

IX Fingerpicking Solos

This section of the book contains fingerpicking blues solos. These solos are written in three different styles: those which have a steady bass, those which have an alternating bass, and those which have a boogie woogie (or boogie) bass. In these fingerpicking styles, the right thumb plays the bass notes (strings 6, 5, and 4), and the right-hand fingers play the melody (usually on strings 1, 2, and 3).

In a "steady-bass" style, the thumb plays the same bass note (which has the same name as the chord for that measure) on each beat of the measure. The fingers play at the same time, or between the thumb strokes. This style of soloing was commonly used by early blues guitarists.

The following exercise will help prepare you to play the solos which have a steady bass. In all of the solos in this section of the book, the notes (or numbers) written with the stems going down are to be played with the thumb. The notes (or numbers) written with the stems going up are to be played with the fingers (generally, the first and second fingers of the right hand). The choice of which finger to use is up to you. Do not use the little finger. If you do not know the meaning of a notation, refer to the "Definitions" section at the beginning of this book.

All of the notes in the following exercise are played with the right-hand thumb.

78

E7 A7 E7

A7 E7

B7 A7 E7 B7 E7

Unless otherwise indicated, all of the fingerpicking solos in this section of the book should be played using the shuffle (or swing) rhythm (♩ = ♩♩) rather than even eighth notes.

Practice the next few solos in which the thumb plays a steady bass. Remember, the notes with the stems going down are to be played with the thumb, and the notes with the stems going up are to be played with the fingers.

Fingerstyle Studies

Moderately fast ♩ = 120 (♩ = $\frac{3}{4}$) Sneakin' 'Round

The score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of moderately fast (♩ = 120). It consists of four systems of music, each with a standard staff and a guitar tablature staff. The key signature is one flat (F major/D minor).

System 1: Chords: Am, Gm, F, E, Am, G, MC. The first measure has a repeat sign. The tablature includes a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure.

System 2: Chords: F, E, Am, G, F, E. The system ends with a Coda symbol (⊕).

System 3: Chords: 1. Am, 2. Am, E7, Am. The first measure has a first ending bracket with a double bar line and a second ending bracket with a double bar line. The second ending leads to the Coda. The tablature includes slurs and triplets.

System 4: Chords: C, m, i, G/B, Am. The first measure has a repeat sign. The tablature includes slurs and triplets.

Key of A minor

Key of A minor

1. **C** **G/B** **Am**
i
p *p* *p* *i* *p*

TAB: 3 2 3 2 2 0 3 0 0 2 3 0 3 0 2 2 0 2

2. **Bm7-5** **E7** *D.S. al Coda* ⊕
sl. *sl.* *p* *p* *p* *p*

TAB: 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 1 3 0 4 3 2 0 2 0 2 0 3 0 0 0 3 0

⊕ *Coda* **Am** *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *i* *m* **Amadd9**
i *m* *p* *p*

TAB: 4 3 1 3 1 2 0 2 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 4 2 0

