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Hammer-On/Pull-Off Combinations

It is possible and desirable to do combinations of hammer-ons and pull-offs. Below are a few exercises to get you going. Make sure each note sounds clearly and at the same volume as all the others. In these exercises, there is a finger pattern executed on one string that is then sequenced to all the other strings. Each string is plucked only once, at the beginning of the pattern.

Exercise 63: 2-4-2-1

64

H P P H P P H P P H P P H P P H P P

11-13-11-10 11-13-11-10 8-10-8-7 8-10-8-7 6-8-6-5 6-8-6-5-3

2 4 2 1 2 4 2 1 2 4 2 1 2 4 2 1 2 4 2 1 2 4 2 1 1

Exercise 64: 3-4-3-1

65

H P P H P P H P P H P P H P P H P P

12-13-12-10 12-13-12-10 9-10-9-7 9-10-9-7 7-8-7-5 7-8-7-5-5

3 4 3 1 3 4 3 1 3 4 3 1 3 4 3 1 3 4 3 1 1

Exercise 65: 1-2-3-4-3-2-1

66

H H H P P P H H H P P P H H H P P P H H H P P P H H H P P P H H H P P P

5-6-7-8-7-6-5 5-6-7-8-7-6-5 5-6-7-8-7-6-5 5-6-7-8-7-6-5 5-6-7-8-7-6-5 5-6-7-8-7-6-5

1 2 3 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 3 2 1

This is a nice lick in D Harmonic Minor.

Exercise 66: Cross-String Pull-Off Pattern 1-2-1-3

67

P P P P P P S

5 6 5 7 6 8 7 5 8 7 5 4 5

1 2 1 3 2 4 3 1 4 3 1-1 1

Going Up and Down the Fingerboard Quickly

We all want to do it, but how? Here are some really happening scales and arpeggios you can use to get up and down the fingerboard as fast as possible. We'll use the *hexatonic* scale, which only has six notes instead of the usual seven. It has all but the fourth note of the major scale. Also, the fingering works out to be three-notes-per string. You have to play *very* accurately. The up side is that the fingering is always the same. The down side is that it is always 1–2–4, which is difficult. Try it first in triplets and then try it with straight eighths.

Exercise 73: Three-Octave F Major Hexatonic Scale

74

Treble clef: \square V \square V etc.
 T: 1 3 5 7 9 10 12
 A: 1) 2 4 1) 2 4 1) 2 4 1) 2 4 1) 2 4
 B: 1) 2 4 1) 2 4 1) 2 4 1) 2 4 1) 2 4
 T: 12 10 8 6 5 3 1
 A: 4 2 1) 4 2 1) 4 2 1) 4 2 1) 4 2 1)
 B: 4 2 1) 4 2 1) 4 2 1) 4 2 1) 4 2 1) 4 2 1)

Exercise 74: Three-Octave F Major Hexatonic Arpeggio

75

Treble clef: \square V \square V etc.
 T: 1 5 7 9 10 12
 A: 1) 4 1) 4 1) 4 1) 4 1) 4 1)
 B: 1) 4 1) 4 1) 4 1) 4 1) 4 1)
 T: 12 8 6 5 3 1
 A: 4 1) 4 1) 4 1) 4 1) 4 1)
 B: 4 1) 4 1) 4 1) 4 1) 4 1)

Major Linkages

Linkages are patterns that take you across the fingerboard from top to bottom or vice versa. Each linkage starts on a particular major-scale degree from which four arpeggios are played one after another in descending or ascending order. You'll find that there are several instances where you have to "roll" one of your fingers across two strings to play two adjacent notes. Watch the fingerings and use alternate picking. Make sure you master these.

Exercise 87: Major Linkage 1 from the 2nd (or 9th) Degree

88

T 10-7 8 9-10 10-7 9 10-7 8 9 10-7 8 8 7-10 9 8 7-10 9 7-10 10 9 8 7-10

4 1 2 3 4 4 1 3 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 2 1 4 3 2 1 4 3 3 1 4 4 3 2 1 4

Exercise 88: Major Linkage 2 from the 7th Degree

89

T 7 8 9 10 10-7 9 10 10-7 8 10 10-7 8 5 5 8 7-10 10 8 7-10 10 9 7-10 10 9 8 7

1 2 3 4 4 1 3 4 4 1 2 4 4 1 2 1) 1) 2 1 4 4 2 1 4 4 3 1 4 4 3 2 1

Exercise 89: Major Linkage 3 from the 5th Degree

90

T 15-12 13 14 15-12 12 14 14 15-12 14 14 15-12 13-13 12-15 14 14 12-15 14 14 12 12-15 14 13 12-15

4 1 2 3 4 1 1 3 3 4 1 3 3 4 1 2 2 1 4 3 3 1 4 3 3 1 1 4 3 2 1 4