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About the DVD



The DVD contains valuable demonstrations of all the instructional material in the book. You will get the best results by following along with your book as you watch these video segments. Musical examples that are not performed with video are included as audio tracks on the DVD for listening and playing along.

The track numbers in the book refer to the MP3 audio tracks found on the DVD-ROM. These tracks are accessed by placing the disc in your computer. Windows users, from your Start menu, open My Computer, right-click on your DVD drive icon, and open the MP3 folder. Mac users, double click on the DVD icon on your desktop, then double-click on the MP3 folder.

USING YOUR LEFT HAND

Hand Position

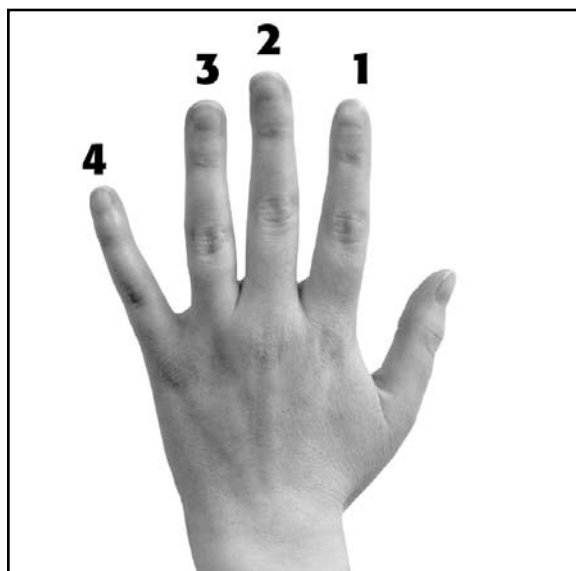
Learning to use your left-hand fingers easily starts with a good hand position. Place your hand so your thumb rests comfortably in the middle of the back of the neck. Position your fingers on the front of the neck as if you are gently squeezing a ball between them and your thumb. Keep your elbow in and your fingers curved.



Keep elbow in and fingers curved.



Like gently squeezing a ball between your fingers and thumb.



Finger numbers.

Placing a Finger on a String

When you press a string with a left-hand finger, make sure you press firmly with the tip of your finger and as close to the fret wire as you can without actually being right on it. Short fingernails are important! This will create a clean, bright tone.



RIGHT

Finger pressing the string down near the fret without actually being on it.



WRONG

Finger is too far from fret wire; tone is "buzzy" and indefinite.



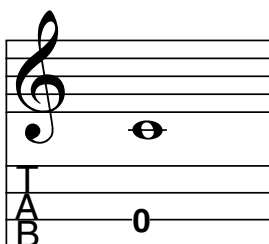
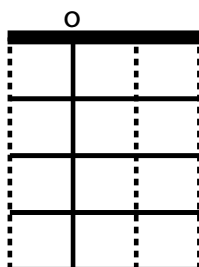
WRONG

Finger is on top of fret wire; tone is muffled and unclear.

THE THIRD STRING C



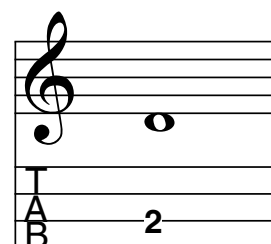
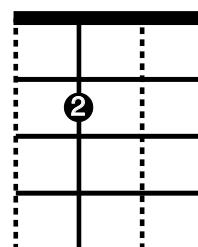
OPEN STRING



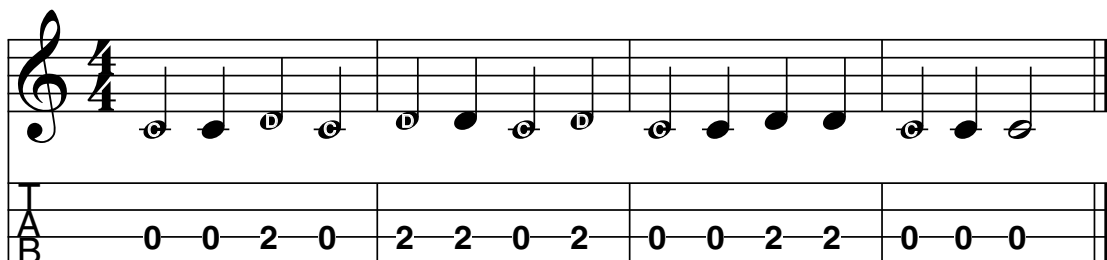
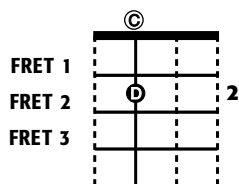
C



2nd FRET



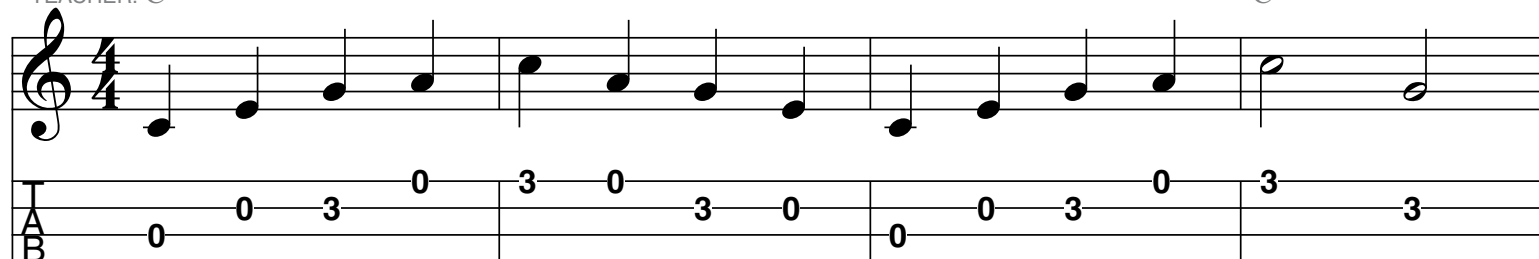
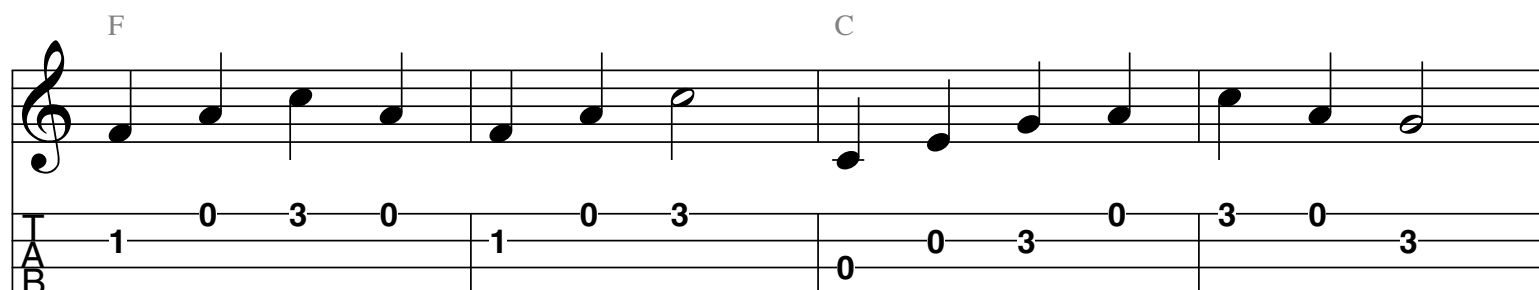
D



Jammin' on Three Strings

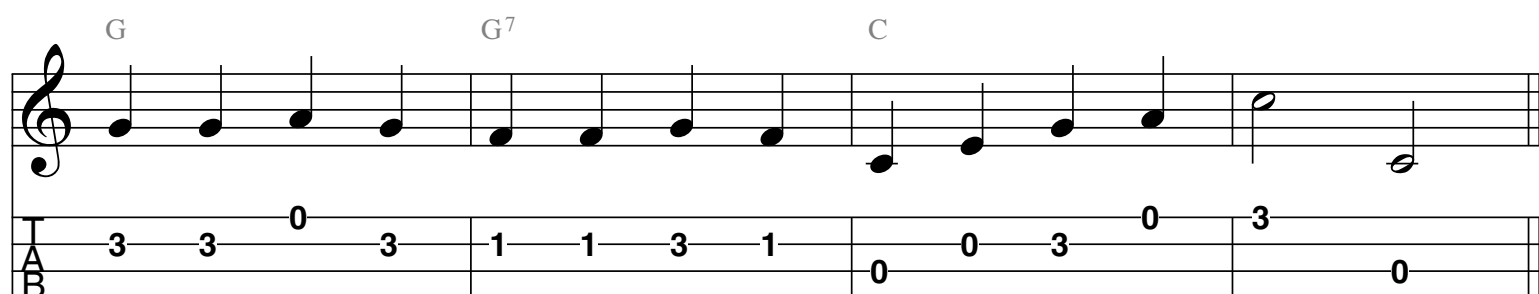


TEACHER: C

C⁷

F

C



G

G⁷

C

THE DOWN-AND-UP STROKE



You can make your accompaniment of waltz songs in $\frac{3}{4}$ like “The Streets of Laredo” more interesting by replacing the second beat of the measure with a down-stroke followed by an up-stroke. Together, the down-and-up strokes are played in the same time as a regular strum.

Try the following exercise to work on just the rhythm.

COUNT: 1 2 & 3

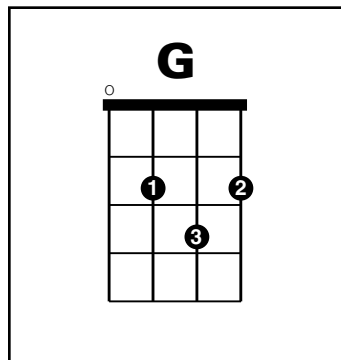
Now practice changing from C to G7.

COUNT: 1 2 & 3 1 2 & 3

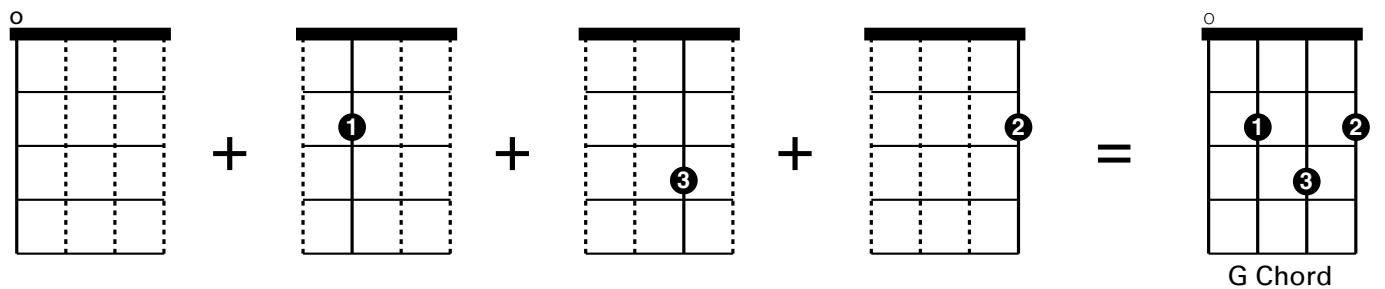
Now practice changing back and forth from C to G7 and back. When you can do it smoothly, go back to page 44 and use it to accompany “The Streets of Laredo.”

COUNT: 1 2 & 3 1 2 & 3 1 2 & 3 1 2 & 3

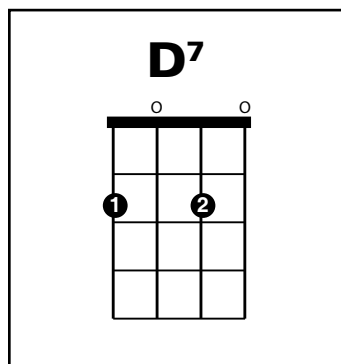
THE G CHORD



Place your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd fingers in position, then play one string at a time.



THE D7 CHORD



Place your 1st and 2nd fingers in position, then play one string at a time.

