

Chords, Scales and Arpeggios

Generally, a very specific chord is best played with a down stroke. The consequence is that it may take a bit of planning on the single notes to have this happen seamlessly.

"A Mix-Up in C Major"

The musical score consists of four staves of guitar notation in C major. The first staff starts with a C chord, followed by an arpeggio with a 'glide picking' annotation. The second staff features an F chord, another arpeggio, and a G7 chord. The third staff shows a G chord, a C chord, and a G7 chord, with a note about picking an arpeggio. The fourth staff includes an F chord, a C chord, and a G7 chord, with a note about different picking methods. Chord diagrams are provided for C, F, G, and G7. Fingering numbers (0, 1, 2, 3, 4) are indicated for various notes.

For the lack of a better description, the above non-award-winning tune sounds a bit like some kind of heroic national anthem. Most of the techniques which have been presented to this point show up in this song. This tune is technically more challenging than meets the eye. Chord solos of this nature but not necessarily this kind of song style will be a big part of this book. At this juncture, our chord vocabulary is very limited. As the chord choice increases, future chord solos will be melodically and harmonically more interesting.

Students who have come to this stage after having completed the Guitar Fundamentals Primer should be able to play a chord accompaniment for just about any of the preceding exercises. A typical alternating-bass-chord style would usually do. The "F" chord may still pose a problem for some players because it appears to take more strength than some easier fingerings. The truth is that the "F" chord does not actually take so much strength but rather, very precise fingering. It will also help if you have the "nut action" on your guitar adjusted to perfection. Experience has shown that even some relatively good guitars come out of the factory with the action not adjusted to perfection. It is well worth the few dollars to take it to a guitar repair technician and have the action lowered to a desirable height. (The "nut" on the guitar is the plastic or bone saddle at the "0" fret at the end of the fingerboard. Making the proper adjustment there is not that difficult but it must be done with absolute precision.)