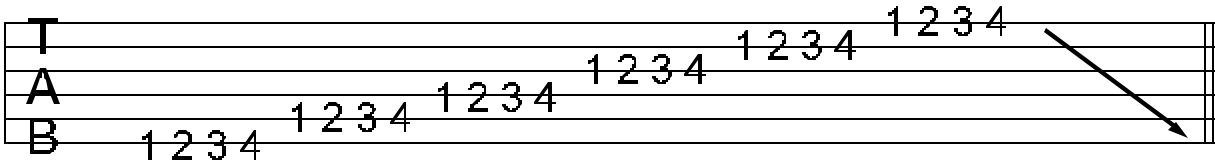


THE ART OF QUASI-CHROMATICS

The Quasi-chromatic scale has been used by guitarists for decades as the universal finger exercise and technique builder. It consists of the notes on the first four frets of every string, and the most common way to practice it is like this:



In this case, you should *alternate pick* (that is, pick up, down, up, down, etc.) the notes. The arrow also suggests that once you reach the last note, you play the exercise in reverse order back to the first note. In essence, you should be able to run up and down the exercise over and over again without slowing or stopping.

The most important thing about Quasi-chromatics is *METER* (meter is the symmetrical grouping of notes). In other words, keep the notes *EVEN!* They should all last the same amount of time. When you practice these exercises, scales, and arpeggios, you must buy a metronome. This is a device that clicks at an even pace to help you keep in time.

Now comes the test of your endurance. After you have adequately learned the first group above, take even amounts of time on all of the other possible orders of 1 2 3 4. For convenience, all 24 possibilities are listed here:

1234	2134	3124	4123
1243	2143	3142	4132
1324	2314	3214	4213
1342	2341	3241	4231
1423	2413	3412	4312
1432	2431	3421	4321

After you get comfortable with all of these variations, try to make them more interesting to your ear, and more challenging to your picking. Here is one of my favorite examples:

