

Three Note Chords in C Major

Here we examine chord techniques that are needed in playing the guitar. A chord played on the first three strings poses little problem for most novice players but a chord struck on the "inside strings" can be somewhat difficult. To avoid striking an extra string, let the pick come to a rest on the string that is to be omitted. As an example, if you have a chord on the fourth, third and second strings, allow the pick to stop on the first string. This will help to enunciate the highest note of the chord. The technique is much the same as glide picking arpeggios. Control the pick with the wrist and elbow rather than the thumb and index finger. Here we are using the chords to harmonize a melody as compared to playing a rhythm accompaniment. Also notice that the left hand fourth finger is used in playing melody notes at the third fret. This is not a hard and fast rule but is simply easier when you are holding a chord.

Always read the chord from the lowest note upward.

Allow the chord to keep sounding during the following melody note(s).

Most commonly, the single notes following the chord will blend into the harmony so allow the chord to keep sounding. If you hear a harmonic clash, then this would not be prudent. The music here has been designed to produce very little in the way of harmonic dissonances.