From Zero to Guitar Fingerpicking in 30 Days



A Udemy Course by Patrick O'Malley
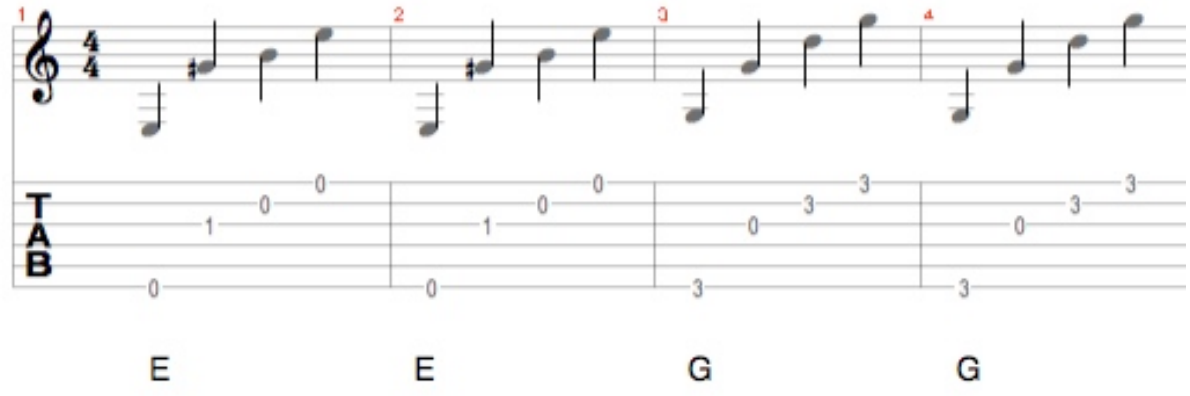
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Section 3 – Lesson Four

Goes Both Ways

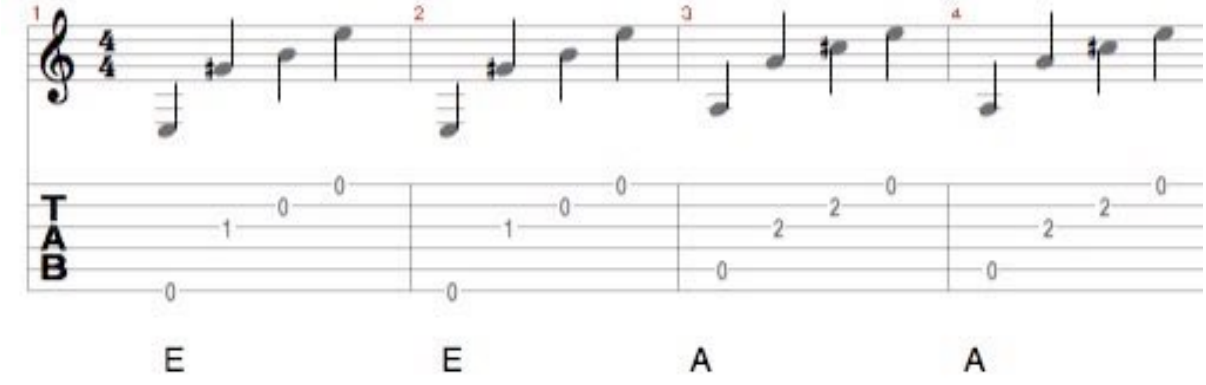
Last Exercise

With this chord, you want to play the T123 pattern
The thumb will be on the 6th string - a low E note over an E chord (makes sense)
Then we can play the G chord and we have T123 again with the thumb playing a note on the 6th string which we know from previous G playing.



The other chord that I mentioned is a good change for E is an A chord.
So we have a 6th string bass note on E

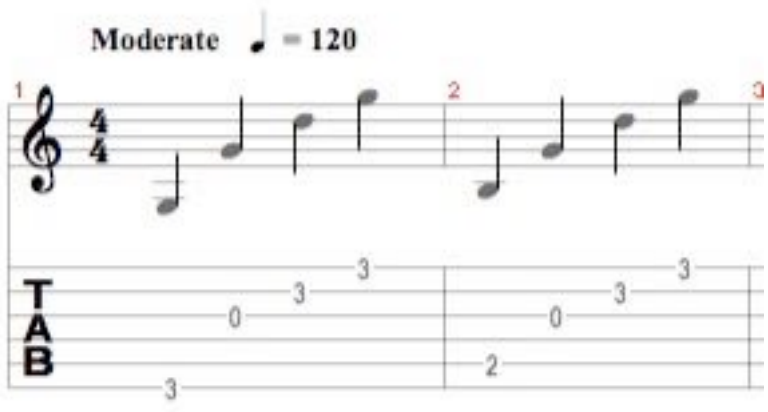
When we play the A chord we have a 5th string bass note.
Putting those together, we get this
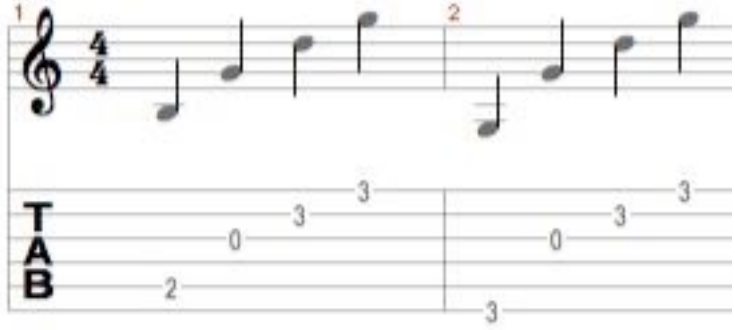


That sounds great.
The E to A change is one you might hear a lot in the future. If you are playing blues in the key of E, then you will use the A chord. To play a full 12 bar blues

you need another chord which we haven't covered yet but worth just mentioning now that E and A are good chords together.

Now are going to try something new where we are going to play two bass notes over a G chord.
You might remember we play this

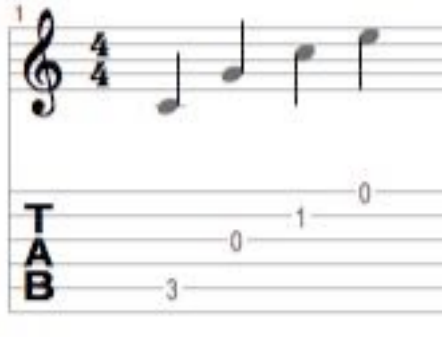


Now we do it with a slight twist. And we play it like this T123 (thumb on 5th string) and **then** T123 (thumb on 6th string)



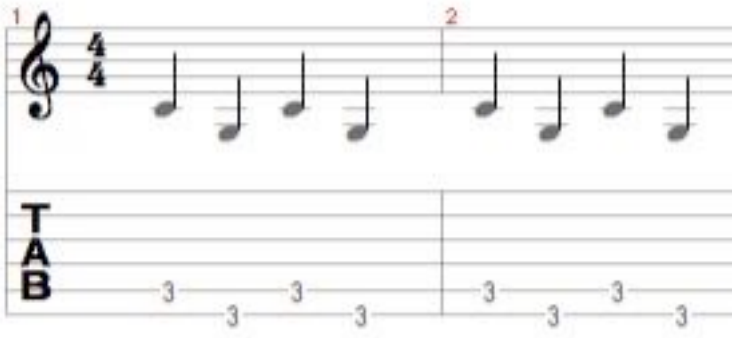
It's quite a different sound. It's quite interesting to see what the difference when we start with a higher note and then play a lower one.

Let's take another example - Let's play a C chord.
It's a 5th string chord - the bass note is played with the thumb on the 5th string.



A Little Trick with the C Chord
Now we're going to do a little trick.
We're going to take the third finger of the left hand and move him up a string (from the 5th string to the 6 string) and keep the rest of the left hand fingers fretting the C chord and not leaving the fretboard. So the first finger and second finger stay holding down strings and the third finger moves up and down the 5th and 6th strings.

Leave the C chord fretted. Just play the thumb part of this for a minute or two.



You can probably guess what comes next - we add the 123 part.
When we do, it sounds like this.

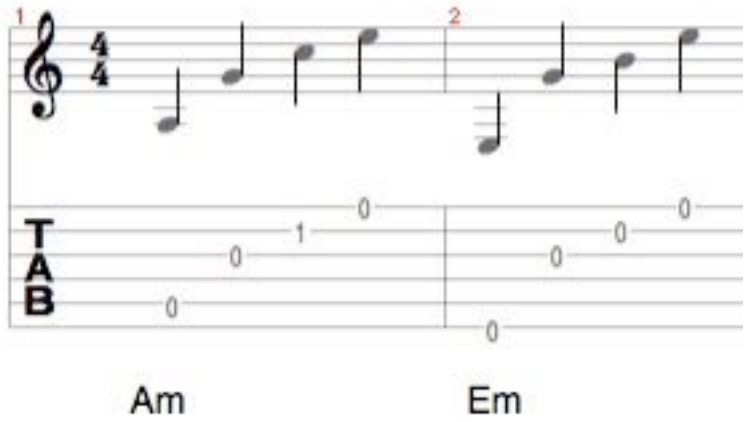


If that sounds a little bit like Simon & Garfunkel's the Boxer, that's because it is indeed more or less the pattern of that intro. It is a chord and pattern that you will hear in lots of songs.

A Pattern in A minor to E minor

We take an A minor (thumb is on the 5th string) and an E minor (thumb on 6th string)

Put those together. Sounds good.

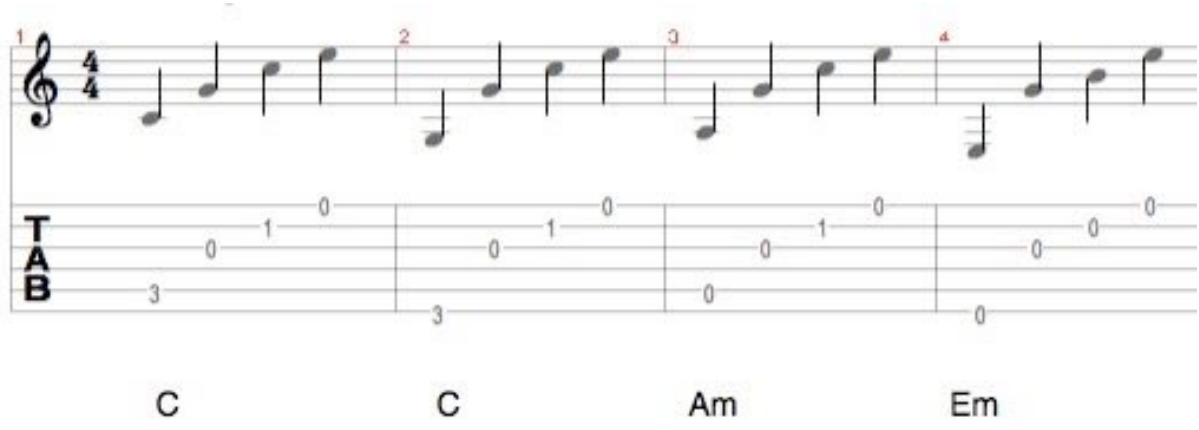


Putting It Together

You might notice that both exercise have thumb on 5th then thumb on 6th.

The first Simon & Garfunkely one and then the second which has two different chords.

Putting that together you get.



So its starting to get quite musical.

You can see the thumb there on both parts was doing 5th string then 6th string, going the "other way" from a higher bass note to a lower note. The whole thing is starting to sound great right now.

Exercise

The exercise is just to play this exercise for a good 15-20

Getting that thumb feeling like its moving and hitting the right string and moving independently.

If you find it difficult, don't worry as we'll give you some help in the next section.

But give it a go, and if you get the hang of it, start to play around and experiment and have fun as always…