

Shall's - 5 finger picking practice

Chords

39,411; 37,49; 311,412; 313,414; 35,47; 35,46; 35,45; 35,44; 35,43; 32,43; 31,42

String progression:

5,4,3,2,1,2,3,4 (Sometimes start with string 6 as in: 6,5,4... flavor to your own taste)

5,4,3,2,1,1

5,4,3,2,1,6

Explanation:

I don't know tabs. What I know is my own notation, sorry.

This is how it works.

Look at the chords at the top of this page. Each chord is separated by a semi-colon (;), while individual finger placements are separated by a coma (,)

The first number of a finger placement is always the string, numbered 1-6 from the smallest, highest pitch, bottom 'E' string, numbered as '1', to the largest, lowest pitch, top (E) string numbered as '6'.

Using standard tuning, the strings would layout as follows... 1-E, 2-B, 3-G, 4-D, 5-A, 6-E.

This may not be the correct way to refer to these strings, but then again, I am not restricted by formal education, so you have my apology. If you are, you'll just have to get used to the idea. Think of it as an alternative way to look at an art form.

The next number/s that follow, indicate the fret, where the note is played.

So for the first chord shown above (39,411), fingers are placed on the 3rd string, ninth fret, for the 39 and 4th string, 11th fret, for the 411.

Which fingers you choose, is up to you, but I tend to use the index and ring fingers, for chords that span 3 frets and either the index and middle, or the middle and ring fingers for chords with adjacent fret locations. It just works out more natural for me that way.

String assignments are allocated as follows:

The thumb plays the two top bass strings 'E/6th' & 'A/5th'

The index finger plays the 'D/4th' string

The middle plays the 'G/3rd' string

The ring finger plays the 'b/2nd' string

The little "pinky", (except on Martians) finger plays the bottom 'E/1st' string

The right, or picking hand stays in the air, in a natural arch, over the strings and the only reference base, is where the forearm touches the top edge of the guitar body. I believe that if you try to arch your hand backwards, so you can rest the heel of your palm on the guitar body, it will restrict your ability, progress, speed and cause a carpal tunnel threat, so try to keep your wrist in a natural falling arch.

Often, if I am picking lead, I will use the thumb exclusively for that purpose, but during 5-finger picking, the fingers never leave their home strings. Never is never forever. Sometimes they shift up or down one string.

String progression refers to which strings are picked and in what order. This initial practice progresses in order from the 5th string through the 1st string and back. Occasionally picking the 6th string as you feel it.

Once you get used to locating the correct string, with the correct finger, it will be natural for you to develop your own style of progression.

Summary

This is just a starting point. You'll probably change order, skip strings and pick multiple strings as your creativity desires. Good luck and God bless.

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