



# FINGER PICKING

[CAGE – 8<sup>TH</sup> NOTES]


The following finger picking patterns can be used over any chord. This exercise is for the right hand only and instead of fret numbers you have the symbols for each of the finger positions as follows:

T = THUMB  
I = INDEX  
M = MIDDLE  
R = RING  
P = PINKY



This basic level picking patterns is known as the 'CAGE' pattern due to the string notes it spells out when they are plucked open:

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A ----- M ----- M -----  
E ----- I ----- I ----- :| REPEAT  
C ----- T ----- T -----  
G ----- T ----- T -----  
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

The pattern repeats twice within the 4-beat bar so that means you need to play two notes to every beat. That would make the notes 8<sup>th</sup> notes or quavers that may be represented by the following notation shapes:



Or when more than one 8<sup>th</sup> note is played in succession, like this:



**TASK:** Play this pattern using just the open strings and see how many times you can repeat it with fluidity and precision.

The CAGE pattern sounds great played with a shuffled rhythm (where the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> note plucked are sustained a little longer than the straight 8).