

INTRODUCTION TO SWEEP PICKING 21

At slow to moderate speeds, arpeggios may be picked with an alternating technique, as in the examples below.

79

fingering → 2 1 3 4 2 1 1 4 1 1 2 4 2 4 3 4 3 1 2

80

fingering → 1 2 1 1 3 2 3 1 4 1 3 2 3 1 4 3 4 3 4 1 3 4 1 1 4 1 1 2 1

Sometimes it is convenient and more efficient to incorporate hammer-ons or pull-offs, as in examples 81 and 82, below.

81

fingering → 3 2 1 4 1 2 3

82

fingering → 1 1 4 4 4 1 1

Sweep picking is an approach that enables you to play arpeggios faster. Instead of alternating down with up strokes, use one continuous "sweeping" motion to pick each of the strings. This is also known as a *brush stroke*. In order to keep the strings from all ringing together, press on and fret each string only for as long as you want it to actually sound. (For more practice on advanced sweep picking techniques, see *Speed Mechanics for Lead Guitar*.)

TIP: Start by holding the strings lightly muted with your left hand. Press down each string just as the pick hits it, then lift the pressure off just enough to deaden the string again as you go on to the next one. Your left hand should "roll" pressure across the fretboard.

83

fingering → 3 1 1 1 4 1 1 1 3

This sweep picking approach is often useful for playing *grace notes*, which are quick "pre" notes that lead into an important note. Notice the smaller-sized grace note arpeggios below. Grace notes are played in time stolen from the previous note.

84

fingering → (3 2 1) 4 2 1 (2 3 1) 4 2 1 4 2 4 2 1 1 0 4