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CHAPTER 4

Playing Two Lines

Before beginning this chapter, you should review the material on pages 20 and 21 concerning right-hand technique. As you go through this material, pay close attention to the position of your right hand and how the fingers are working.

OPEN POSITION EXERCISES

To be a good fingerstyle player, you will need to have good control with your right hand fingers. The following open string exercises will enable you to concentrate on getting a good sound without worrying about fretting notes on the strings. Listen to your sound and try to get the best *tone* possible. Tone refers to the quality of your sound. It should be strong (but not forced), warm (but not muddy) and clear.

In Example 9 you'll only be using the thumb (*p*) on the lower three strings.

9

Example 10 is on the first three strings and requires you to alternate between your index (*i*) and middle (*m*) fingers. This is a common approach to playing melodies on the upper three strings.

10