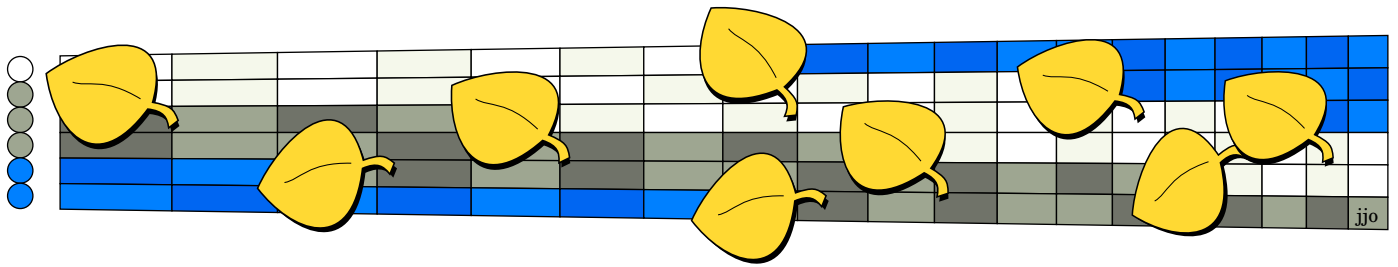


September Fretboard Exercises

An Autumn Sightread



Exercise 1: I 2 II 3 III 5 IV 6 V 4 VI 7 VII 3 VIII 5

Exercise 1 Vivaldi(1725): Four Seasons, Autumn, RV 293, No.3, 'Caccia' 1

Autumn in Colorado!

What better symbol of autumn in Colorado than the golden leaves and white bark of the aspen against the deep blue mountain sky? The seasons, they are a changing.

Exercise 1 is the theme from the third movement of Vivaldi's celebration of *Autumn* as the third violin concerto of *The Four Seasons*, composed three hundred years ago. It is a depiction of hunting (*caccia*) according to its accompanying sonnet, which mentions the hunters' horns, presumably reflecting the opening intervals of the theme.

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Four_Seasons_\(Vivaldi\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Four_Seasons_(Vivaldi))

The Voices of Music, an early music group in San Francisco, has an outstanding video of this movement performed on Baroque period instruments and produced in 4K high definition video. Guitarists may notice the five-string fretted bass and the archlute, both of which can be seen more clearly on the VoM support page photo. The lutenist is David Tayler, one of their co-directors and an expert in 4K video production. Guitarists may also enjoy hearing him play Bach's Lute Prelude on the archlute, which he plays like a 9 string guitar with no double courses.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uw3GaQZmsyc> (Carla Moore & Voices of Music 2021)
- <https://voicesofmusic.org/support.html> (see photo of fretted bass and archlute)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnpaMm_2QYc (David Tayler, archlute 2014)

This next video might indirectly help your sightreading if you read along in the violin score while the concerto plays. It should help you connect what you see on the page to what you hear. While it doesn't help you learn how to find notes on the fretboard, it does get you used to reading music at tempo and hearing the intervals and rhythms it represents. Give it a try.

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUEfn_IT5J0&t=445s (with violin score view)

Reading the original score above also shows how this exercise was simplified for sightreading the main theme. The time signature was changed from 3/8 to 3/4 to avoid 32nd notes and the key was transposed from F to C. The initial theme is the same (measures m1-7 in the exercise = measures M1-7 in original), as is its reprise at the end (m34-40 = M116-122). In the middle, the theme is played a fifth higher, also the same (m15-21 = M97-103). But the transition going up (m8-14) skips a lot (to M53-59). And the transition going down (m22-33) has reduced the fast triplets of the original (M104-115) to make sightreading easier. So you wind up with the theme appearing three times with Vivaldi's chord progressions connecting them.

This exercise is from the yet to be released book “Chromatic Fretboard Exercises”, which contains over a thousand such exercises and will be made available for free on IMSLP. It may be freely copied and modified, but with the condition that it be attributed to J. J. Olson (CC-BY license).

Interested? Contact Jeff Olson at jjocanoe@gmail.com

*P.S. It easiest to follow these links if you **get the pdf** as indicated on the first page.*