



LearnCigarBoxGuitar.com

# How to use your Flatpick

Prepared for: 3 string fretted cbg

Prepared by: Patrick Curley



# Picking in time

## Objective

Your pick is the thing that makes the noise happen. If it's doing its job then every note sounds clean, is the right volume and is in time. The earlier you can get these fundamentals embedded into your playing then the faster you'll progress later on. The early lessons focus very closely on your right hand, both technically and on its role as the time-keeper. This lesson will add to your single string picking with a simple strum but more importantly introduce the timing exercise which will, more than anything else, contribute to your capacity as a musician. If you can play in time the simplest of tunes will sound musical, if you can't then forget it.

## Goals

For this lesson your goal is to learn a strumming technique and to embed it and your picking with the timing exercise.



### The timing exercise

I've created a simple drum track from a drum loop so that you know it's in time. It can be used with any of your picking exercises to work on both your timing and your picking. As you play along with it you'll notice that at regular intervals it will stop and restart after either one or two bars. You need to continue to play in time without the drum track so that when it comes back in you are playing on that first down beat. I demonstrate how it works in the lesson video.

The first timing exercise is a single string downstroke.

- Tap your foot along with the drum beat and play down strokes with your pick on every downbeat.
- After 2 bars the drums will stop for a bar, continue playing so that when the drums come back you're still playing in time. After 2 bars there'll be another one bar pause. After that there are 2 bar pauses just to make it a bit harder for you.
- Stay relaxed, focus your listening on the drum track, not your guitar and be aware that you'll miss it sometimes. This exercise will be useful for you for many years to come, no-one will get it right every time.

Then repeat the exercise with alternating down and up strokes and then with the full strumming action always on the downbeat, as demonstrated in the video.

**Come back to this timing exercise for all of the picking technique lessons throughout the course.**