

A Tremelo is a rapid alternating motion [Think of Russian music or spy music]. Tremelo picking comes from a RELAXED wrist and NOT the forearm, elbow or shoulder.

Count 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & and let your "Wrist" lightly pick up and down on one note. You can then gradually build a rapid alternating speed. Also try "Accenting" the first note in each bar. [Always avoiding tension in the elbow].

EX.1

1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and



Accent Accent

Now play it by Doubling the speed and INTERNALISE [Feel] the "1 e & a" Rhythm. Count it in your mind as you pluck up and down.

EX.2 1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a



BASIC TREMOLO MELODY/MOTIF PICKING

Now try a short Tremolo melodic Motif/Melody. Remember though to hear/feel the "1e and a" rhythmic drive.

12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10

8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10

In this exercise we will tremolo on the open E 1st string and play a simple scalar motif on the 1st note of each "1e and a" grouping.

0 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 7 0 0 0 8 0 0 0 10 0 0 0 12 0 0 0 10 0 0 0

8 0 0 0 7 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 3 0 0 0

SUSTAINED CHORD WITH TREMOLO PICKING:

Here we will pluck a chord and follow it with a tremelo. Please let the chord "SUSTAIN" for the whole bar as you tremelo [best employed on an acoustic guitar for full effect].

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time and features a treble clef. The guitar TAB below the staff shows a sequence of fret numbers: 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12. This sequence is divided into two measures by a bar line. The first measure contains 12 frets, and the second measure contains 7 frets. The notation above the staff shows a chord being plucked at the beginning of the first measure, followed by a tremolo pattern of eighth notes.

The second system of musical notation is in 4/4 time and features a treble clef. The guitar TAB below the staff shows a sequence of fret numbers: 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3. This sequence is divided into two measures by a bar line. The first measure contains 3 frets, and the second measure contains 5 frets. The notation above the staff shows a chord being plucked at the beginning of the first measure, followed by a tremolo pattern of eighth notes.

MIXING TREMOLO PICKING WITH ALTERNATE PICKING:

Sometimes we do Mix the Tremelo Picking with Alternate Picking for effect. This is usually an instinctive thing as we progress. **This is a useful effect BUT again I would advise using this Sparingly!**

SETTING UP TREMELO:

Musical notation in 4/4 time. The first measure contains a G4 chord (G4, B4, D5). The second measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: G4, F4, E4, D4. The third and fourth measures contain tremolo picking on the G4 note. The fifth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: G4, F4, E4, D4. The sixth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: C4, B3, A3, G3. The seventh measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: F3, E3, D3, C3. The eighth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: B2, A2, G2, F2. The ninth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: E2, D2, C2, B1. The tenth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: A1, G1, F1, E1. The eleventh measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: D1, C1, B0, A0. The twelfth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: G0, F0, E0, D0. The thirteenth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: C0, B-1, A-2, G-3. The fourteenth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: F-4, E-5, D-6, C-7. The fifteenth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: B-8, A-9, G-10, F-11. The sixteenth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: E-12, D-13, C-14, B-15. The seventeenth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: A-16, G-17, F-18, E-19. The eighteenth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: D-20, C-21, B-22, A-23. The nineteenth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: G-24, F-25, E-26, D-27. The twentieth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: C-28, B-29, A-30, G-31. The notation ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

6 8 7 5 8 5 6 etc

6
5
5
5

Variation:

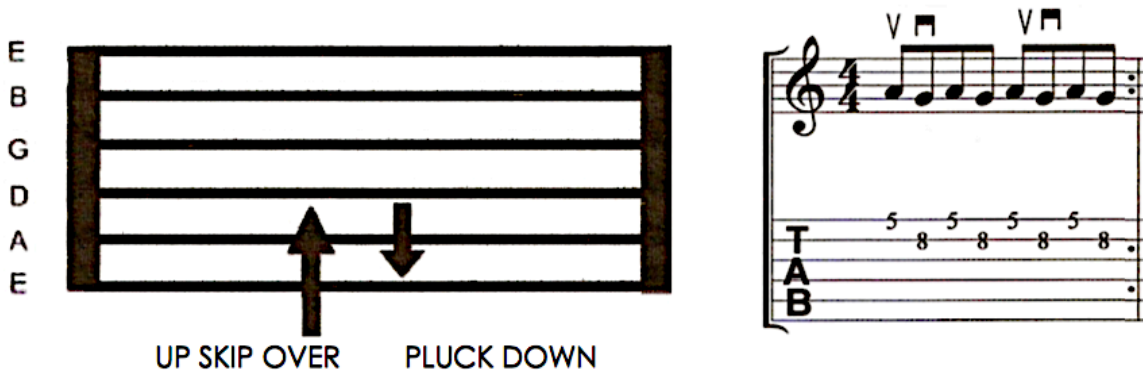
Musical notation in 4/4 time. The first measure contains a G4 chord (G4, B4, D5). The second measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: G4, F4, E4, D4. The third measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: C4, B3, A3, G3. The fourth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: F3, E3, D3, C3. The fifth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: B2, A2, G2, F2. The sixth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: E2, D2, C2, B1. The seventh measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: A1, G1, F1, E1. The eighth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: D1, C1, B0, A0. The ninth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: G0, F0, E0, D0. The tenth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: C0, B-1, A-2, G-3. The eleventh measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: F-4, E-5, D-6, C-7. The twelfth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: B-8, A-9, G-10, F-11. The thirteenth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: E-12, D-13, C-14, B-15. The fourteenth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: A-16, G-17, F-18, E-19. The fifteenth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: D-20, C-21, B-22, A-23. The sixteenth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: G-24, F-25, E-26, D-27. The seventeenth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: C-28, B-29, A-30, G-31. The eighteenth measure contains a descending eighth-note scale: F-32, E-33, D-34, C-35. The notation ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

5 6 8 5 8

WHAT IS HAPPENING WHEN WE ARE CROSSING STRINGS: EXPLAINED

It is important to be able to "Tremelo" across all 6 strings ascending and descending. Many books/dvds only look at the tremelo as a single string concept. but here we will employ tremelo picking across all 6 strings on both an arpeggio and a scale.

If we look at the diagram below we can see what is PHYSICALLY taking place when we are picking across from the "Outside" of the 1st and 2nd strings. **We are skipping over the second string and "Not even Touching it", before we come back down to pluck it!**



When we do this we naturally Align with the next string that we wish to pluck. This gives us the Correct Leverage and hand positioning so that we can play each note AS IT COMES.

TREMOLO CROSSING 2 STRING EXERCISE:

Next try the exercise below with quavers and count as you cross the strings on the up stroke. Then try it by doubling the speed with 16th's. Again count the rhythm so that you cross smoothly.

8th notes

16th notes "Double time"

The image shows two musical staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a 'V' above it. The first staff contains 8th notes: a sequence of 8 notes on the 5th string (5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5) and a sequence of 8 notes on the 8th string (8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8). The second staff contains 16th notes: a sequence of 16 notes on the 5th string (5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5) and a sequence of 16 notes on the 8th string (8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8). Both staves have a double bar line at the end.

1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and

1 e and a etc.

EVEN PATTERNS:

First try this with 8th notes and then double the speed with 16th notes. Hear the internalised "1e and a" of the Sixteenth notes and as you cross the strings you will always cross with the same EVEN stroke. This makes crossing the strings very easy because when you can cross 2 strings then you can SIMPLY REPLICATE this across all 6 strings.

The image shows a musical score for guitar. The top staff is a treble clef staff in 4/4 time. It contains two measures of music. The first measure has four eighth notes on the G string (5th fret), followed by four eighth notes on the B string (8th fret). The second measure has eight sixteenth notes on the G string (5th fret), followed by eight sixteenth notes on the B string (8th fret). Below the treble staff is a TAB staff with six lines. The first two lines are labeled 'T' and 'A' respectively. The TAB staff contains the following fret numbers: 5 5 5 5 8 8 8 8 . in the first measure, and 5 5 5 5 8 8 8 8 5 5 5 5 8 8 8 8 . in the second measure. The bottom two lines of the TAB staff are empty.

If you find this easy then you can employ triplets rather than 16th's for odd grouping. But most students find Even groupings easiest for a smooth and effortless tremolo.

TREMOLO PICKING ACROSS ALL 6 STRINGS EXERCISE:

Guitar

Guitar

T
A
B

12 9 10 9 6 7 2 4

3

5 4 2 7 6 9 10 9

TREMOLO PICKING ACROSS ALL 6 STRINGS 16'S G MAJOR SCALE: "EVEN"

Guitar

Guitar

T
A
B

3

5 4 7 5 4 7 5 3

5

7 5 3 5 7 3 5 7

7

4 5 7 4 5 7 5 7 8 5 7 8

ODD TREMOLO PATTERNS:

For some players playing in ODD groupings may be easier or just preferable. But be warned if you mix up odd groupings with even groupings then you can come unstuck. This is why many players have problems with tremelo picking and it is also the reason why many beginners cause injury by tremelo picking with mad aggression and forceful tension.

Firstly INTERNALISE these rhythms.

The image shows a musical score for guitar in 4/4 time, divided into two measures. The top staff is a treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The first measure contains four groups of three eighth notes, each group marked with a '3' below it. The second measure contains six groups of three eighth notes, each group marked with a '3' below it. Below the treble staff is a tablature staff labeled 'TAB' on the left. The first measure of the tablature consists of 16 eighth notes, each marked with an '8'. The second measure consists of 24 eighth notes, each marked with an '8'. The entire score is enclosed in a rectangular box.

G MAJOR TREMOLO PICKING "ODD" PATTERNS TRIPLETS GMAJOR SCALE EXERCISE:

8 7 5 8 7 5 7 5 4 7 5 4

7 5 3 7 5 3 5 7 3 5 7 4

5 7 4 5 7 5 7 8 5 7

ARPEGGIO IN "ODD" TRIPLETS A MAJOR

The image displays a musical score for guitar in A major, featuring arpeggiated triplets. The score is divided into two systems. The first system consists of a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature and a guitar tablature staff. The treble staff contains four measures of music, each with a triplet of eighth notes. The tablature staff shows the corresponding fret numbers: 12, 9, 10, 9, 6, 7, 2, 4, 5, 4, 2, 7. The second system is a repeat section, also in 4/4 time, with a treble clef staff and a guitar tablature staff. The treble staff contains four measures of music, each with a triplet of eighth notes. The tablature staff shows the corresponding fret numbers: 6, 9, 10, 9.

IN CONCLUSION:

I hope that this books has been of some use to you.
Always remember that when it comes to tremolo picking Avoid tension! Try and play slightly behind what you are capable of and that way you won't race ahead of yourself and you will always have control of your speed and precision whilst avoiding injury.

Good Luck! Thank you for taking the time out to study/read this book.



Clifford Martin c2011

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