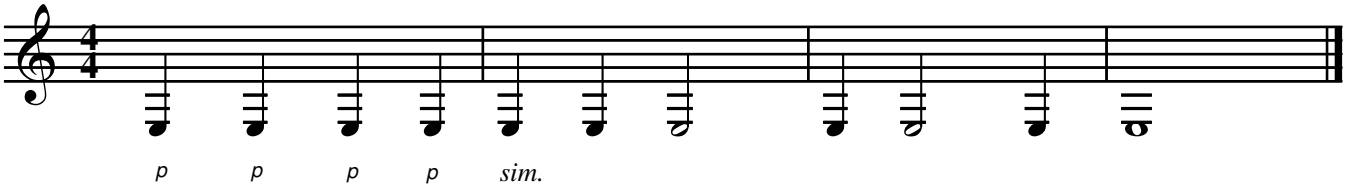
LESSON 4

Notes on the Bottom Three Open Strings

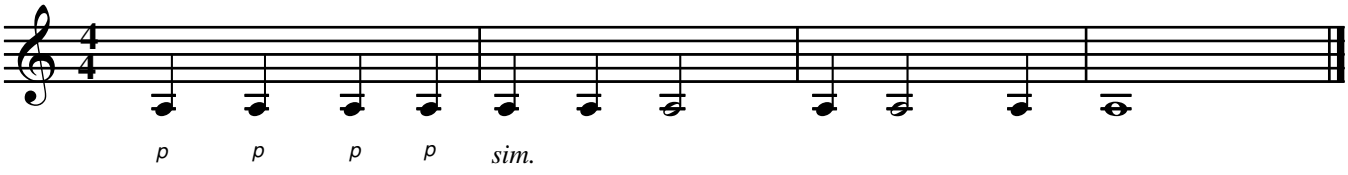
Let us now continue with the bottom three open strings of the guitar. (Note that "bottom three open strings" refers to the three metal-wound strings of the guitar.) Start with your right hand in resting position, that is the first three fingers rest on the first three strings and the thumb rests on the sixth string. Leave your fingers on the strings for support while the thumb is free to play the bass strings. The thumb will not do a rest stroke, but rather a free stroke. The thumb pushes the string it is playing down and across and releases it without coming to rest on the next higher string. The thumb continues by moving in a small circle until it has returned to the original string. Do not place the thumb back on the string. It does not touch the string again until the very moment it needs to play the note. With practice you will be able to time the movement of the thumb exactly between notes.

p = the abbreviation used to indicate the right-hand thumb.
sim. = to continue playing in a similar manner

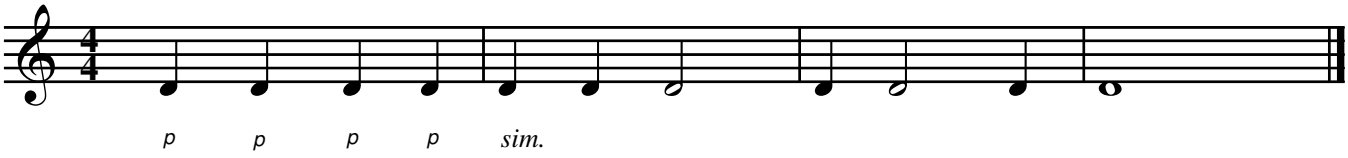
E - open sixth string



A - open fifth string

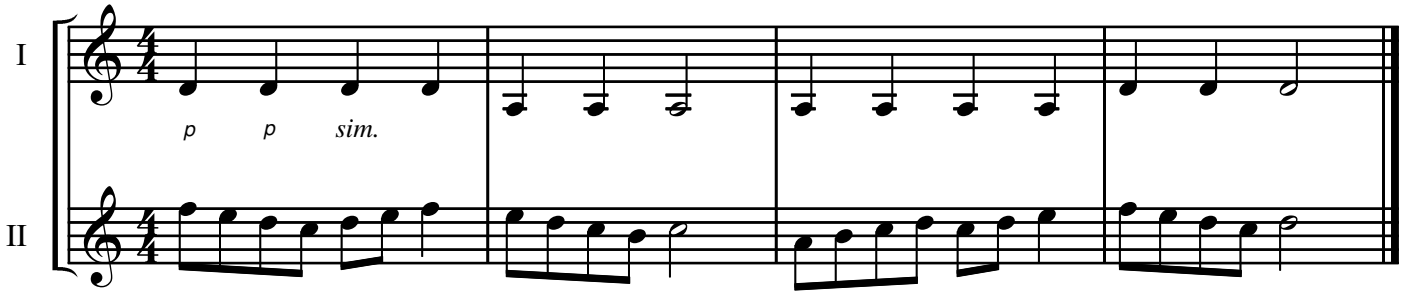


D - open fourth string

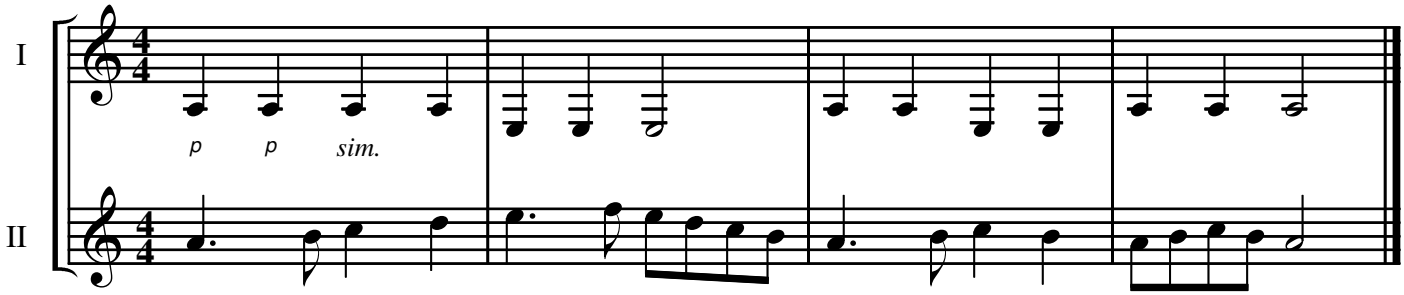


Copyright © 2014 Ken Hummer
All Rights Reserved
kenhummer-guitarmusic.com

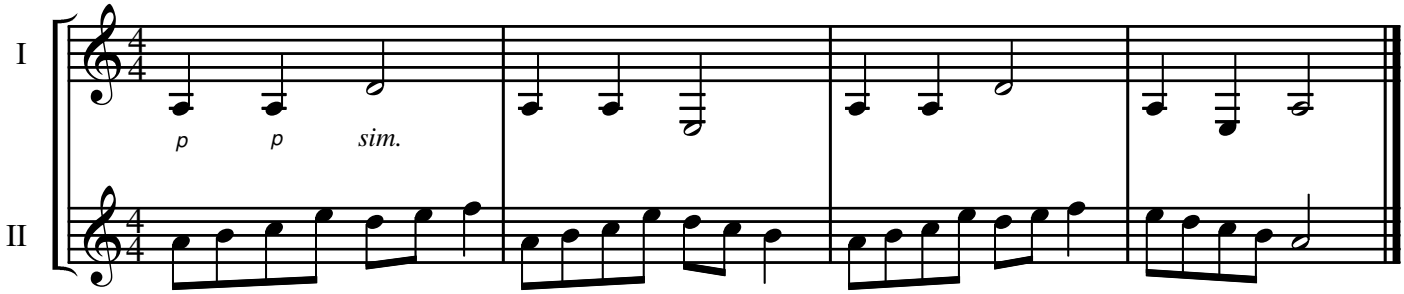
Exercise 4



Exercise 5



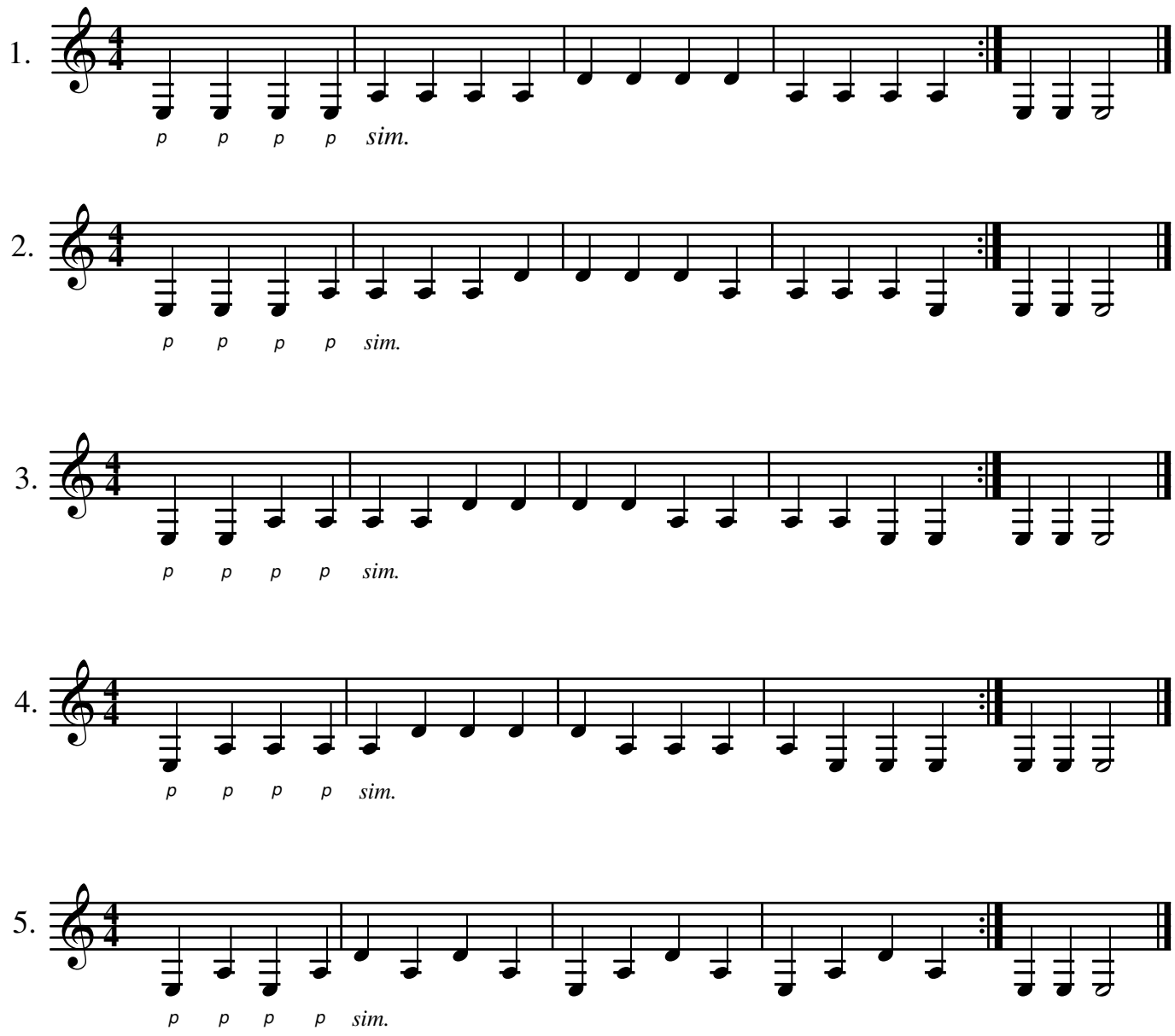
Exercise 6



Copyright © 2014 Ken Hummer
All Rights Reserved
kenhummer-guitarmusic.com

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.



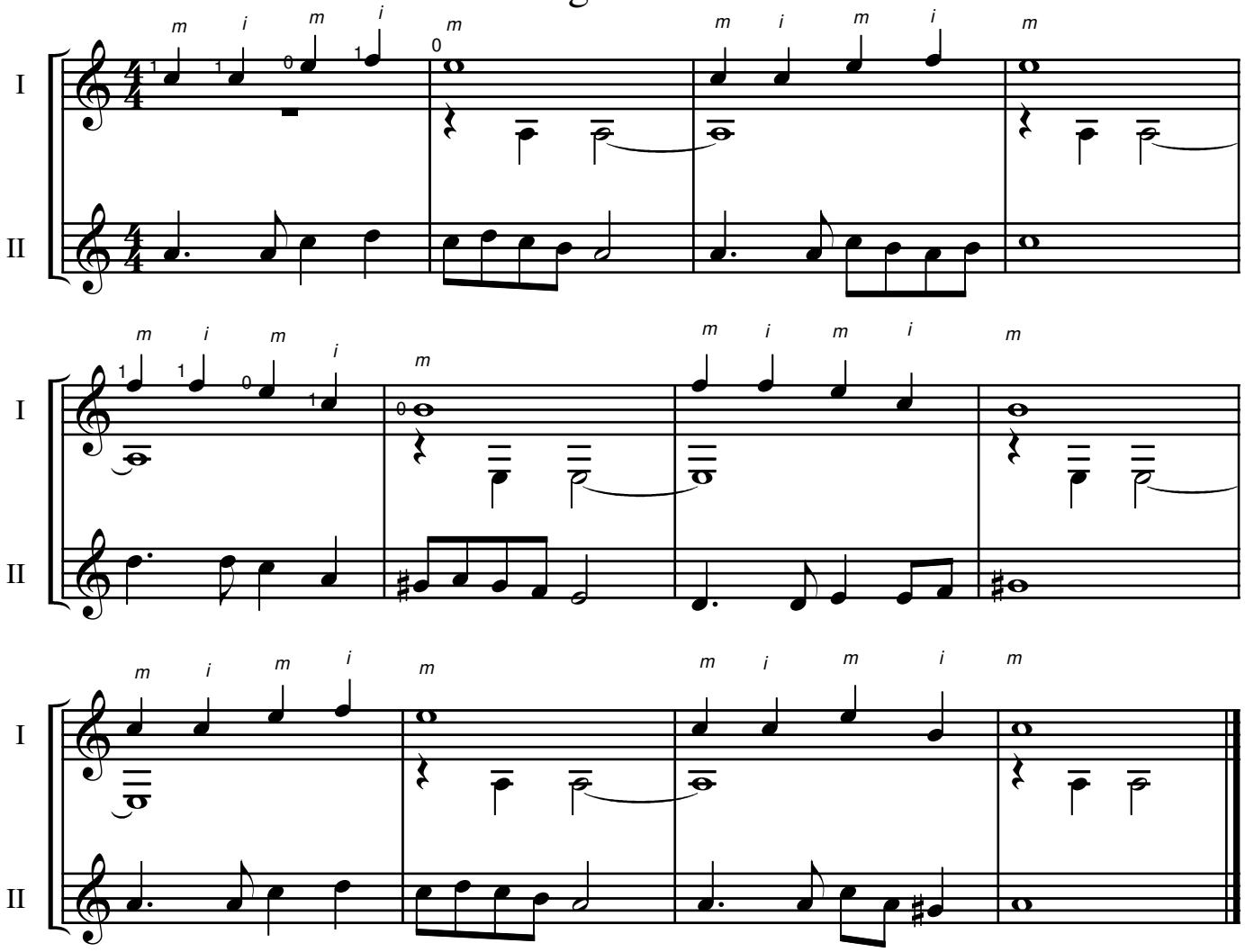
Copyright © 2014 Ken Hummer
All Rights Reserved
kenhummer-guitarmusic.com

LESSON 5

Combining Fingered Treble Notes with Open Basses

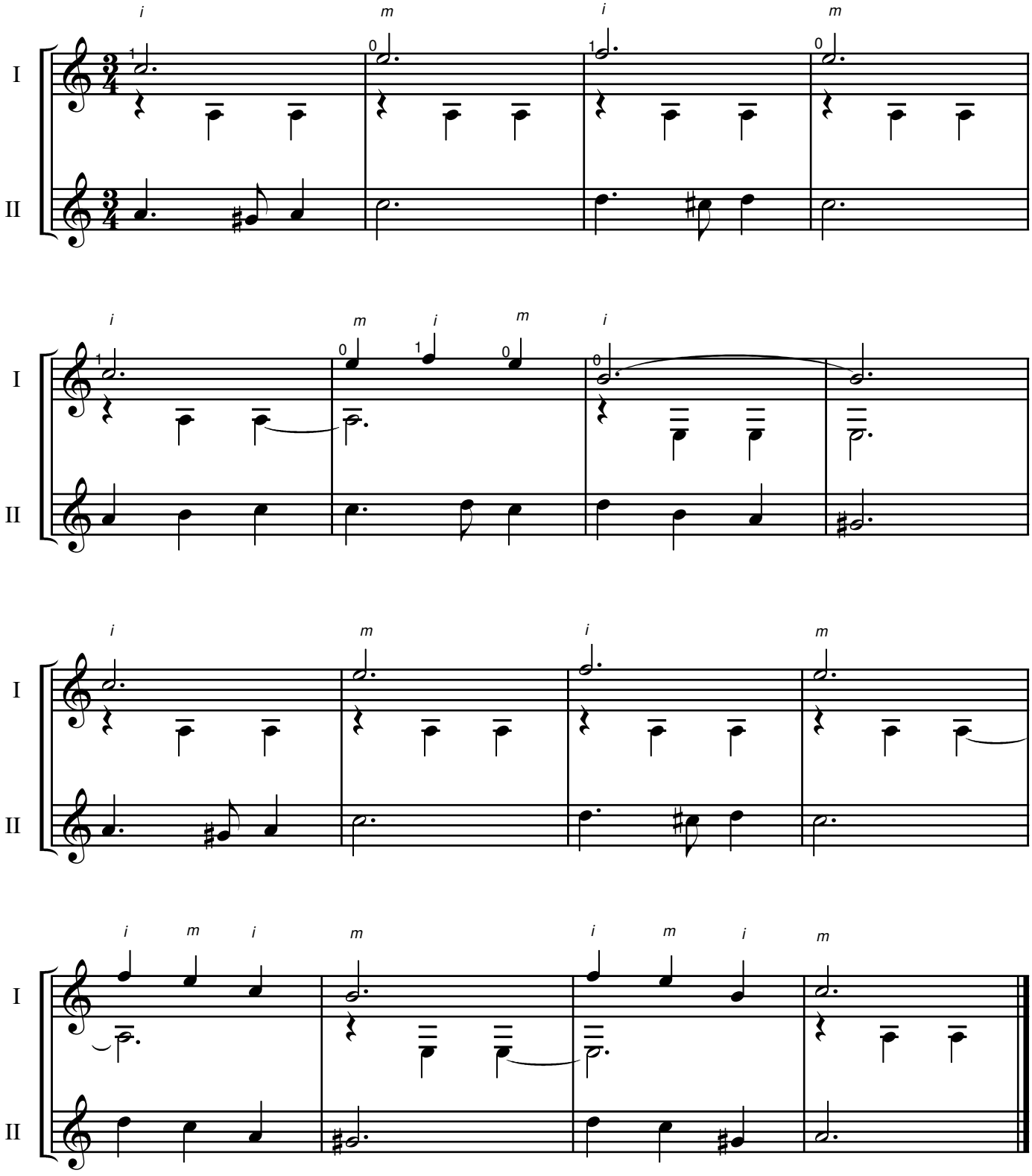
We will now combine the notes we have learned on the first two strings with the open bass strings. Notice what a full, resonant sound is created by the addition of the basses. Be sure to observe the ties: the spots where a half note is "tied" to a whole note. Think of the tie (‿) as a plus sign. The half note (2 counts) plus the whole note (4 counts) equals 6 counts. In other words, let those two notes together ring for 6 counts. The open bass accompaniment is played by the right-hand thumb. Note that it will now be necessary to hold the right hand fingers and thumb in the air slightly above the strings (not supporting on the strings) for all treble and bass notes to ring for their full written value. They should be held in the same position as if they were resting on their corresponding strings. Also, in the following piece note that it is more convenient to use the same five-note fingering pattern for the right hand rather than to observe stict alternation of i & m.

One Finger Duet Etude #7



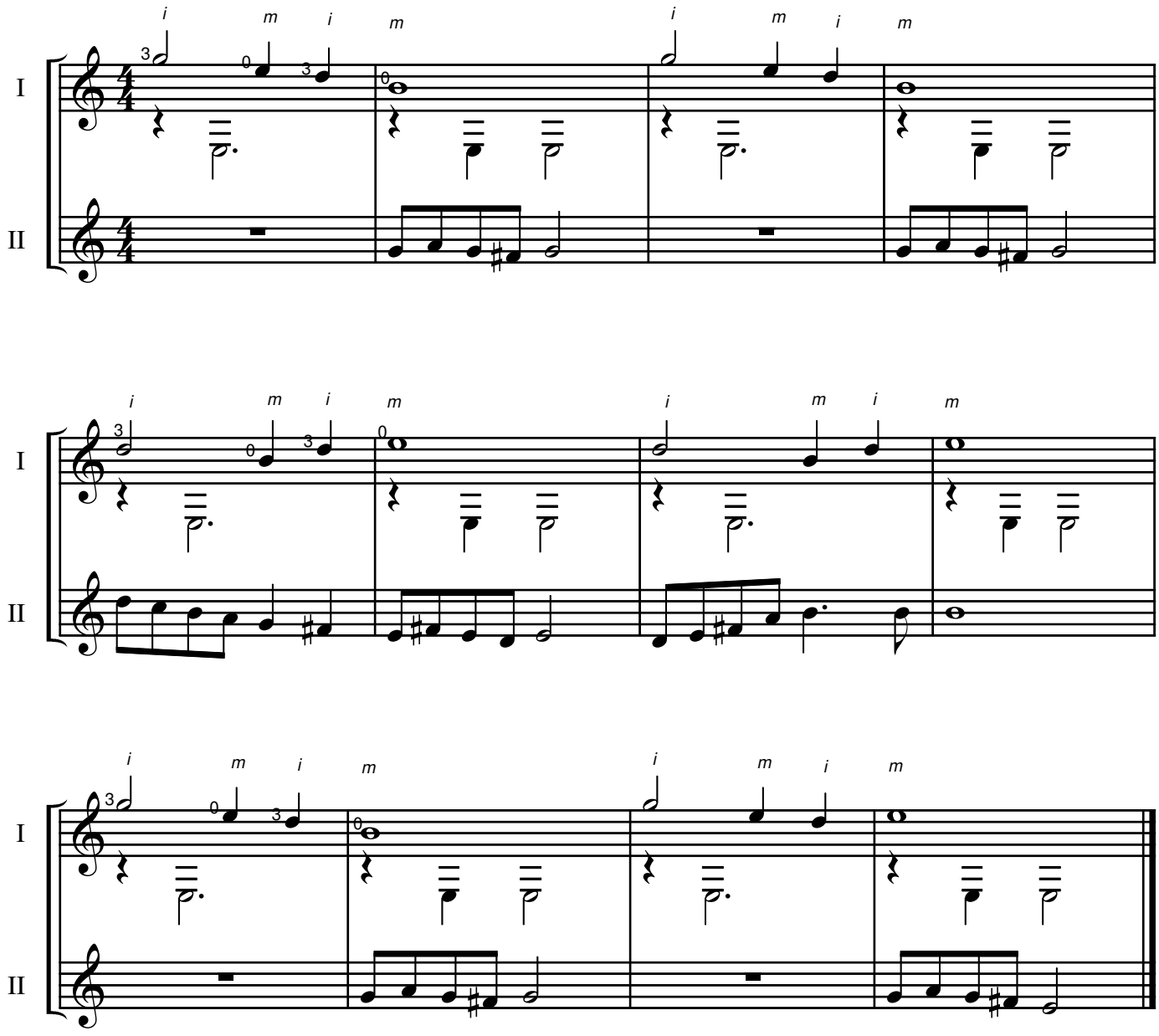
Copyright © 2014 Ken Hummer
All Rights Reserved
kenhummer-guitarmusic.com

One Finger Duet Etude #8



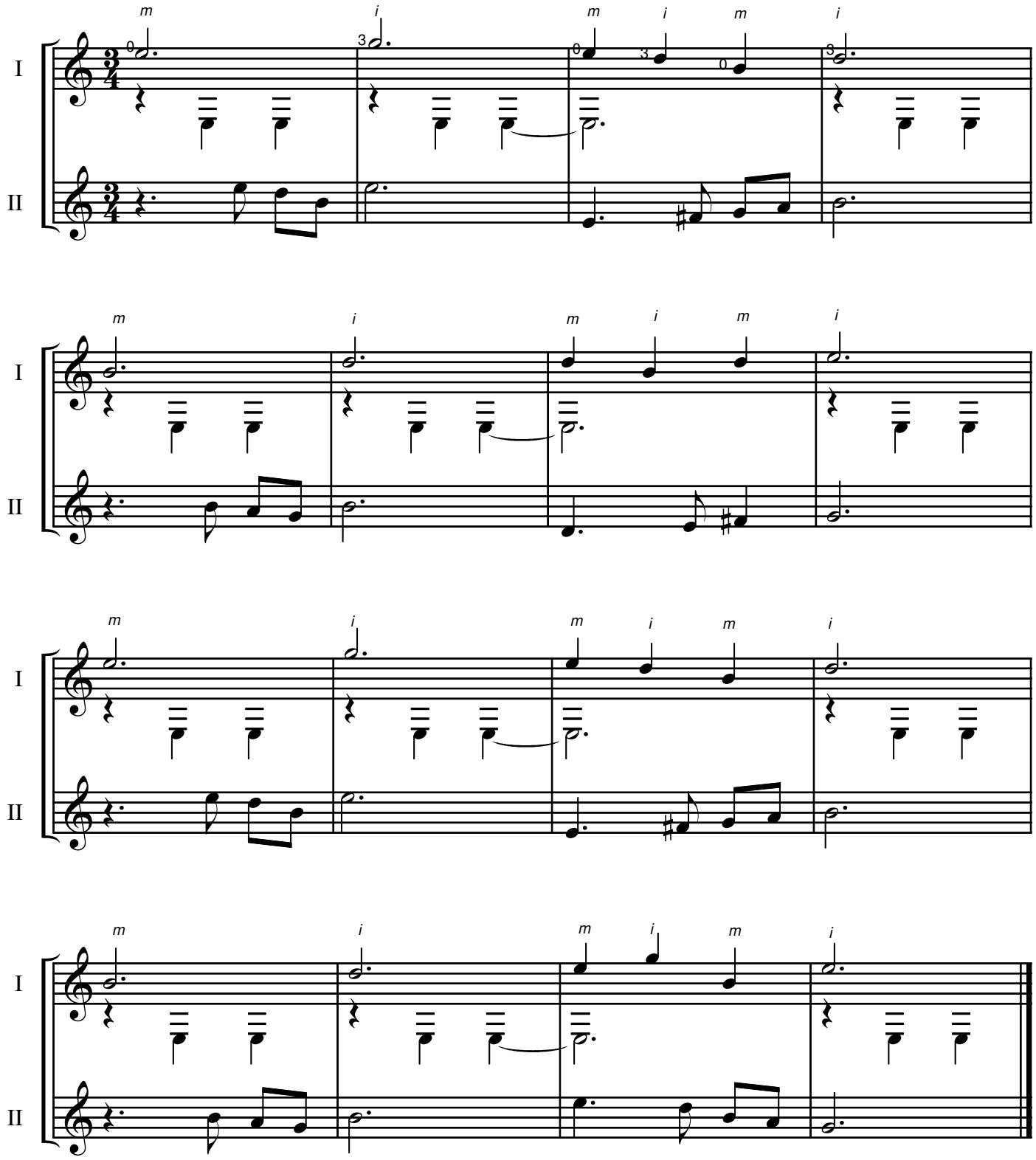
Copyright © 2014 Ken Hummer
All Rights Reserved
kenhummer-guitarmusic.com

One Finger Duet Etude #9



Copyright © 2014 Ken Hummer
All Rights Reserved
kenhummer-guitarmusic.com

One Finger Duet Etude #10



Copyright © 2014 Ken Hummer
All Rights Reserved
kenhummer-guitarmusic.com