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## Developing Rock Guitar Rhythm Playing – Introducing Palm Muting



## Introducing Palm Muting

**Palm muting** involves damping the strings with the plectrum hand when striking the strings.

This is a common technique employed in rock music to create a ‘tight and clipped’ rhythm guitar sound.

Of the note values learned so far, the eighth note is the only one which would be played with muting, as the very process of muting prevents the guitar from sustaining for any length of time beyond an eighth note.

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## Technique Store — Palm Muting

There are two key technical challenges with palm muting, so watch the following video clip before attempting the exercises below:

### Video 1: Palm Muting

lesson004.igspm.techstore.01

Some practise may be required to get used to the feel of where to rest the hand on the strings.

The edge of the palm should rest on the strings being muted, at the point where the strings go over the bridge of the guitar. (Refer to *Anatomy of Electric Guitar, Lesson One*)

If the hand is placed too near the neck end of the guitar, the strings will be deadened completely. If the hand is placed too far back on the bridge then no muting will occur at all.

### Lesson Objectives

- Introducing **palm muting** and understanding its use in rhythm guitar playing.
- Integrating the palm muting technique into our rhythm playing.
- Integrating palm muting on eighth notes with other un-muted note values.
- Continue to develop control of timekeeping and changing chords.



The position of your right hand when palm muting is important.

**Exercise 1: lesson004.igsmpm.01**
**Exercise 2: lesson004.igsmpm.02**
**Exercise 3: lesson004.igsmpm.03**

## Integrating Palm Muting Eighth Notes with other Un-Muted Note Values

As the muting acts to dampen and reduce the length of the chords, quarter, half and whole notes are left un-muted to realise their full rhythmic value.

Now play the following examples remembering to only mute the eighth notes. All other note values are un-muted. Use the multimedia exercises to compare your sound to and play along with.

**Exercise 4: lesson004.igspm.04****Exercise 5: lesson004.igspm.05****Exercise 6: lesson004.igspm.06****Exercise 7: lesson004.igspm.07**

## 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 just keep looping around and after you have started slowly and are becoming more familiar with the changes, increase the tempo on the Xtractor so as to increase your speed and smoothness.