

Syncopating in C

Some picking instructions are given. Generally, it is a fairly good idea to follow the syncopation with the pick stroke. Play down beats with a down stroke and up beats with the up stroke but this is not a hard and fast rule.

Obvious arpeggios can be played with glide picking.

In a song with a "latin" groove, the basic four to a bar rhythm guitar is not very satisfactory. Here is the basic 8 to a bar rhythm in several forms. If there is no bass player, the guitarist can supply a bass note on the first and third beats as shown in the second measure. The up stroke chord can be very "thin". Two or three of the higher pitched strings is all you usually will need.

If there is a bassist in your ensemble, the rhythm guitarist can exchange the bass note for a "low note strum" as shown in the third bar or in a truly orchestral style, as shown in the fourth measure, the bass note is completely omitted on beats one and three. A bassist would usually play on the strong beats in the bar.