

1.

LESSON 1

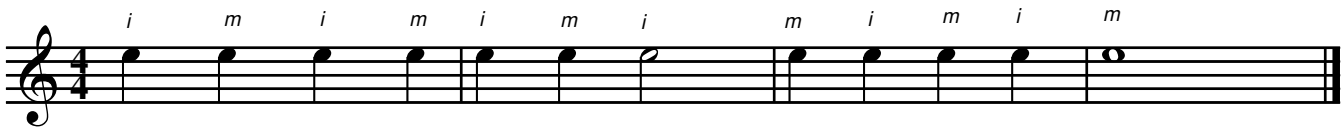
Notes on the Top Three Open Strings

This method begins by introducing the first three open strings of the guitar. (Note that "first three open strings" refers to the three nylon strings of the guitar.) An open string is one which is not held down by any finger of the left hand but which is played as it occurs "naturally" on the guitar.

In the following examples be sure to use the right-hand fingerings exactly as given. Also, use a good solid rest stroke to play the notes. The finger tip should "pull through" the string you are playing and then come to "rest" on the next lower string (e.g., play **E** and allow your finger to land on **B**). This movement will allow you to achieve a full, round sound. This **rest stroke technique** is one of the most important techniques we can learn and incorporate into our playing.

Note that the first three exercises (and many subsequent pieces) are written in two parts: part I for the student and part II for the teacher. This makes the learning and playing of elementary pieces a much more enjoyable experience.

E - open first string



B - open second string



G - open third string



Exercise 1

Exercise 1 is a two-staff piece in 4/4 time. The first staff (I) contains a sequence of notes with fingerings: *i m i m j m i m i m i m*. The second staff (II) contains a sequence of notes with fingerings: *j m i m i m i m*. The piece consists of four measures.

Exercise 2

Exercise 2 is a two-staff piece in 4/4 time. The first staff (I) contains a sequence of notes with fingerings: *i m i m j m i m m j m i m i m*. The second staff (II) contains a sequence of notes with fingerings: *m j m i m i m*. The piece consists of four measures.

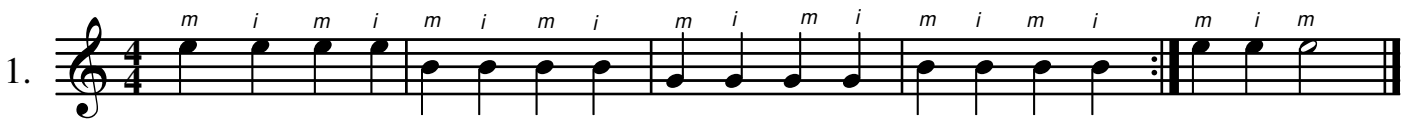
Exercise 3

Exercise 3 is a two-staff piece in 4/4 time. The first staff (I) contains a sequence of notes with fingerings: *m j m i m i m i m i m i m i*. The second staff (II) contains a sequence of notes with fingerings: *i m i m j m i*. The piece consists of four measures.

3.

STRING CHANGING EXERCISES

The following exercises will give the student the opportunity to become proficient in playing different patterns of string changes. When you come to the repeat sign, you may repeat an exercise as many times as needed until you feel comfortable with it. When you have finished repeating an individual exercise, be sure to end with the final measure on each line. Use the right-hand fingerings exactly as given, with a good solid rest stroke.

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