

Travis Picking - Variation 1

This series of exercises prepares you for a variation of Travis picking. It makes sense in most cases to learn this prior to learning the classic Travis pattern.

As with all exercises, remember to work it out very slowly with a focus on developing good technique and feel, then each week attempt to play at successively faster tempos until it can be played at a lively pace.

Goal #1: Memorize the initial pattern in measure 1 below. Fingering (p,i,p,m) should stay consistent throughout these exercises.

Goal #2: The first note of pattern is root note of chord being played. Play appropriate root with thumb to begin the pattern on each chord. (see example in measure 2)

Goal #3: alternate first note of pattern between root and string below (lower pitch). (see examples in measures 3 & 4.

Musical notation for measures 1 and 2. The piece is in 4/4 time. Measure 1 is labeled "open strings" and shows a treble clef with notes on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th strings. The bass clef shows the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd strings. Measure 2 is labeled "D" and shows a treble clef with notes on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th strings. The bass clef shows the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd strings. Fingering is indicated by letters p, i, p, m above the notes and numbers 1, 2, 3, 2 below the notes.

Musical notation for measures 3 and 4. Measure 3 is labeled "D" and shows a treble clef with notes on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th strings. The bass clef shows the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd strings. Measure 4 is labeled "Am" and shows a treble clef with notes on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th strings. The bass clef shows the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd strings. Fingering is indicated by numbers 1, 2, 3, 2 below the notes.

Travis Picking - Variation 1 (continued)

Goal #4: If no lower string is available, go to higher (pitch) string for alternating 'bass' note. See examples in measures 5 and 6 below.

Goal #5: Ideally the alternating 'bass' note should either go to the lower string on the same fret as the first 'bass' note (down a 4th interval) OR up to the note two frets higher on the string above (up a 5th interval - in the case of the G chord shown in measure 7 below you can go to the D string for the alternated 'bass' note since that is the same note as would satisfy the '5th up' idea on the next higher string.)

Goal #6: Adapt chords you know to satisfy Goal #5 as is shown in the example of the C chord in measure 8. Note that the 3rd fret note on the low E string is added to the chord so that when you play the alternated bass note it is a 4th down, rather than play the open E, which would not produce the classic Travis Picking sound.

The musical score consists of four systems, each representing a measure. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble clef staff shows a repeating rhythmic pattern of notes: i (up), p (down), m (up), p (down). The bass clef staff shows the corresponding fret numbers and string numbers for the bass notes.

- Measure 5:** Treble clef: i, p, m, p. Bass clef: p₀, p₀, p₀, p₀. Chord: Em.
- Measure 6:** Treble clef: i, p, m, p. Bass clef: p₀, p₂, p₀, p₀. Chord: Em.
- Measure 7:** Treble clef: i, p, m, p. Bass clef: p₃, p₀, p₃, p₀. Chord: G.
- Measure 8:** Treble clef: i, p, m, p. Bass clef: p₃, p₀, p₃, p₀. Chord: C.