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## Introducing Eighth Notes and Developing Rhythm Guitar



## Introducing Eighth Notes

You will recall that a whole note lasts for 4 beats. A half note lasts for 2 beats and a quarter note for 1 beat. Accordingly, an ***eighth note*** lasts for half of a beat as it divides a bar of common time into 8.

Below is an example of an eighth note. You will notice that it is a filled in note and has not only a stem, but also has a ***tail***. The tail distinguishes it from a quarter note.

Eighth notes are often joined together with ***beams*** and grouped into two eighth notes, making up one beat. It makes them much easier to read quickly.

Below is a bar of quarter notes followed by a bar of eighth notes. You will see that we count eighth notes '1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and'. We use the '+' sign to denote 'and'.

Use the media files as always to play the rhythm of these two bars round and round. This will help you get used to playing eighth notes and understand how they relate to quarter notes. Use the chord of A5 for both bars.

### Exercise 1: lesson003.igsien.01



## Combining Subdivisions to develop our Rhythm Playing

We can now develop our rhythm playing using the following examples. Read and play the rhythms contained in the following exercises and play along with the band on the GuitarXtractor.

Use the chords of A5 and G5, to develop further your ability to change chords. Make sure that you count. You can also slow and cycle the Xtractor where needed.

### Lesson Objectives

- To introduce, understand and be able to play ***eighth notes***.
- To develop our understanding and performance of rhythm by combining whole, half, quarter and eighth notes together.
- To build our library of chords by introducing and learning how to play the chords of C5 and D5.

### An Eighth Note

Worth half a beat



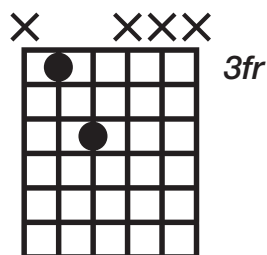
**Exercise 2: lesson003.igsien.02****Exercise 3: lesson003.igsien.03****Exercise 4: lesson003.igsien.04****Exercise 5: lesson003.igsien.05****Exercise 6: lesson003.igsien.06**

## Building our Library of Rock Chords (Introducing C5 and D5)

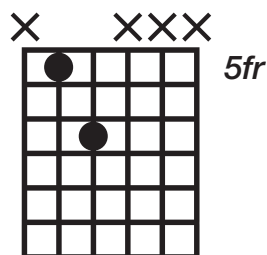
Both C5 and D5 chords are rooted from the fifth string, as in the chord diagrams below.

When playing these chords, the plectrum should strike strings 4 and 5 taking care to avoid strings 6,3,2 and 1, which are clearly marked with 'X'.

### Chord of C5



### Chord of D5



Position of your Right Hand when playing C5/D5



Position of your Left Hand when playing C5



Position of your Left Hand when playing D5

## Technique Store – How to Play C5 and D5

As in *Lesson One*, we have produced Technique Store Video Clips, so watch these clips to help you with your Right and Left Hand positions when playing C5 and D5:

**Video 1: Position of your Right Hand when playing C5/D5**

lesson003.igsien.techstore.01

**Video 2: Position of your Left Hand when playing C5**

lesson003.igsien.techstore.02

**Video 3: Position of your Left Hand when playing D5**

lesson003.igsien.techstore.03

Practise playing both C5 and D5 by comparing the sound you create with that from the videos. Then play the following exercise, developing your ability to play both C5 and D5, as well as increasing your ability to change between them fluently.

#### Exercise 7: lesson003.igsien.07



## Combining All Chords

In the following example we have to play all of the chords learned so far. The key here is to develop a smooth change between each of the chords developing an ability to remember where each chord is, a crucial skill for a guitarist. Use the multimedia files as always, but make sure you practise round and round with the GuitarXTractor.

#### Exercise 8: lesson003.igsien.08



## Developing Rhythmic Playing (Combining all four chords with whole notes, half notes, quarter notes and eighth notes)

Below we have a couple of combinations of everything learned so far. So our examples have all the rhythmic notes we have learned, as well as the chords of A5, G5, C5 and D5. Each exercise is accompanied by multimedia files as usual.

### Exercise 9: lesson003.igsien.09



### Exercise 10: lesson003.igsien.10



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## Practising

Remember that you can go round and round these exercises at any tempo you like, developing your ability to form the correct chord shapes and move smoothly between different chords.

You can cycle the GuitarXtractor to keep looping around at a comfortable tempo. Once you have become more familiar with the chord changes, you can then adjust the tempo on the Xtractor so that you can increase your speed and fluency.