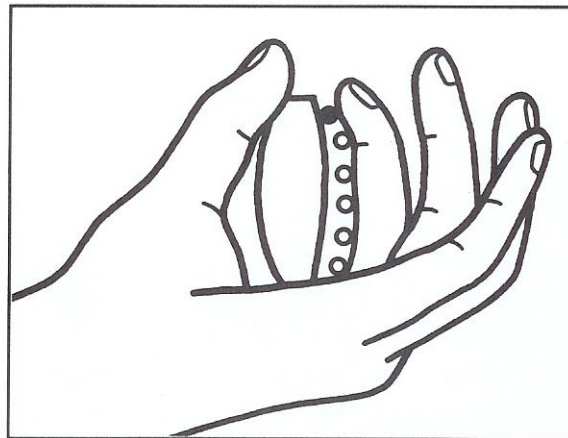


Keeping Non-Ringing Strings Quiet

A large part of metal guitar technique comes down to quieting, or muting, the strings that you don't want to ring. Otherwise, when you're playing with the amp turned up loud, those extra strings will be a constant headache for you, always adding unwanted noise. And how else are you going to keep them quiet when you're doing backflips off the drum riser? It may seem difficult now, but don't give up! You need to adopt this habit for everything you play.

The first step of this technique is to mute strings 1-5 when you are playing notes on the sixth string, as in the examples 1 and 2. Lay your first finger *lightly* across all six strings to hold them mute. Don't press down or you'll be fretting the strings. Instead, press only on the sixth string to fret the note you want, as in the diagram below. With this position, even if you accidentally pick another string it can't ring.



Playing notes on the 6th string

Test your muting in example 3. While each note is still ringing, intentionally pick the other strings—you should only hear the click of the pick striking the strings. If you hear anything else, you aren't muting the strings correctly. Fix it!

First, pick the note.
↓
Then, pick the other strings: nothing but a "click" should sound.
↓

3

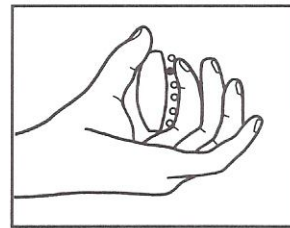
	A	B	C	B	A
T	x	x	x	x	x
A	x	x	x	x	x
B	x	x	x	x	x
5	1	1	1	1	1

Fingering: 1 1 1 1 1

Now go back and play through examples 1 and 2 on the previous pages, but this time practice muting strings 1-5.

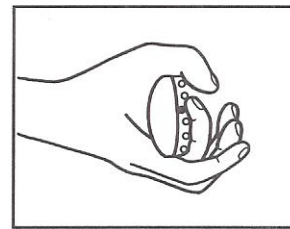
When you play notes on the other strings, you'll need to hold quiet both the higher sounding strings as well as the lower sounding strings. Use the side of your first finger for any higher strings as before. For the lower sounding strings, you will need to use the following techniques.

The tip of your first finger can always touch and hold the next lower string mute. When you are playing notes on the fifth string, use this technique to keep the sixth string quiet as in the diagram to the right.



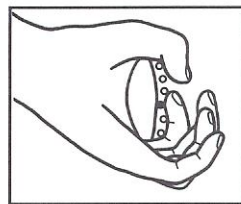
Playing on the 5th String

When you play notes on the fourth string, your first finger can mute strings 1-3 and string 5 using the above techniques. In addition, hook your thumb over the top of the neck to mute the sixth string as in the diagram.

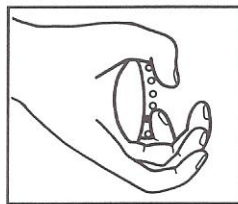


Playing on the 4th String

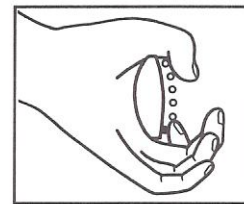
When you play notes on the first, second or third strings, some of the lower strings can't easily be muted with the left hand. Instead, try using your right hand palm to hold them quiet, if necessary.



3rd String

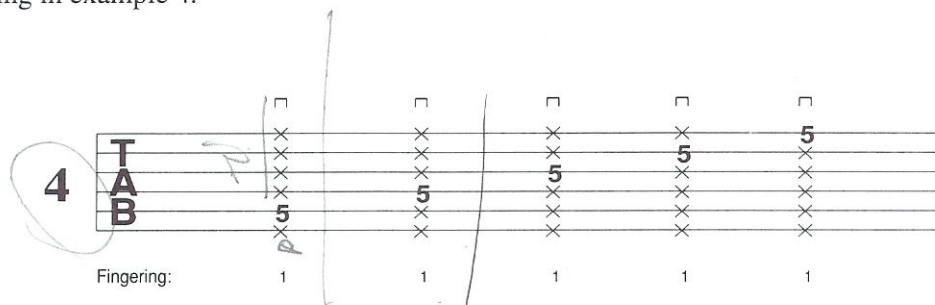


2nd String



1st String

If you are doing this right, you should be able to strum across all the strings, yet only the right one will ring in example 4.



Keep in mind that while this is a good system for controlling the strings, it's not written in stone—different players may do it a little differently. You'll have to decide whether you want to do it my way or be stubborn and wrongheaded and follow your own sick preferences. That's OK, as long as you find *some* way to do it!