

House of the Rising Sun: Let's Arpeggiate

By Christopher Schlegel

This time we are going 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 it's 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.



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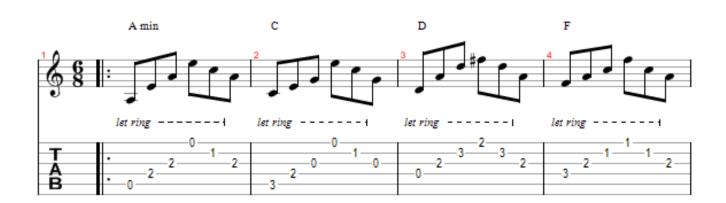
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"House of the Rising Sun"

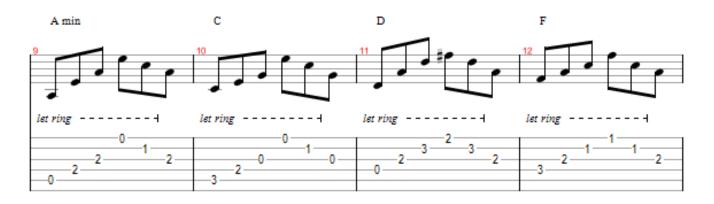
Simple Picking Arrangement

Moderate = 115

Music Traditional







A min E



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