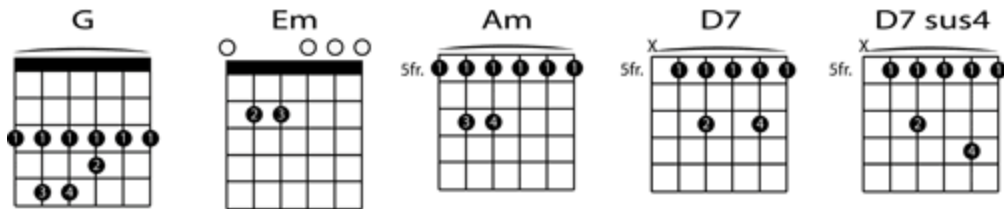


Fingerpicking Lesson

First, let's look at the chords we will use for this lesson



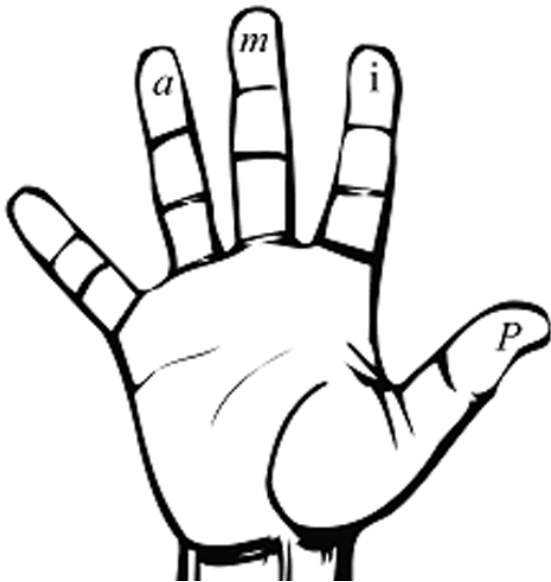
Next we need to understand how we label our left hand. Example one shows the standard naming system-

P- thumb

I- index finger

M- middle finger

A- ring finger



Example 2 is a basic fingerpicking pattern. Hold the E minor chord down throughout so that the notes sustain you will use a p – i – m – a (thumb, index, middle, pinky) picking pattern. The thumb ascends from the sixth to the fourth string then descends backwards to the fifth string. Try using this fingerpicking pattern with all of the bar chord forms and open chords you know.

Em
p i m a p i m a p i m a p m i a

The musical notation for Example 2 consists of four staves. The top two staves are for the treble clef, and the bottom two are for the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (Bb), and the time signature is 2/4. The melody is written on the top two staves, with notes on the 6th, 5th, 4th, and 3rd strings. The bass line is on the bottom two staves, with notes on the 5th and 4th strings. The picking pattern is indicated by letters p, i, m, a above the notes. The bass line shows a 2-finger barre on the fifth string in the first measure and a 2-finger barre on the fourth string in the second measure.

Example 3 is almost the same as example two. You are still holding the E minor chord through out however the picking pattern is now p - a - m - i (thumb, ring, middle, index). Again, try using this fingerpicking pattern with all of the bar chords and open chords you know.

Em
p a m i p a m i p a m i p a m i

The musical notation for Example 3 consists of four staves. The top two staves are for the treble clef, and the bottom two are for the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (Bb), and the time signature is 2/4. The melody is written on the top two staves, with notes on the 6th, 5th, 4th, and 3rd strings. The bass line is on the bottom two staves, with notes on the 5th and 4th strings. The picking pattern is indicated by letters p, a, m, i above the notes. The bass line shows a 2-finger barre on the fifth string in the first measure and a 2-finger barre on the fourth string in the second measure.

Example 4 is a straight ahead I – vi – ii – V7 progression in the key of G Major. In the first three measures the picking pattern is P – i – m – a (thumb, index, middle, pinky) from example 1. Beat four of the first three measures is p – a – m – i (thumb, ring, middle, index) from example 2. In measure four you will have to change from the D7sus chord to the D7 chord at beat 3. The picking pattern in measure four is a continuous is P – a – m – i (thumb, ring, middle, and index) from example 2.

G Em

p i m a p i m a p i m a p a m i p i m a p i m a p a m a p a m i

Am D⁷sus⁴ D⁷

p i m a p i m a p i m a p a m i p a m i p a m i p a m i p a m i