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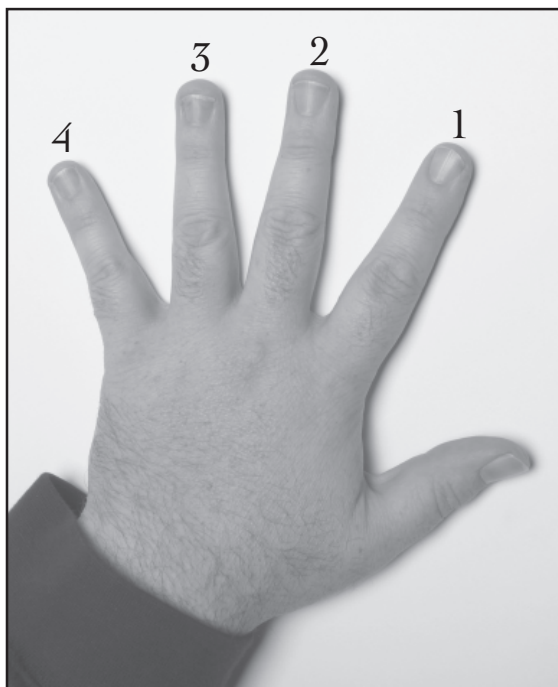


TRACK 1

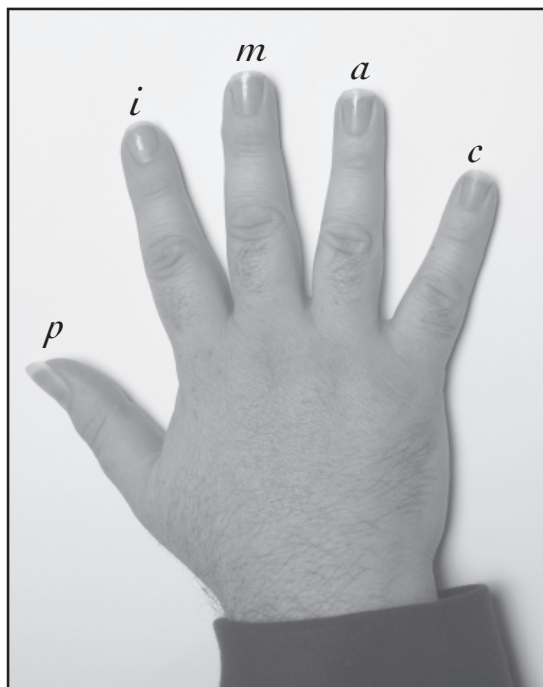
Online audio is included with this book. This recording can make learning with the book easier and more enjoyable. The symbol shown at the left appears next to every example that is on the recording. Use the audio to help ensure that you’re capturing the feel of the examples, interpreting the rhythms correctly, and so on. The track number below the symbol corresponds directly to the example you want to hear. Track 1 will help you tune your guitar to the recording.

LESSON 1.5—THE HANDS

Below are photographs of the hands with the fingers labeled. These letters and numbers are used in the music to tell us which finger, either on the right or the left hand, should be used to play a given note. The right-hand fingers are named with the first letters of their Spanish names.



The left-hand fingers.



The right-hand fingers.

(Again, just a reminder that, if you are left-handed, simply reverse the right- and left-hand labels.)

p = *pulgar*. Thumb.
i = *indicio*. Index finger.
m = *medio*. Middle finger.
a = *anular*. Ring finger.
c = *chiquita*. Pinky.

FINGERNAILS

Traditionally, we pluck the strings with the nails of our right hand. Great care and discussion is devoted to obtaining and maintaining good, healthy nails, and to shaping them. We will save going into greater detail about the right-hand nails until *Volume 2*. As a beginner, you probably don't have any nails right now anyway, and I would prefer you begin without long nails so that you get a chance to feel the strings on your fingertips as you learn to play.

I highly recommend that you keep the nails of your left hand cut and trimmed. If you don't, pushing your fingertips against the fingerboard will be very awkward.

5

6

7

In this example, you'll be using your thumb (*p*), so in this case, it would be better if you did not try to rest it on the bass strings.

8

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER!

Now, let's read the music with some easy rhythms while we practice free strokes. Examples 9–13 use only open strings.

9

5



Scott Says:
For added stability, rest your thumb on one of the bass strings.

Right-Hand Finger Review
p = *pulgar*. Thumb.
i = *indicio*. Index finger.
m = *medio*. Middle finger.
a = *anular*. Ring finger.
c = *chiquita*. Pinky.



Scott Says:
It is a good idea to "tah" the rhythms of each example first before you play. If you can say it, you can play it.

Chapter 5

the notes on the bass strings

LESSON 5.1 — A SORELY NEEDED PEP TALK

By now you have put in quite a bit of time playing your guitar. I wouldn't be surprised if your fingertips are sore. It happens to everyone at this stage. If you have never played the guitar before you began working in this book, then you have not yet developed the calluses that more seasoned players have. Just give it some time. For now, there are a few things you can do to soothe the throbbing discomfort.

1. Massage your fingertips regularly. This will promote blood flow and a quicker healing process.
2. While you're at it, massage in some skin cream. This will soften whatever tough skin or pre-callus you may have and make your fingers feel better.
3. File your fingertips lightly with an emery board. This will exfoliate (remove a thin layer of skin from) the fingertips and also promote healing.

Furthermore, if you are still plucking the strings with short nails, your right-hand fingertips probably ache, too. This will also pass soon, especially when your nails grow out more. We'll discuss proper length and care of the right-hand nails in *Volume 2*.

My best advice is that you should just stick with it. The more you keep playing, the quicker this temporary pain will pass.



LESSON 6.3—THE CHROMATIC SCALE

A scale is a series of notes in a specific arrangement of half steps and *whole steps* (a distance of two frets). A *chromatic scale* is the most basic of scales; a series of 12 notes composed of successive half steps. You should practice this scale every day, and play it slowly so that you can say the names of the notes aloud as you play. This is important because the chromatic scale contains every note in the first position, which is all the notes from the open string up to the 4th fret.

When you feel confident playing it as written, then start practicing it backwards, descending from the highest note to the lowest.

21

TRACK 25

i m i m i etc.

5

LESSON 6.4—PIECES USING SHARPS

In this next duet piece, write in the left-hand fingerings yourself. You play the top part. As with the other duets in this book, you can use the balance control on your stereo to dial out the Student part and play along with the Teacher part. It is important to note that an accidental only remains in force for the measure in which it occurs. So, every time we want an F[#], the accidental must be used again unless it occurs later in the same measure.

TRACK 26

LOOKIN' SHARP

$\text{♩} = 120$

i m i m i etc.

Student

Teacher

6

11