

A silhouette of a guitarist performing on a stage, set against a bright, hazy background. The guitarist is in a dynamic pose, leaning forward with one hand on the neck of the guitar and the other on the body. The overall scene is lit with a strong blue and white light, creating a dramatic atmosphere.

# **3 Must Know Rock Rhythms**

by Steve Stine



GuitarZoom

# Three Must Know Rock Rhythms

Steve Stine

## Chords used in this lesson

Chord diagrams for A, D, and G chords are shown above the musical notation. The musical notation is in 4/4 time, showing the chords in the treble clef. Below the notation is the corresponding TAB for each chord.

T	0	2	3
A	2	3	3
B	2	2	0
	0	0	3

## Basic beats

Basic beats 1, 2, 3, and 4 are shown in the first staff. The second staff shows offbeat/upbeat patterns (1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &) and downbeat patterns (1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &). Arrows indicate the timing of the offbeat/upbeat and downbeat.

## 1. Downstrokes on the last Upbeat

Musical notation for downstrokes on the last upbeat. The notation shows a series of chords (A, D, G, A) with downstrokes on the last upbeat of each measure. The TAB for the A chord is shown above the first measure.

Musical notation for downstrokes on the last upbeat, showing the sequence of chords (A, D, G, A) and their corresponding TAB. The TAB for the A chord is shown above the first measure.

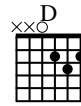
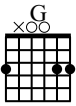
2. "The Eagles" Strum

Down Down Up Up Down Up Down Down Up Up Down Up

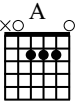
1 2 & & 4 &

Down Down Up Up Down Up Down Down Up Up Down Up

Using Chords

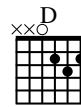
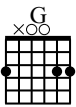


Down Down Up Up Down Up Down Down Up Up Down Up

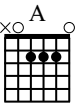


Down Down Up Up Down Up Down Down Up Up Down Up

Using Sixteenth Notes



Down Down Up Up Down Down Up Down Down Up Up Down Down Up



Down Down Up Up Down Down Up Down Down Up Up Down Down Up

**3. Offbeat accentuation**

1 (&) 2 & 3 & 4 & (1) (&) (2) & (3) (&) (4) &

P.M.-----|

(1) (&) 2 & 3 & 4 & (1) (&) (2) & (3) (&) (4) &

P.M.-----|

(1) (&) 2 & 3 & 4 & (1) (&) (2) & (3) (&) (4) &

P.M.-----|

**Variation**

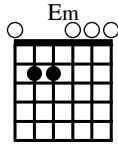
1 (&) 2 & 3 & 4 & (1) & (2) & (3) & (4) &

P.M.-----|

# Guitar Notation Key

STANDARD NOTATION is written on a five-line staff.

TABLATURE represents the six strings of the guitar. The first string (thinnest) is on the top.



**CHORD DIAGRAM**  
It illustrates how to form a chord. The 6th string (thickest) is on the left.

**RIGHT HAND FINGERINGS**  
t (thumb) m (middle)  
i (index) r (ring)

**ACCENT**  
Play this note louder

**STACCATO**  
Play this note short

UPSTROKE  
DOWNSTROKE

## Hammer-On

Pick the first note then sound the second by fretting it without picking.

## Pull-Off

Pick the first note then sound the second by pulling the finger off without picking.

## Vibrato

Bend and release the note continuously and smoothly.

## Wide Vibrato

Bend and release the note continuously and widely to alter the pitch.

## Whole Step Bend

Pick the note then bend the string up one step.

## Half Step Bend

Pick the note then bend the string up a half step.

## Grace Note Bend

Bend the string up immediately.

## Blues Bend

Pick the note then bend the string up slightly.

## Bend and Release

Brackets indicate that this note should not be picked.

Pick only the first note then bend the string up one step. Finally release the bend.

## Pre-Bend

Before picking the note, bend the string up.

## Pre-Bend and Release

First bend the string up then pick the note and finally release the bend back.

## Unison Bend

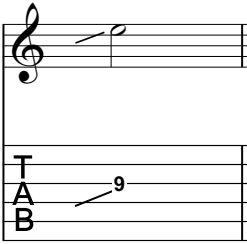
Pick both notes at the same time, immediately bend up the lower to the pitch of the higher.

### Legato Slide



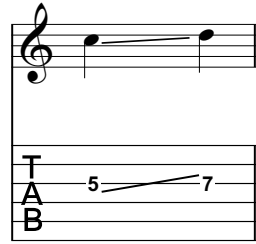
Pick the first note, then slide to the next without picking the last note.

### Airplane Slide



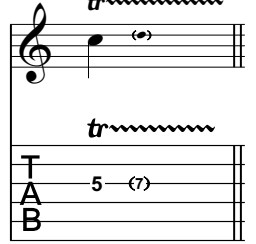
Quickly slide into the note.

### Shift Slide



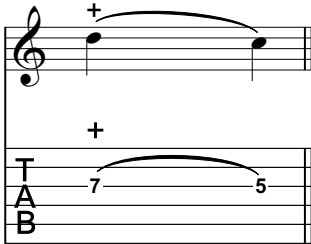
Pick the first note, then slide to the next, then pick the last note as well.

### Trill



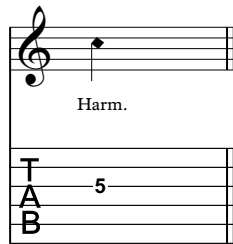
Quickly alternate between the two notes by continuously hammering on and pulling off.

### Tapping



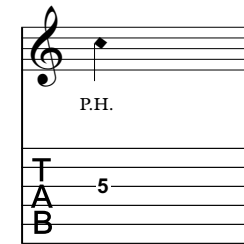
Fret the first note by tapping it with a finger of your picking hand, then pull off to the second note.

### Natural Harmonic



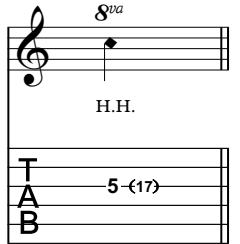
Gently touch the string above the fretwire without pressing it. Pick it. Finally bring your finger back immediately.

### Pinch Harmonic



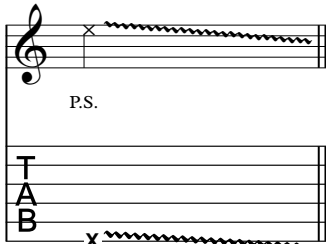
Pick the note normally, immediately touch the string with the thumb of your picking hand.

### Harp Harmonic



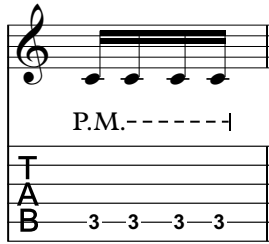
Gently touch the string above the indicated fretwire (in brackets) with your picking hand's index finger while the pick strikes the fretted note.

### Pick Scrape



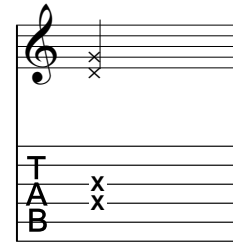
Scrape the edge of the pick along the wound strings.

### Palm Muting



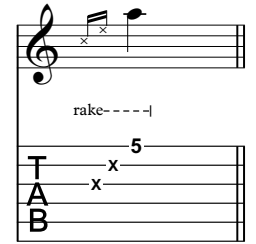
Gently rest the palm of your picking hand near the bridge to partially mute the notes.

### Muffled Strings



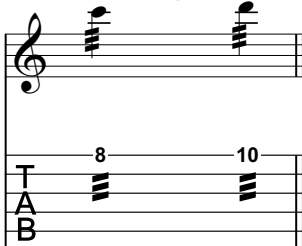
Gently rest your fret hand across the strings to obtain a percussive sound by striking them with your picking hand.

### Rake



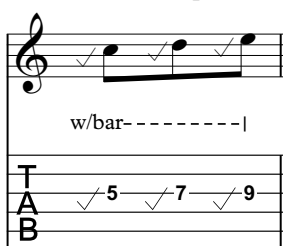
Quickly drag the pick across the strings. Mute the first two strings.

### Tremolo Picking



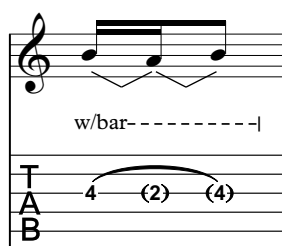
Continuously pick the notes as rapidly as possible.

### Vibrato Bar Scoop



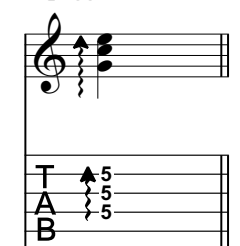
Pull the bar down just before picking the note, immediately release the bar.

### Vibrato Bar Bend



Pick the first note, then pull the whammy bar down to the indicated pitch (in brackets), finally release the bar back.

### Arpeggiate



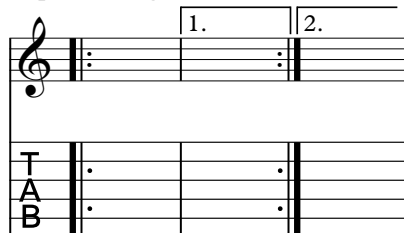
Roll the pick across the notes as indicated by the arrow.

### Repetition Signs



Repeat bars between signs

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Repeat bars between signs. First time play the first ending, second time continue through the second ending.

### D.C. al Fine

Go back to the beginning of the song, then play until the mark "Fine", that means "end".

### D.S. al Coda

Go back to the sign (§), then play until the bar marked (To Coda ϕ), then skip to the section marked (ϕ Coda)