



DAMPENING TECHNIQUE

The dampening technique can also be referred to as 'choking' or left hand muting. To master this technique, you should start off slowly and make sure the ringing length is not too short nor too long.

The video tutorial for this technique provides 3 options for dampening.

- The first shows you how to dampen open chords by gently placing any unused left hand fingers (*usually the ring finger or pinky*) onto the strings to cut off the ringing sound after you have struck the fretted chord. Try not to apply too much pressure otherwise other unwanted notes may ring out. The key is to relax the fingers onto the strings gently and lift them off in time for the next strum.
- The second exercise shows you how to dampen chords that use all four fingers, you can simply relax the fingers on the left hand once you have struck the chord. This allows the notes to be cut short. This works especially well with barred chords.
- And finally, the third way to achieve this technique is to gently place your unused left hand fingers over the strings before strumming and simply remove them as you strike each chord before gently placing them back down onto the strings again.

TASK: Try this technique using the following chords shapes that appear in the song and notice how the different chord shapes require the different methods of dampening.

