

LESSON 18:

Arpeggio Rhythm Ideas

In This Lesson:

In this lesson you'll learn how to use what you have learned to pick apart the chords and create some really nice arpeggio picking patterns.

Instead of strumming chords, sometimes it's nice to pick the chords apart and play the individual notes. Playing the notes of a chord individually creates what is commonly known as an arpeggio.

In most cases, you want to use a pattern that will repeat for every chord in the whole song, or at least for every chord in one section of the song. Most songs don't use an arpeggio pattern for the whole song but rather will use it for one section and then move into a more traditional strumming pattern for the other parts of the song.

Example 18-1

Example 18-1 illustrates an arpeggio picking pattern in 4/4 time. The pattern is shown for three chords: C, G/B, and Am. The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a bass line with fingerings (0, 1, 2, 3) and a guitar tablature (TAB) below the staff.

The arpeggio pattern for each chord is as follows:

- C:** x 0 2 3 0 0 (where x is the low E string, 0 is open, 2 is the second fret, and 3 is the third fret)
- G/B:** x 0 2 3 0 0 (where x is the low E string, 0 is open, 2 is the second fret, and 3 is the third fret)
- Am:** x 0 2 3 0 0 (where x is the low E string, 0 is open, 2 is the second fret, and 3 is the third fret)

The musical notation shows the arpeggio pattern for each chord, with the bass line indicating the fingerings and the guitar tablature (TAB) showing the fret numbers for each string.