

2- and 3-finger scale exercises

arranged by Dusty Thorburn

The first system shows a three-finger exercise (ring, middle, index) with the following fret sequence: 0-1-2-0-1-2-3-1 | 2-3-4-2-3-4-5-3 | 4-5-6+4-5-6+7-5 | 6+7-8-8-7. The second system continues the three-finger exercise with: 7-6+5-7-6+5-4-6+ | 5-4-3-5-4-3-2-4 | 3-2-1-3-2-1-0-2 | 1-0-1-2-0. The third system shows a two-finger exercise (ring, index) with the following fret sequence: 0-2-1-3-2-4-3-5 | 4-6+5-7-6+8-7 | 7-5-6+4-5-3-4-2 | 3-1-2-0-1-2-0.

The first two lines represent a three-finger exercise; I use my ring (3), middle (2), and index (1) fingers. The third line is a two-finger exercise; I use my ring and index fingers.

Practice both strumming across all the strings and also playing only the melody string. These exercises can also be done on the bass string with a slight modification to the ending. And they can be modified for the middle string by starting on the third fret, using the 6 fret and skipping the 6+.

The key is to alternate pick direction as indicated. Start very (VERY!) slowly. Speed will come effortlessly later on.