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**Your Free Acoustic Guitar Lesson**

**By Anna Rowe**

Here is a free acoustic guitar lesson to help you improve your guitar playing skills quickly.

This guitar learning technique will teach you how to fingerpick folk-style, but in a Latin rhythm in the key of A. This Latin rhythm has eight quick beats to the measure, and is accented on the first, the fourth, and the seventh beats.

This guitar lesson will focus on using your right hand, and your thumb will play the accented beats. Your fingers will follow. Finger number one, the index finger, is to pluck the third string on beats two, five, and eight, and fingers two and three will pluck the second and first strings together on beats three and six.

In the following acoustic guitar lesson, you will chord an A for the first sample. To keep it simple, let's take the beats one at a time...

Acoustic Guitar Lesson – 7 Steps to Chord an A:

- 1) First, the thumb plucks the open A string for a bass note.
- 2) Next, finger one plucks the third string, which is sounding an A.
- 3) Then fingers two and three pluck strings two and one together. These two notes will be a C-sharp and the open top E string.
- 4) Now the thumb immediately plucks string four, which is an E and works as an alternate bass string. That's beat 4.
- 5) Now beat five is just like beat two, with finger one plucking string three.
- 6) Beat six is just like beat three, with fingers two and three plucking the top two strings.

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7) On beat seven, use the thumb to pluck the third string, then finish up with fingers two and three plucking the top two strings again.

When you've practiced the acoustic guitar lesson above a few times, it will become second nature to you to pluck this Latin rhythm.

Your next part of this acoustic guitar lesson is to try the same finger picking pattern using an E chord. Since the open sixth string is your bass note, you'll pluck it on beat one. Follow through with the rest of the measure in the same pattern, except your thumb plucks the fifth string on beat four and the fourth string on beat seven. When you've mastered the E chord the acoustic guitar lesson moves on to the D chord. With D, you can just use the fourth string for your thumb-plucked bass note each time.

Acoustic Guitar Lesson Tip:

Here's a fast acoustic guitar lesson secret for making the above finger-picking style of guitar playing a little fancier. Chord an A. Here's how...

When you pluck the fourth beat of the measure lift your chording finger – it's the ring finger on your left hand. Lift it and then press it while plucking. You'll get a little slur at the start of the note. This sounds great when you build speed up. Try the same little trick when playing the key of E, too. It will be finger two that you will be lifting.

Finally in this free acoustic guitar lesson for you, put everything together in a chord sequence. Play A for two measures, then D for two measures. Play E for two measures, then back to D for two measures, then A to finish up.

Article by Anna Rowe. Visit her

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## **Guitar Tapping Tips And Techniques**

**By Brad Finley**

Although made popular recently by Eddie VanHalen, guitar tapping or right hand 'legatos' is a technique players have been executing for years. Country players know the benefit of laying down a nice subtle lead and just putting in those quick hammers with clear guitar tapping. And while it's not the

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easiest thing, guitar finger tapping techniques are really nothing much more than fast hammer on and a pull off. Whether you use your middle finger or your first, most times you can hold the pick as usual to execute your guitar tapping and get the speed and positioning essential to good guitar tapping techniques. But like anything else, guitar tapping takes practice and patience.

Since this is a highly specialized, yet popular way of playing we hear a lot of player's guitar tapping these days—and just as many tapping badly. Especially when a guitar is cranked through distortion, a whole host of extra noises will come out if the player's guitar finger tapping techniques aren't the cleanest. An important trick to 'clean-up' when you are cranked through that Marshall Stack and you're in "overdrive", is to rest the back of your right hand on the lower strings for muting; what you want to avoid is these strings making a lot of extra noise while you get that guitar tapping in one steady movement. Of course, if you're a rock player you are most likely already dreaming of the all-too-flashy 'cross-handed tapping' but this is so impractical it only ever works when playing live (and even then it is a hard to get those guitar tapping progressions cooking in this way!) Admittedly though, this particular type of guitar tapping, above all other types of guitar finger tapping techniques, creates a truly distinct tone.

There are hundreds of videos and books that show guitar tapping tips, but as it is with everything else, you can't even begin to understand how guitar tapping works until you get up and do it yourself. Although modern listeners have been conditioned to want speed like Eddie V., it is more important to get the strong and clear sound of each note than to sacrifice technique for potential sloppiness. Guitar finger tapping techniques are only good if you can do them; nothing sounds worse than reaching for a flashy technique and not being able to pull it off. As with everything else you learn on guitar, if you master a technique on acoustic then you can feel all that more confident trying it on electric.

Playing a difficult and flashy exercise, such as guitar tapping or lightening fast arpeggios, sometimes seem to be easier on an electric; you get off on the sound you are creating, the noise, but don't catch nuisances or mistakes. Try tapping on an acoustic guitar (or you want a big challenge—try guitar tapping on an acoustic bass!) Guitar finger tapping is hard on an acoustic; cross-handed guitar tapping is almost impossible (it takes a ton of strength and precision), but master guitar tapping on an acoustic and you'll find you are that much more prepared for what you might do on your electric.

Brad Finley is senior editor of MyGuitarWorkshop.com – Guitar Lessons and Music Theory. Website provides guitar lessons, instructions and music theory for all level guitar players. Please visit

<http://www.MyGuitarWorkshop.com>

for more information on guitar and music theory.



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