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# ARRANGING TECHNIQUES FOR GUITAR

## Sixths and Tenth

Fingerstyle — from traditional classical techniques to contemporary two-handed tapping — is giving guitarists the freedom and the opportunity to approach music in much the same manner as keyboard players. Not long ago, when jazz and pop were usually played with a pick, there was little independence between melody and bass parts, since exclusive use of the pick made playing on widely separated strings difficult, if not impossible. In fact, it was the desire to overcome the pick's limitations that drew a number of jazz and pop players to the classical guitar and eventually led to the development of more unorthodox innovations such as pick-and-fingers technique, use of the right-hand pinky (c), combining octave harmonics with regular notes, and two-handed tapping.

To take full advantage of the entire range of fingerstyle techniques now available, first you need to think like a keyboard player, and that means developing a working knowledge of musical devices such as counterpoint, walking bass lines, chord voicing, and voice-leading.

Most of the following examples are excerpts from my arrangement of *Those Were The Days*, from TV's *All In The Family*. I chose this song because of its catchy, old-fashioned ragtime flavor, which is well-suited to a traditional treatment that doesn't need a lot of "window dressing" to be effective.

### Using Tenth to Harmonize Melodies:

The intervals most closely associated with early ragtime and swing piano styles are major and minor tenths (a third interval plus an octave). Tenths are very useful, because they have a wide range, producing a big sound that can create an illusion of two guitars while implying major and minor chords. Finger the intervals in *Ex. 1*, observing the shape of each. *Ex. 2* illustrates moving tenths with an A pedal, or repeating note, in the upper voice, while *Ex. 3* shows them with a moving melodic line.

*Ex. 1*

*Ex. 2*

*Ex. 3*

# THOSE WERE THE DAYS

Words by  
LEE ADAMS

Music by  
CHARLES STROUSE  
Arranged by HOWARD MORGAN

3 4 3 2 4 2 2 4 2 1 3 4 3 2 3 4 3 1 4 1

T 5 5 4 4 3 5 3 2 2 5 5 4 4 3 5 3 2 2 2 0

A 4 3 2 0 2 3 4 0 1 5 4 3 0 2 2 4 2

B 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

① c  
② a  
③ m  
④ i  
① a  
② m  
③ i

5

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

T 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

A 2 7 7 7 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

B 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

9

5 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

T 2 5 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

A 4 4 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

B 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0