

TWO-STRING EXERCISES

One of the great challenges with using a pick is moving from one string to another. The following two-string exercises begin to address this. Start slowly and focus on playing each note as cleanly as possible. Focus on the movement of the hand to achieve a balanced up-and-down stroke. (Note: The accents here are optional, included to help keep time.) These exercises are written out using all open strings but can be played using any chord shape that uses all six strings.

2.1—This is the most basic two-string exercise, moving from one string to another.

etc.

2.2—Reverse the order of strings played.

etc.

2.3—Note the time signature change.

etc.

2.4—Reverse the string order from Example 2.3.

etc.

Make It Musical on Four Strings

4.28—Here's a simple chord progression in D Major over a descending bass line.

0 1 3 0 1 3 1 2 0 3 0 3 0 3 1 0 3 0 3 0 3 2 0 3 0 3 0 3

TAB: 0 2 3 0 3 3 0 3 0 3 0 3 0 3 0 3 0 3

4.29—This is another simple chord progression, this time in G Major, over a descending bass line.

2 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 2 0 3 0 4 0 3 0 0 2 0 2 4 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 4 0 2

TAB: 0 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 0 2 0 0 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 0 2

4.30—Next is a chord progression in C Major with open-string pedal tones.

4 0 2 0 2 0 3 0 2 0 2 0 1 0 2 0 2 0 3 0 2 0 2 0

TAB: 10 0 8 0 8 0 9 0 8 0 8 0 7 0 8 0 8 0 9 0 8 0 8 0

4.31—Here, we have the same notes as Exercise 4.30 but in 6/8 time.

4 0 2 0 2 0 3 0 2 0 2 0 1 0 2 0 2 0 3 0 2 0 2 0

TAB: 10 0 8 0 8 0 9 0 8 0 8 0 7 0 8 0 8 0 9 0 8 0 8 0