

Basic Fingerstyle Technique

Fingerstyle technique or '*fingerpicking*' involves plucking the strings with the fingers instead of strumming with a pick or using the thumb. **Basic Fingerstyle Technique** involves using the first, second, and third fingers to pluck the top three strings of a chord while the bass note (*fourth, fifth, or sixth string*) is plucked with the thumb. The following sections provide a step-by-step approach.

'Align & Assign' Fingers to Strings

While fretting a 'G' chord with the left hand, position the right hand over the soundhole and **align** the fingers as follows: right hand thumb-sixth string, first finger-third string, second finger-second string, third finger-first string. (*shown right*) The first, second, and third fingers are now **assigned** to pluck the third, second, and first strings respectively, while the thumb is assigned to pluck the bass note of the chord. With the fingers now aligned, the next section will show how to fingerpick a 'G' chord arpeggio.

Example



Align first, second, & third fingers.

Fingerpicking Arpeggios

Using the finger numbers assigned to the strings, fingerpick an arpeggio by plucking the string numbers in this order: '6 - 3 - 2 - 1 - 2 - 3'. Use the thumb to pluck the bass note with a *downstroke*, then use the fingers to pluck the top three strings using *upstrokes*. Once each string rings clearly, focus on keeping an even tempo by 'counting' each six-note arpeggio as: '1-2-3 - 1-2-3'.

Basic Fingerpicking: 'G'

1	(3) 3
2	(2) 0 (2) 0
3	(1) 0 (1) 0
4	
5	
6	(T) 3

Finger numbers to pluck with shown in ()

Other Chords: Same Technique

The same *basic fingerstyle technique* can be applied to any chord. The top three strings will always be plucked the same way with the same fingers. The only difference will be which bass note (*fourth, fifth, or sixth string*) the thumb plucks. The tabs below show the basic fingerstyle technique applied to all eight basic chords.

	'G'	'C'	'D'	'E'
1	3	0	2	0
2	0 0	1 1	3 3	0 0
3	0 0	0 0	2 2	1 1
4			0	
5		3		
6	3			0

	'A'	'Em'	'Dm'	'Am'
1	0	0	1	0
2	2 2	0 0	3 3	1 1
3	2 2	0 0	2 2	2 2
4			0	
5	0			0
6		0		