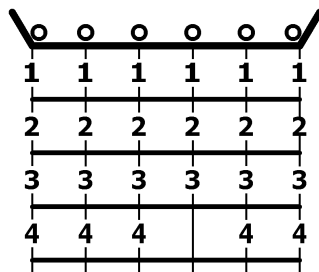


TECHNIQUE

The purpose of this chapter is to develop proper technique of the fingering-hand and the picking-hand. We examine the E chromatic scale, the C major scale and the E minor blues scale. The C major scale and the E minor blues scale in the first position are the most used of all scales on the guitar. The exercises are intended to get you well acquainted with variations of the scales. Playing in the first position means you always use the first finger on the first fret, second finger on the second fret, third finger on the third fret and the fourth finger on the fourth fret. This applies to every note in this chapter. Also, when eighth notes are involved, we use alternating down and up pick strokes. By following these tips, proper fingering technique and alternating picking technique will become automatic.

THE CHROMATIC SCALE

The chromatic scale has 12 notes. The notes of the E Chromatic Scale are E, F, F#, G, G#, A, A#, B, C, C#, D, D#. The chromatic scale consists of semitones only, meaning no frets are skipped. Remember, the span of a semitone is one fret. Therefore, as you can see on the diagram below, the chromatic scale includes every note. You do not skip any frets. The numbers on the fretboard tell you which finger to use. The circles on the top are open notes and require no finger. In the exercise below, we start by picking the 6th string open. The circle on the top that is farthest to the left represents the 6th string open. Then, we pick the 6th string with our first finger on the first fret. The number 1 on the first fret represents the finger used. All notes on the first fret use the 1st finger. Then we proceed to the 2nd fret, 2nd finger, 3rd fret, 3rd finger, then 4th fret, 4th finger. Then we do the same on the 5th string and ascend through each note on every string in a similar fashion. Notice the third string is the only string that doesn't use the 4th finger.



Chromatic Scale Diagram

Ex. 1 Play each note of the chromatic scale using down pickstrokes only. This exercise can be done using tab, standard notation or the chromatic scale diagram on the previous page. Choose the one that is easiest for you.

Three systems of guitar tablature for a chromatic scale exercise in 4/4 time. Each system shows a sequence of fret numbers for strings T, A, and B. The first system starts with a 4/4 time signature. The second system continues the sequence. The third system concludes the exercise with a double bar line.

Four staves of standard musical notation for a chromatic scale exercise. The first staff is in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The subsequent three staves show the chromatic scale in descending order, with accidentals indicating the correct pitch for each note.