

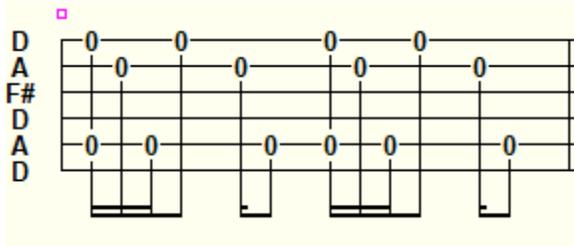


Beginning Finger Picking For The Delta Blues Guitar

Delta Blues style finger picking and use of the 'bottleneck slide' is essential to learn when studying the various playing styles of the artists from this important musical genre. The songs and lessons illustrated in this E-Book give the learner a solid foundation in beginning Delta Blues guitar playing. The book will cover songs based in 'vestapol' tuning using Mississippi Fred McDowell as a model example for finger picking and slide application.

Part I

Here is the basic layout of the finger picking pattern in open 'D' vestapol tuning.

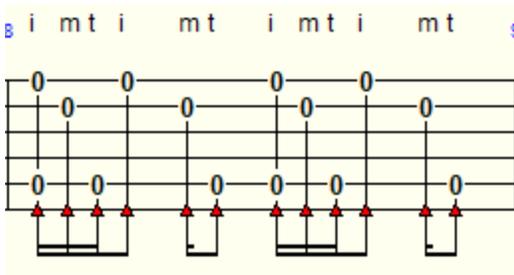


The thumb will play the 5th string open, and will remain positioned there across the entire sequence. For the 1st and 2nd strings, match the correct finger with the corresponding note as it is laid out below. Play the double stops by pinching and playing together the 5th string and 1st string only with the thumb playing the 5th string and the index finger playing the 1st string. Build momentum and speed once familiar with the pattern.

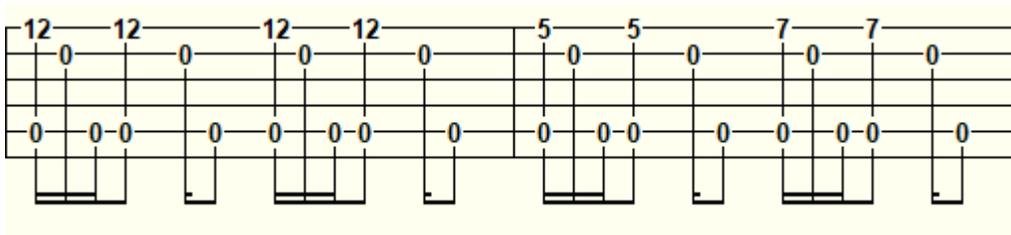
'i' = index finger

'm' = middle

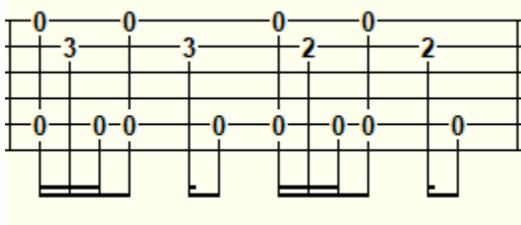
't' = thumb



Finger individual notes on the bottom string while holding the same picking pattern.



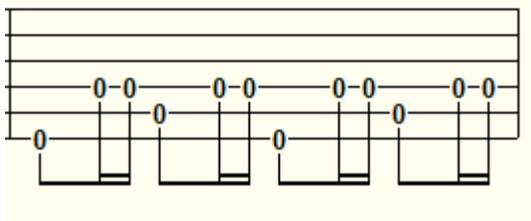
Now try playing the notes on the second string with holding the same pattern.



Part II

Shift your finger picking stance towards the 6th, 5th, and 4th string for this example to follow.

The bass lick is shown below.

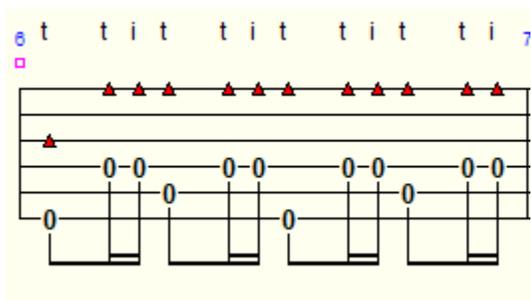


Match the finger to the corresponding notes.

'i' = index finger

'm' = middle

't' = thumb



Part III

We will extract out a lick from Mississippi Fred McDowell's **You've Done Told Everybody (I'm in your neighborhood)**. This song will have you incorporate using a slide/bottleneck to play out the notes on the 1st and 2nd strings. When applying the slide/bottleneck on your guitar, be sure to gently toggle and dampen across the strings to ring out the notes clearly.

The main riff shown below.

Apply the right finger to the corresponding notes.

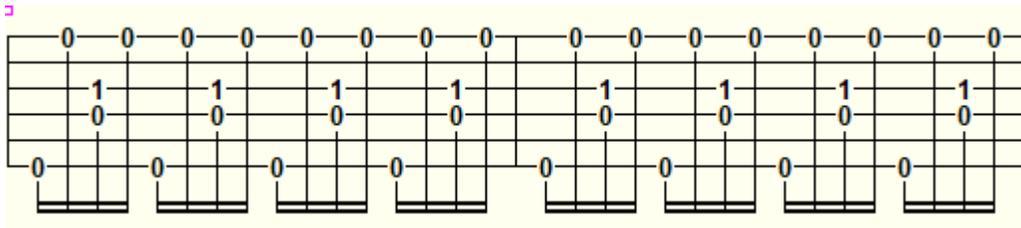
'i' = index finger

'm' = middle

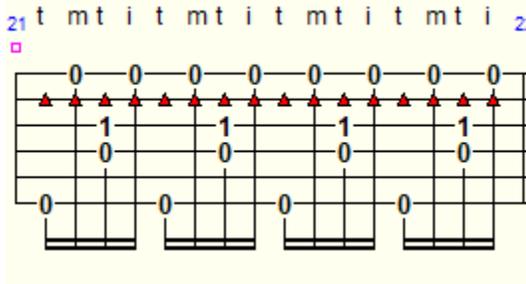
't' = thumb

Together in sequence.

The following lick in the song. The thumb will play the chord combination on the 1st fret.



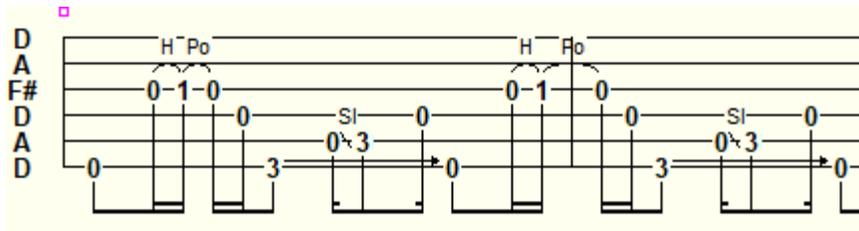
Match the corresponding finger with the right note.



Part IV

The riff below is taken from Mississippi Fred McDowell's **What's The Matter Now**. Use of the slide appears yet again. This time, the slide will be pressed with more force to capture the rugged 'Delta Blues' notes of the composition.

The main riff shown below.



The lick that caps off the stanza; apply the slide again.

The image shows a guitar tablature for a blues lick. It consists of six lines representing the strings. The first line (highest) has four 'Sl' (slide) markings above it, with '3,3' and '3,3' below the first two. The second line has a '1,0' marking above the first fret. The third line has a '0' marking above the open string. The fourth line has a '0' marking above the open string. The fifth line has a '0' marking above the open string. The sixth line (lowest) has a '0' marking above the open string. A 'H Po' (hammer-on/pull-off) marking is above the first fret on the second line. The lick is divided into two measures by a vertical bar line. The first measure contains the first four notes, and the second measure contains the last two notes. The text 'Ba - By What's the matter now' is written below the tablature.

Conclusion

The lessons presented in this E-book will undoubtedly solidify your foundation in understanding and playing Delta Blues Music. Mastery of finger picking techniques will also help you to move on to study other Delta Blues artists that will follow in lessons to come in the future.

Thank you for downloading this E-Book, and I hope that you continue to love and play the blues forever.

Best wishes,

Delta Lou-

www.deltaloumusic.com