



House of the Rising Sun: Let's Arpeggiate

By Christopher Schlegel

This time we are going to play the same chords along with the same backing track. But we are going to pick the notes of the chords separately instead of strumming them. This is called an arpeggio. It means to sound the notes of a chord separately, instead of at the same time.

We are going to start each chord with three consecutive downstrokes. Lightly graze the first three strings of the chord with the pick. After striking these notes, bring the pick across the rest of the strings over to the high E. At this point we reverse direction by lightly grazing the top three strings of the chord with three consecutive upstrokes.

The A minor and C major chords use the same picking pattern: down across the A, D, and G string; up across the E, B, and G string.

The D major and F major chords use the same picking pattern: down across the D, G, and B string; up across the E, B, and G string.

The E major chord uses its own picking pattern: down across the E, A, and D string; up across the E, B, and G string.

So we get a good variety of practice on all the strings. This can be very difficult for beginners to do. Again, go slowly and go evenly at first. A metronome is a great tool for this purpose. You might want to practice it with a metronome at a slow tempo first. The backing track is 115 BPM (Beats Per Minute). So, if you are having trouble keeping up with it at first, don't rush yourself or get discouraged or mad.

Turn on a metronome at (for example) 60 BPM and play the picking pattern at that slower tempo. Gradually move the tempo up as you can successfully, confidently play along.

"House of the Rising Sun"

Simple Picking Arrangement

Moderate ♩ = 115

Music Traditional

A min C D F

1 2 3 4

let ring -----| let ring -----| let ring -----| let ring -----|

TAB

A min C E E

5 6 7 8

let ring -----| let ring -----| let ring -----| let ring -----|

A min C D F

9 10 11 12

let ring -----| let ring -----| let ring -----| let ring -----|

A min E

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13 14

let ring -----| *let ring* -----|

0 2 2 1 2 | 0 0 1 . |

0 2 2 2 1 . | 0 2 2 2 1 . |

Detailed description: The image shows two staves of musical notation. The top staff is a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It contains two measures of music. Measure 13 starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. Measure 14 starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C#5. Both measures end with a double bar line and repeat dots. Below the treble staff are two lines of fret numbers. The first line has fret numbers 0, 2, 2, 1, 2 for measure 13 and 0, 0, 1, . for measure 14. The second line has fret numbers 0, 2, 2, 2, 1, . for measure 13 and 0, 2, 2, 2, 1, . for measure 14. The word "let ring" is written below the first two fret numbers of each measure, followed by a dashed line and a vertical bar.