

Travis Picking

(introduction to the technique by Jim Rolfe)

Travis picking is a right hand picking pattern. It can be used on any set of strings and with any chord. You may also change the chord or move notes within one picking pattern. It is a 4 beat pattern. This is an introduction to the technique. There is much you can do with this style.

Right Hand Finger indications:

P (Pulgar)= thumb i (indicio) = index finger m (medio) = middle finger a (anular) = ring finger

Start by practicing the pattern with this E minor chord or D chord.

make sure you are not picking on the "and" of beat 1 and that the P and A(*or M) fingers play together on beat 1

Ex. 1

Ex. 2

Chords: Em, D

Picking pattern: p 1 (+) 2 + 3 + 4 +

String numbers (T, A, B):

Em	D	Ex. 1	Ex. 2
0	2	0	2
0	3	0	3
2	0	2	0

* You may also use only P, I, and M. I believe this is the most popular but seems less practical. The thumb would then play the 3rd string as well as the bass notes, which if alternating can keep the thumb rather bouncy. In this example the M finger would play the 1st string and the I finger the 2nd. Either way it's the rhythm that counts.

Ex. 3 Travis pick moving these "bass" notes up and down the neck. Start with the above E minor. Use the 3 open strings throughout the exercise. You can move the bass notes on beat (1) or (1 and 3)

Suggested left hand fingering. You can use any fingers you like

String numbers (T, A, B):

1	1#	2	4	1	3	1	3
2	4	5	7	9	10	12	14