

Strumming with a pick is perfect for creating strong, rhythmic guitar accompaniments. In contrast, you can also create beautiful, lush-sounding accompaniments by using your right-hand fingers to pluck the notes of a chord individually.

Right-hand fingering indications: thumb = p; index finger = i; middle finger = m; ring finger = a

Fingerpicking Pattern 1 CD 1 47-48†

- This pattern is written in tab only since you haven't learned to read all the notes in these chords yet. It is common to find guitar music written in tab only.
- Hold the indicated chord and place your index, middle and ring fingers on the top three strings (the three closest to the floor). Place your thumb on the bass note (6th string for the G chord, 5th string for the C chord, and 4th string for the D7).
- The pattern is *p i m a m i* and is counted *1 and 2 and 3 and*.
- Play the last chord by brushing your thumb through the top four strings.
- Listen to the CD. Try to play along with it.

Fingerpicking Pattern 1 CD 1:49

G
 000
 213

C
 x00
 321

D7
 xx0
 5 213

G
 000
 213

T 3 0 0 3 0 0 | 0 0 3 0 0 | 0 1 0 1 0 | 0 1 0 1 0
 A 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 1 1 0 0 | 0 1 1 0 0
 B 4 3 3 3 3 | 3 3 3 3 3 | 3 3 3 3 3 | 3 3 3 3 3

p i m a m i p i m a m i
 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 2 & 3 &

T 1 2 1 2 1 | 0 2 1 2 1 2 | 0 0 3 0 0 | * 3 0 0 0 0
 A 2 1 2 1 2 | 0 2 1 2 1 2 | 0 0 3 0 0 | * 3 0 0 0 0
 B 0 2 1 2 1 | 0 2 1 2 1 2 | 0 0 3 0 0 | * 3 0 0 0 0

p p
 1 2 3

* "Brush" through the top four fingers with your thumb.

Finer Points of Technique

- Position your right hand by resting your right elbow on top of the guitar. Relax and dangle your right hand in front of the sound hole (or pickups on an electric guitar). Now pivot your whole forearm so that the palm of your hand faces the strings. Keep your wrist arched, not flattened.
- All right-hand finger motion is from the knuckle at your palm, not the upper finger joints. Push your finger through the string and straight toward the palm of your hand.
- When plucking with the "a" finger, your little finger also moves—as if they were taped together.
- Your thumb should remain straight and should move from its base.

†CD Track 48 contains samples of a variety of fingerpicking guitarists.