

Swift Guitar Lessons

Fingerstyle Breakthrough Guitar Lesson



In this lesson, we will learn a series of finger picking patterns that can be used in a wide variety of musical scenarios, and have been featured in thousands of popular songs. Each pattern will build on the next, allowing you to develop proper technique and dexterity in your picking hand.

Each pattern utilizes "Travis Style" position, which designates your fingers to specific strings:

low E - thumb A - thumb D - thumb G - index B - middle high E - ring



Pattern #1- "Basic Arpeggio" over Cmaj (Frets: X32010)

E		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B		-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	
G		-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	
D		-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
A		-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
E		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Pattern #2- "Constant Bass" over Cmaj (Frets: X32010)

E		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B		-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
G		-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
D		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
A		-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	
E		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Pro-tip: Remember to keep your picking fingers consistent. Practice each pattern slowly with a metronome, and gradually increase the tempo until you can achieve a steady flow of notes.

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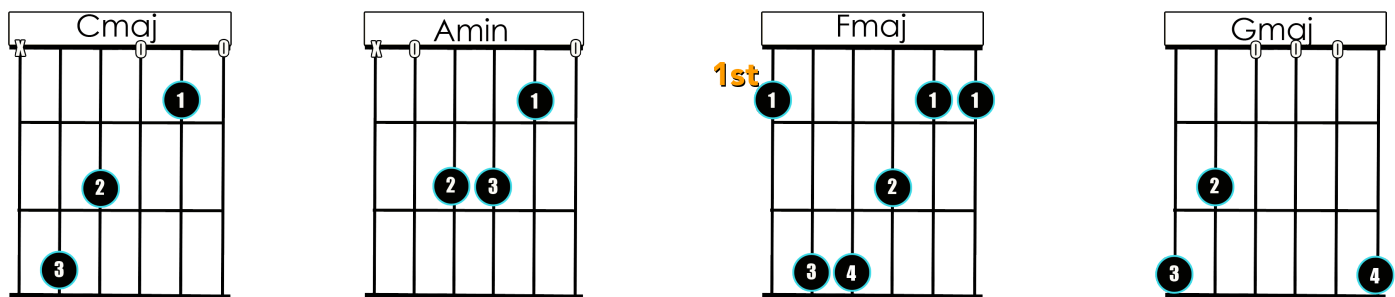
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Pattern #3- "Alternating Bass" over Cmaj (Frets: X32010)

```
E | - - - - - 0 - - - - - |
B | - - - - - 1 - - - - - |
G | - - - 0 - - - - - |
D | - - - - 2 - - - - 2 - - - |
A | - 3 - - - - - 3 - - - - |
E | - - - - - - - - - - |
```

Let's take a moment to apply what you've learned to the common chord shapes found in the 1.6.4.5 progression in the key of Cmaj.



Remember, our Fmaj and Gmaj chords have their root notes located on the low E string, remember to adjust your patterns so that your thumb begins on the correct bass-note, as shown below.

This is how you would perform pattern #3 over a Gmaj chord:

```
E | - - - - - 3 - - - - - |
B | - - - - - 0 - - - - - |
G | - - - 0 - - - - - |
D | - - - - 0 - - - - 0 - - - |
A | - - - - - - - - - - |
E | - 3 - - - - - 3 - - - - |
```

Pro-tip: The thumb has been adjusted to accommodate the root found on the E string, while the rest of the fingers have maintained the same positions used when picking the Cmaj chord.



BONUS PATTERNS!

Pattern #4- "Outside/Inside" over Cmaj (Frets: X32010)

```
E | - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - |
B | - - - 1 - - - - - - - - 1 - - - - - |
G | - - - - - - 0 - - - - - - - 0 - - - |
D | - - - - - 2 - - - - - - - 2 - - - - |
A | - 3 - - - - - - - - 3 - - - - - - - |
E | - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - |
```

Pro-tip: The "Outside/Inside" pattern is the basis for some of folk music's most impressive patterns. It can easily be adjusted to achieve the pattern commonly referred to as the "Travis Pattern", a technique popularized by guitar legend Merle Travis. Simply combine the first two notes of our "Outside/Inside" pattern and add a swinging feel!

Pattern #5- "(Basic) Travis Pattern" over Cmaj (Frets: X32010)

```
E | - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - |
B | - 1 - - - - - - - - 1 - - - - - |
G | - - - - - 0 - - - - - - - 0 - - - |
D | - - - 2 - - - - - - - 2 - - - - |
A | - 3 - - - - - - - 3 - - - - - - - |
E | - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - |
```

Congratulations, you are now on your way to becoming a skilled fingerstyle guitarist. Remember to adopt this step-by-step approach to learning future techniques. Practice these patterns in repetition and be sure to count, and tap your foot as you go. Once these techniques have been committed to muscle memory, consider learning popular tunes like "Hang Me, Oh Hang Me" by Dave Van Ronk, and "Don't Think Twice, It's Alright" By Bob Dylan, both of these are featured on my [Official YouTube Channel](#). Thanks so much for studying with Swiftlessons.

Enjoy your progress! –Rob Swift