

Sweep Picking - Part 1



Sweep picking is a technique used to play arpeggios very quickly. The right hand moves in a single fluid motion while the left hand does the hard work.

The first arpeggio we will work with is a major arpeggio - C major 7.

The good thing about this pattern is that you can assign a finger per fret and keep your left hand in the same position. First finger on fret 12, through to last finger on fret 15. The root note is on the B and A string.

The key to playing this quickly is to play them very slowly and accurately to a metronome - speed is a by product of accuracy! Start with the metronome on 90bpm and play a single note per click. Slowly speed things up, moving to two notes per click and eventually four. Play the shape up and down, playing the B on the low E string twice. Mute the string you've just played with your palm as you go down, and make sure only a single note is ringing out at a time.

Once you have this shape under fingers (playing it cleanly, not necessarily fast), we can start moving it around slightly - after all, no-one wants to listen to you sweeping the same notes several times over! So we'll move it up and down chromatically, around the 12th fret:

The image displays a musical exercise on a guitar. It consists of two systems of notation, each with a staff and a corresponding guitar tablature (TAB) below it.

System 1:

- Staff:** Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth notes. Measure 1 is labeled '1' and 'C major 7'. Measure 2 is labeled '2' and 'C# major 7'. Measure 3 is labeled '3' and 'D major 7'. Measure 4 is labeled '4' and 'D major 7'.
- TAB:** Shows fret numbers for each note. Measure 1: 12, 15, 14, 12, 13. Measure 2: 13, 12, 14, 15, 16. Measure 3: 13, 14, 13, 16, 13. Measure 4: 13, 14, 13, 16, 13.

System 2:

- Staff:** Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth notes. Measure 5 is labeled '5' and 'D# major 7'. Measure 6 is labeled '6' and 'D# major 7'. Measure 7 is labeled '7' and 'D# major 7'. Measure 8 is labeled '8' and 'D# major 7'.
- TAB:** Shows fret numbers for each note. Measure 5: 17, 14, 15, 14, 16. Measure 6: 17, 15, 16, 18, 15. Measure 7: 15, 17, 16, 14, 15. Measure 8: 15, 17, 16, 14, 15.

Continue the pattern back down to the 10th fret, then back up to the 12th.