

String Skipping Level 1



The ability to be versatile in guitar playing starts with how much technique a person can conquer. Beginner guitar players are used to moving in a mechanical and sequential way when it comes to traveling across the fretboard and strings. This is great when a person is starting out because it offers a great foundation of movement across the guitar. However, jumping from one string and skipping to another is one of those tedious tasks that is essential for beginners to learn and include in their practice. The idea behind string skipping is to approach a scale or sequence of notes in a new way. This is basically another form of “finger confusion” except now it involves confusing the fingers when moving from string to string rather than from fret to fret. In the following exercises make sure that alternate picking is always engaged. One should practice with repetition first by playing the pentatonic G-shape scale by 4’s, 3’s, 2’s and then 1’s. Practicing this way will ensure that a person knows where to move next in the string skipping pattern.

Exercise 1: G Shape Pentatonic Scale / String Skipping by 4’s (sixteenth notes) @ 80bpm

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Part 1: Treble clef, 4/4 time, key signature of one sharp (F#). The exercise is written in eighth notes. Above the staff are two sets of picking patterns: 'V' (downpick) and 'v' (uppick). Below the staff is a guitar tablature with fret numbers: 5-5-5-5-8-8-8-8 on the first string, 5-5-5-5-7-7-7-7 on the second string, and 5-5-5-5-8-8-8-8 on the third string.

Part 2: Treble clef, 4/4 time, key signature of one sharp (F#). The exercise is written in eighth notes. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with fret numbers: 5-5-5-5-7-7-7-7 on the first string, 5-5-5-5-7-7-7-7 on the second string, and 5-5-5-5-5 on the third string.

Exercise 2: G Shape Pentatonic Scale / String Skipping by 3's (Triplet notes) @ 80bpm

Exercise 3: G Shape Pentatonic Scale / String Skipping by 2's (Eighth notes) @ 80bpm

Exercise 4: G Shape Pentatonic Scale / String Skipping by 1's (Quarter notes) @ 80bpm