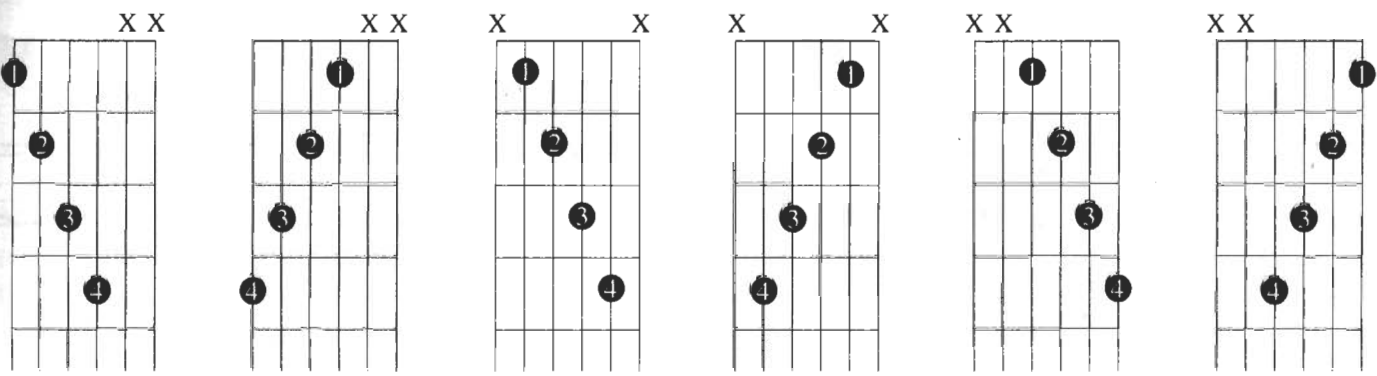


May '89: SMART FINGERS (PART TWO)

The exercises that follow are a product of my determination to develop a group of warm-up routines that are both effective and challenging. In my first Smart Fingers article (Sept. '87) I showed you an exercise called Diminished Chord Relay; I hope you're still using it! These patterns are very beneficial in developing basic coordination skills, and as I stated before, diversification is paramount.

This month's exercise is called "Diagonal Chord Relay." Each group of six chords should be cleanly strummed, then performed one fret higher. Start at the 1st fret and work your way up the fretboard. I've also included a variation that should get your equal attention. In playing these patterns use this approach: strum, mute, switch; strum, mute, switch. This technique will eliminate unwanted string noise when switching from chord to chord. Stay in tune. Stay in control. Keep in touch.

Ex. 1



Ex. 2: Variation

