



Playing Rhythm Guitar

Rhythm guitar provides an underlying swing rhythm with subtle accents on beats two and four as well as a clear harmonic foundation. Rhythm guitar should be learned as soon as you are able to play 3-note or 4-note chords. This type of accompanying is ideal when you are playing in a variety of settings, such as big bands, mixed vocal/instrumental ensembles, small combo groups, duos, etc.

Here is a brief example of a standard jazz progression using rhythmic notation (much like you would find in a big band arrangement). This type of musical notation indicates the chord, the quarter note rhythms, and accents the jazz guitarist would play.

MEDIUM SWING
♩ = 150

Cm7 F7 Bbm7 Ebm7

Here is the same chord progression demonstrating 3-note voicings in a rhythm guitar style.

MEDIUM SWING
♩ = 150

Cm7 F7 Bbm7 Ebm7

Here is the same chord progression demonstrating 4-note voicings in a rhythm guitar style.

MEDIUM SWING
♩ = 150

Cm7 F7 Bbm7 Ebm7