

May Madness! 25% off yearly membership

[Click here to grab our best price](#)

Offer ends May 29th 23:59 GMT

Get **20% off** annual membership before your trial ends – **Only 5 days left**

[Back to all courses](#)

Acoustic Beginners

LEVEL 2 • Guitar Skills



Recently viewed



Theatre mode

Practice summary

+ Add

You haven't logged any practice time for this lesson yet. There's no time like the present to [start](#)

Travis Picking Part 1

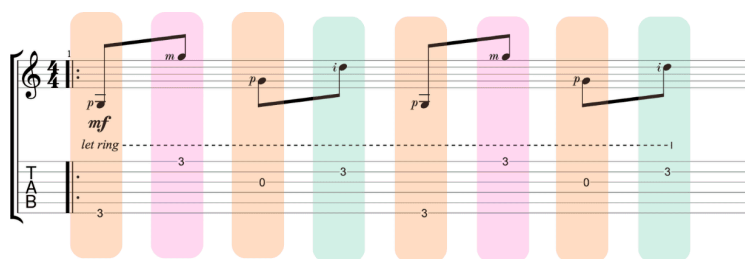
UNIT 3 • **LESSON 1** << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

Lesson notes

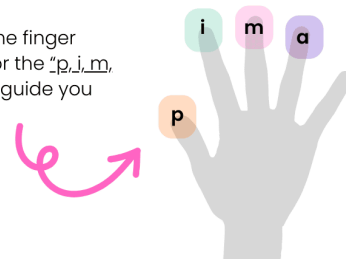
Interactive tab

Travis Picking

Travis picking is the first step towards acoustic fingerstyle playing. The creator of Travis picking is Merle Travis, an American country and Western musician, who was the pioneer of this syncopated picking technique and therefore the style was named after him. To begin with, let's look at the finger symbols that you may well see on TAB, and how they relate to the tab. Here is our first exercise:



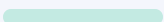
Match up the colours here to the finger colours. You want to look out for the "p,i,m,a" signs on the tab, as that will guide you as to what fingers to use!



Course navigation

UNIT 1

Sus Chords

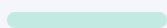
 0%



Part 1

UNIT 2

Sus Chords

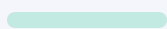
 0%



Part 2

UNIT 3

Travis Picking






 0%



Part 1

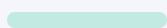
This new technique is all about keeping a moving bass line with your thumb and melody notes with the fingers, so it is pretty challenging! However, we will break it down nice and slow for you and apply everything we learn to a cool folk song!

Lessons:

-  **Travis Picking**
-  **Adding Chords**
-  **"Let Them All Go"**
-  **The Verse**
-  **The Chorus**

UNIT 4

Travis Picking

 0%



Part 2

For Travis picking, we mainly use the thumb, first and second finger, with the occasional use of the third finger. We very rarely use the little finger in this technique. The basic concept behind Travis picking is that the thumb plays a note on every beat. This moving thumb bass line often creates the sound associated with the style.



Use the interactive tab to get this finger pattern on repeat! You need to run it with the tab to get it as rhythmical as possible as well. Good luck, and don't rush!

Dan



**All
done?**

Click here to mark this lesson as complete.

Not quite done? Check the toolbox for more practice options.

[Next lesson](#)

guitar club

Made with ❤️ by Your Guitar Academy © 2025



COURSES

Guitar Skills
Player Studies
Theory Lab
Challenges
Masterclasses

TOOLS

Scale Builder
Practice History

PRICING

Subscriptions
Prepaid

BLOG

Latest Posts
All Posts

ACCOUNT

Settings
Manage subscription
Order history
Logout

COMPANY

Terms & Conditions
Privacy Policy
Cookie Preferences

GET IN TOUCH

contact@guitarclub.io

Currency: £GBP **\$USD**