

# Necessities of Good Accompaniment Playing

We have already played our first Travis Pick solo, but there are still some techniques we must learn to become good accompaniment Travis pickers. Learn each arrangement, then incorporate the new technique into your own songs using my arrangement as a guide.

**Remember:** These techniques form the foundation of solo-style Travis Picking. Learn them well!

The first technique involves the Thumb: Three-String Bass Patterns.

## Three-String Bass Patterns

Up to this point we have been alternating the Thumb between two strings. Now this two-beat pattern will become a four-beat pattern by **substituting an unused bass string for the root note on the third beat of the measure.** For example, an Am-chord bass pattern has been played like this:

34A) Strings: 5 4 5 4

4/4

T 2  
A 4  
B 4

0 2 0 2

| | | |

Now it looks like this:

34B) Strings: 5 4 6 4

4/4

T 4  
A 4  
B 4

0 2 0 2

| | | |

This sequence of bass strings is the same for any chord with the root note **on the fifth string.**

For chords with the root note on the fourth string, the **fifth string substitutes for the root note on the third beat.** For example, the new D-chord bass pattern is:

34C) Strings: 4 3 5 3

4/4

T 4  
A 4  
B 4

0 2 0 2

| | | |