strumming Transitions
- 8. Palm Muting (for Resonance)
- 9. Muting (for Dampening)
- 10. Travis Sound with a Pick



Pillar: Pick Strumming
MODULE 2: LOW/HIGH STRUMMING (PART 1)

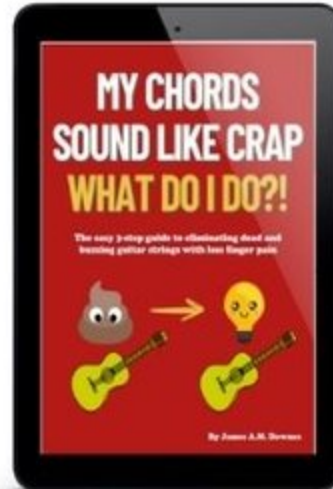
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"Thank you for this masterclass and community. It's life-changing."

→ **Katie Lyn (student)** ←

*"I was blown away. I shouldn't say this,
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I shouldn't say this, but you could probably charge more for it."

→ **Jim Vickers (student)** ←

*"My band has said I'm much more
confident in my guitar playing"*

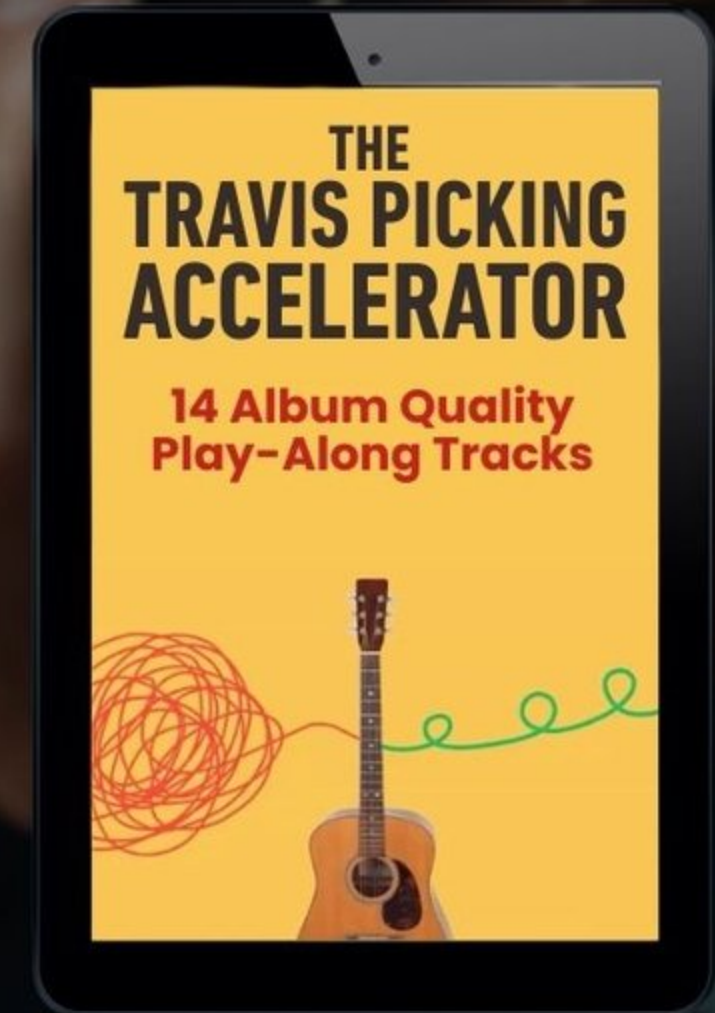
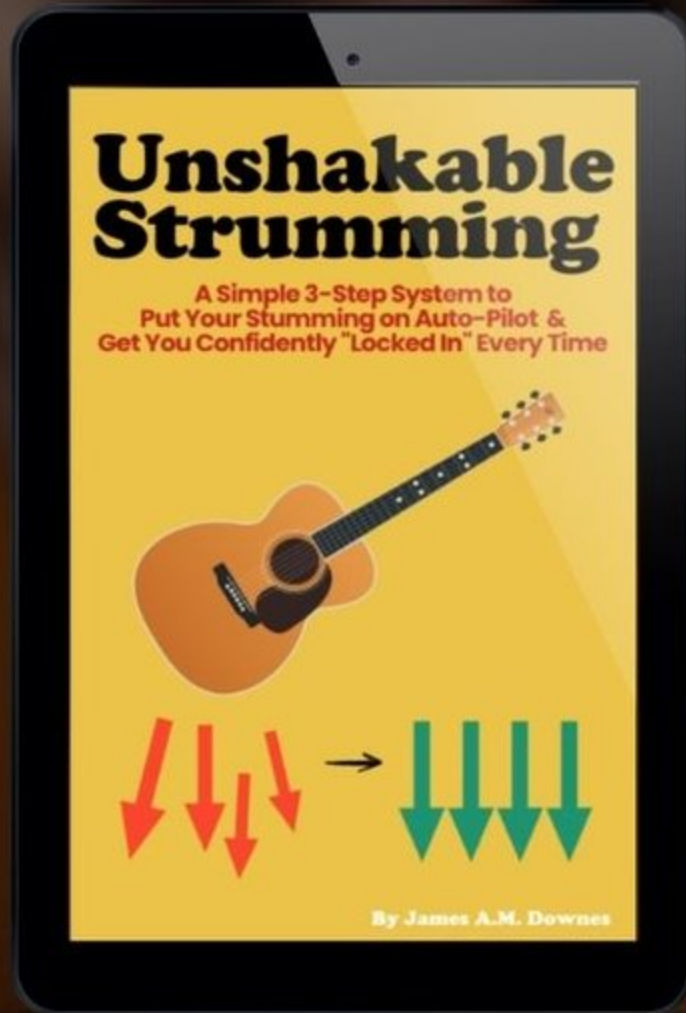
"I was playing the same 3 to 4 chords the same way over and over again. Now my band has said I'm much more confident in my guitar playing.

We've been playing for 15, 20 years. And all of a sudden they're they're noticing the difference."

→ **Dave Kohler (student)** ←

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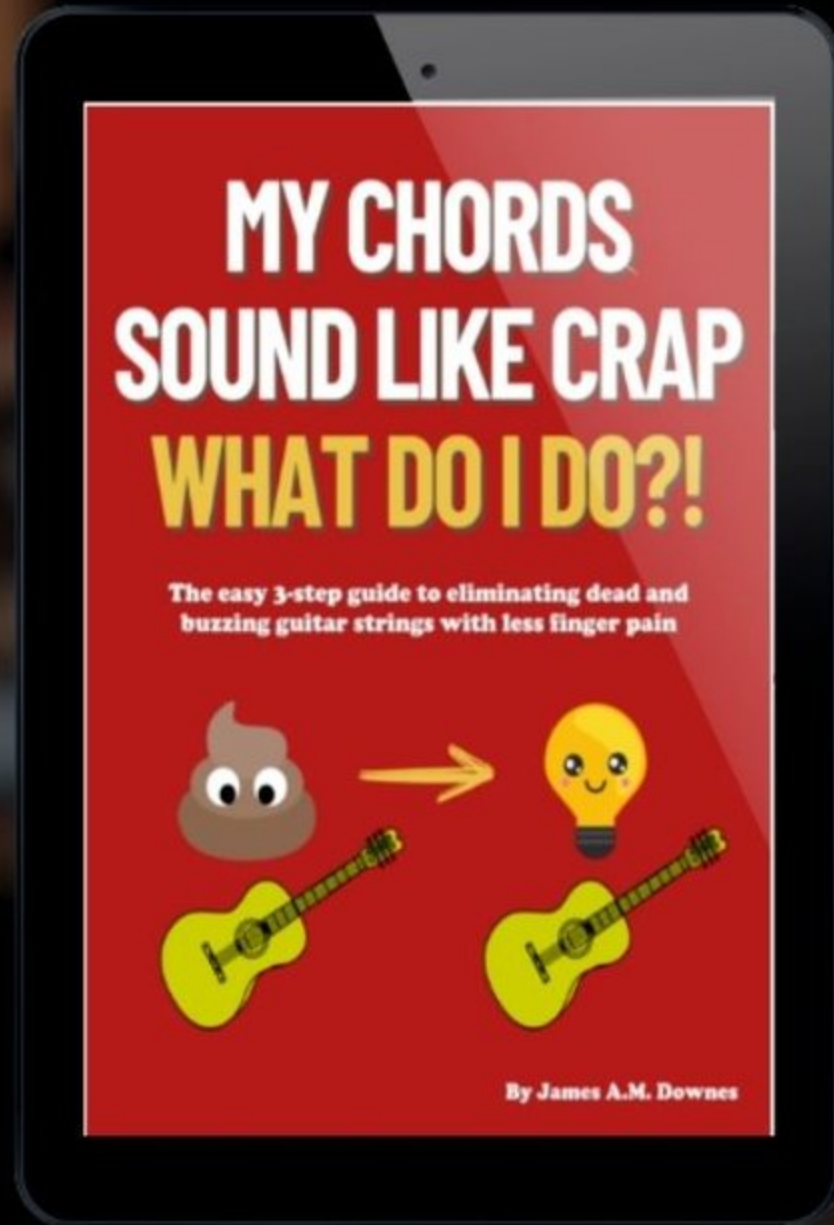
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