

## March 2013 [www.joedocmusic.com](http://www.joedocmusic.com) Guitar Journal PDF

Copyright 2013 www.joedocmusic.com/Joe Dochtermann, all rights reserved. This document and all contents are only to be distributed by www.joedocmusic.com from the designated download link. Contents may not be copied, reproduced, redistributed, resold, recycled, or regurgitated without express permission of the author. So there.

For your reference, here's a link to the YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTHwqVadL64>

This month's lesson is a primer on some of the country guitar techniques that differ significantly from how you probably play if you come from the blues/rock school of guitar playing.

I'm planning a full DVD in this style, which will expand on these ideas and add a lot more about double-stops, bending, chromatics, and creating fills and solos using all these techniques. Bookmark our site and subscribe to [our YouTube channel](#) to be sure you don't miss upcoming lessons!

\*

First off is the tab for the lick I play at the beginning of the video.

I suggest that you work through the video before jumping in and trying this. It's important to learn the proper right-hand technique first - you don't want to practice incorrectly and wind up "programming" your fingers the wrong way.

If you're familiar with hybrid picking, then you're ready to try it out:

My suggestions for the picking are next to the tab:

P = pick

M = middle finger

R = ring finger

Please pardon the way the tablature program displays the grace notes on the D-string. They are:

Hammer-on from the 4th fret to the 5th fret in bars 1 and 3

Hammer-on from the 9th fret to the 10th fret in the first half of bar 2

Hammer-on from the 10th fret to the 11th fret in the second half of bar 2.

A musical staff showing a guitar lick in G major pentatonic scale. The notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, D5, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lick is played with a consistent picking pattern.

P M P R M P R M      continue picking pattern      P M P R M P R M

Guitar tab for the lick. The strings are labeled E, B, G, D, A, E from top to bottom. Fret numbers are: 4 5 5 5 4 5 4 5 5 5 0 | 9 10 10 10 10 11 10 11 11 0 | 4 5 5 5 4 5 4 5 5 5 0 | 4 4 4 4 7 0 7 7 0. Picking patterns are indicated below the strings.

A musical staff showing a guitar lick in G major pentatonic scale. The notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, D5, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lick is played with a consistent picking pattern.

P M P M R P R M R

Guitar tab for the lick. The strings are labeled E, B, G, D, A, E from top to bottom. Fret numbers are: 8 0 0 7 7 0 7 0 8 7 8 7 0. Picking patterns are indicated below the strings. There are also some additional markings like 'SI' and '1-3'.

\*

Next up after the talk about guitar/amp/effects is the variations on the G major pentatonic scale. First the straight G major pentatonic, and then with the added minor third:

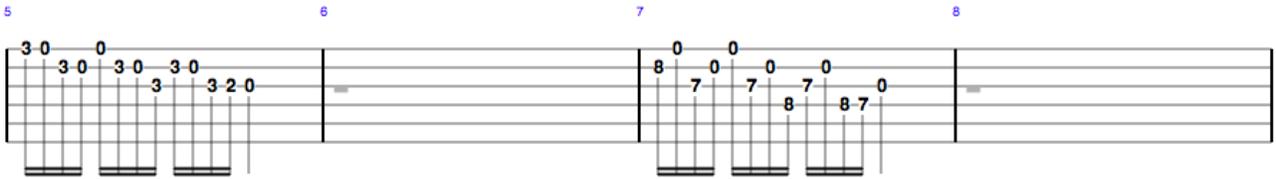
Musical notation for a G major pentatonic scale in 4/4 time. The notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, D5, C5, B4, A4, G4. The scale is played with a consistent picking pattern.

Guitar tab for the G major pentatonic scale. The strings are labeled E, B, G, D, A, E from top to bottom. Fret numbers are: 3 5 2 5 2 5 2 4 | 3 5 3 | 3 5 1 2 5 2 5 2 | 3 4 3 5 3. Picking patterns are indicated below the strings.

Here is the tab for the lick I played based on this "no open strings" scale shape:

Next up are the scale shapes that use open strings. First, the standard "blues box" pentatonic you know so well, then the "open string nightmare" shape that twists the mind! Remember to practice letting strings ring wherever possible - as I noted in the video, that may seem counter-intuitive at first for players who are used to playing with overdrive, but it's essential to country guitar technique:

To compare the way these two scale shapes sound in use, I played a short riff excerpted from the intro lick. Here it is in both positions.



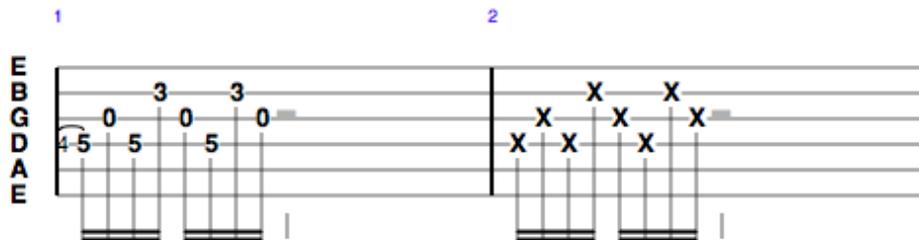
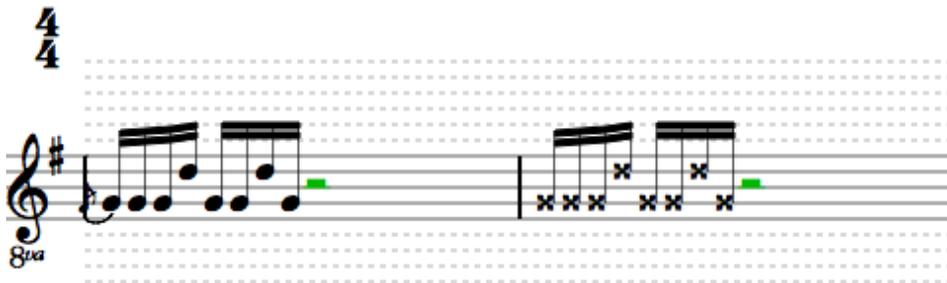
The picking for the second fingering above should be:

P M P M R P M P M R P (pull-off) P

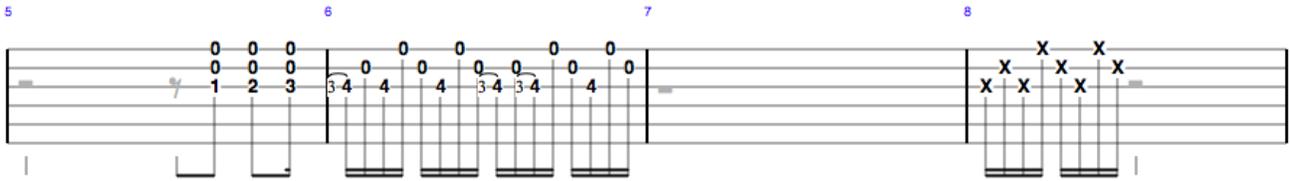
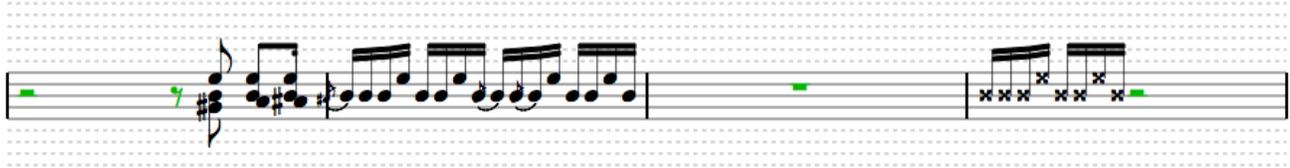
Notice how the pattern "Pick-Middle, Pick-Middle-Ring" repeats. It is very important to look for repeating picking patterns for hybrid picking. You can practice the short pattern repeatedly to "burn" it into muscle memory and then use it in different places once you have it down. This is key to building up the speed you need to play this crazed music.

\*

Speaking of muscle memory and repetition, here is the banjo roll pattern - probably the most popular one - from the opening lick. Sit back on the porch swing with your guitar and practice this one till your fingertips smoke:



This banjo roll pattern comes from those great "breakdown" song intros, like "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" or "Jerry's Breakdown". Notice that this is the same pattern as above, just shifted up to the G-, B-, and E-strings:

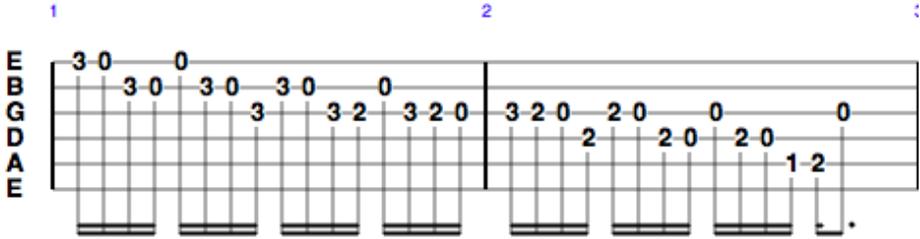
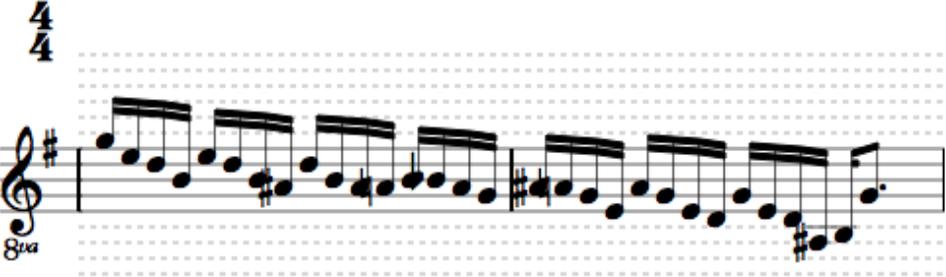


You can get a lot of mileage out of that pattern! There are many more banjo roll patterns, some of which are more complex. In the DVD I have in the works, I'll go over a variety of licks using banjo roll patterns and also explain how to come up with some great ones of your own by "putting the cart before the horse" and forcing the notes to work because the pattern has such strong momentum.

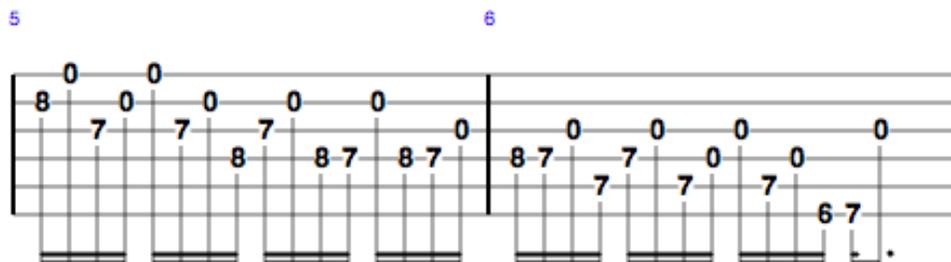
\*

In the last section of the video, I come back to the scale patterns to work a 4-note descending sequence through each scale shape. If this style of playing has piqued your interest, then the next step would be to work out the ascending 4-note sequence, and perhaps also 3-note, 5-note, and 6-note patterns. By mixing and matching and using a few tried-and-true ick endings, you can build up a solid vocabulary for playing in the style.

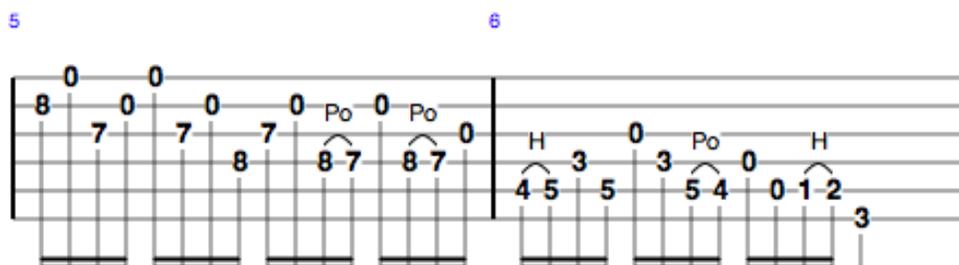
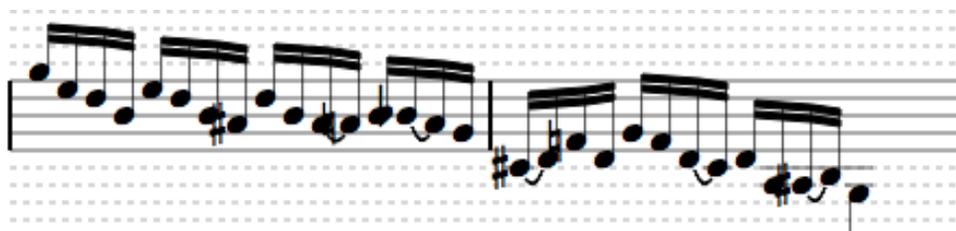
Here's the descending 4-note sequence in through the "blues box" scale shape:



And now through the third scale shape we learned:



Finally, here is the lick I put together with the first part of the 4-note sequence above connected to a classic Albert Lee lick ending. **IMPORTANT** - notice that the picking pattern in the "Albert Lee ending" is, yet again, based on the banjo roll we learned in the video!

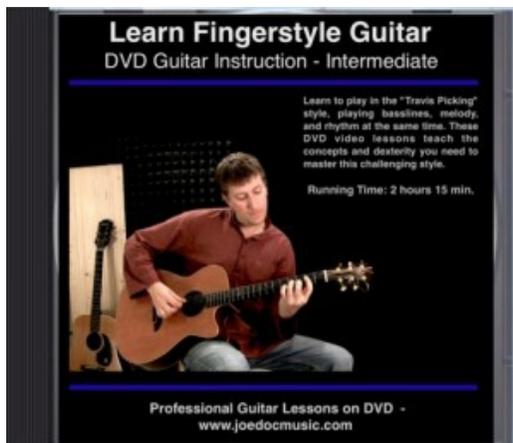


Pick as follows:

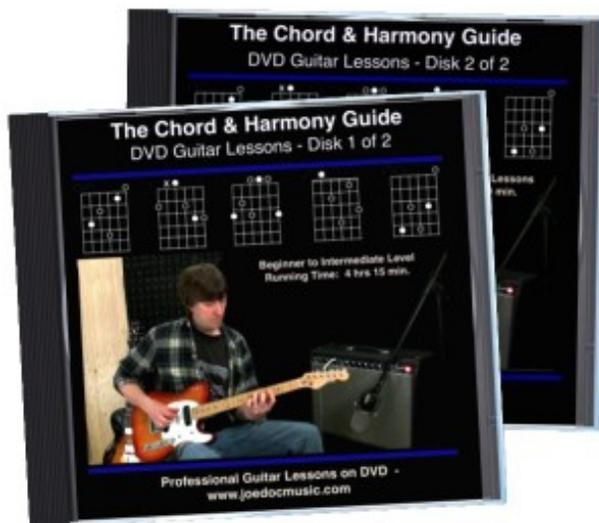
1st bar: P M - P M R, P M - P M R, P (pull-off) R, P (pull-off) M.

2nd Bar: P (hammer-on) M P R M P (pull-off) M P M P

That's all for now. I hope you've enjoyed this month's entry. If you'd like to learn fingerstyle guitar or improve your Travis picking chops (that's the cool style where you pick alternating bass notes while playing chords & melody) then order our "[Fingerstyle 'Travis Picking' DVD](#)" ([click here for the page on our site with video trailers](#)).



If you'd like to expand your chord vocabulary for coming up with a wide variety of chord riffs, arrangements of your favorite tunes, and even lead licks based on chord shapes, then our 2 DVD set "The Chord & Harmony Guide For Guitar" is the way to go. [Click here for more info on our site.](#)



See you next month for the next Guitar Journal entry.

Best Regards,

Joe Dochtermann / [www.joedocmusic.com](http://www.joedocmusic.com)