

FENDER PLAYERS CLUB MUTING & DOWNSTROKES

From the book:

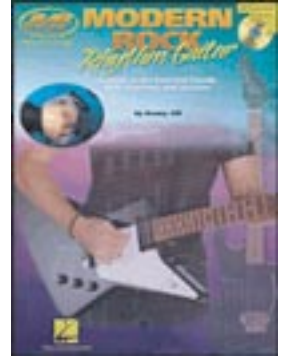
MODERN ROCK RHYTHM GUITAR

Musicians Institute

by Danny Gill

#HL 695682. Book/CD \$14.95 (US).

[Read more...](#)



Muting

Muting gives you control over the dynamics of a song. You can play soft, loud, tight, open, or anything in between. To mute, simply press the side of your picking hand over the strings. The best position for this is usually by the bridge. (Try this whenever you see the abbreviation “P.M.,” which stands for “palm muting.”)

The amount of pressure you place on the strings with the side of your picking hand is important. If you use too much pressure, the strings will go sharp—too little pressure, and you won’t sound “tight” enough. Picking intensity (how hard or soft your picking attack is) also has a lot to do with the dynamics of a muted part. Finding the right balance is what it’s all about.

Downstrokes

In the next few examples, we’re going to pick using only *downstrokes*. Picking with downstrokes will give you a more consistent picking attack and can sound tighter than alternate picking. This is because the strings are being hit in the same order and from the same angle each time.

Let’s start with eighth notes.

AUDIO CLIP

E5 Play 4 times

w/ dist.
P.M. -----|

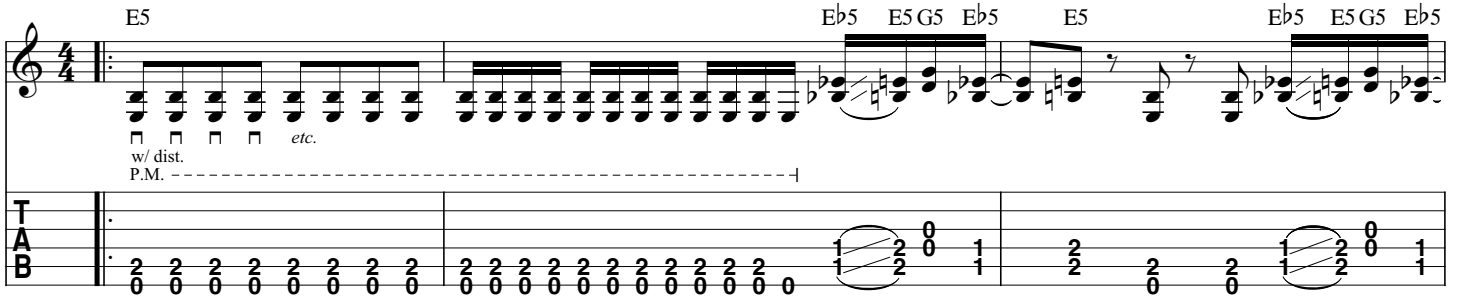
T
A
B

2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

Here's the same riff with accents on some of the upbeats.

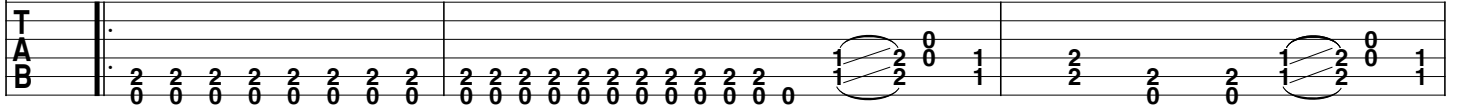
AUDIO CLIP 

E5 Eb5 E5 G5 Eb5 E5 Eb5 E5 G5 Eb5

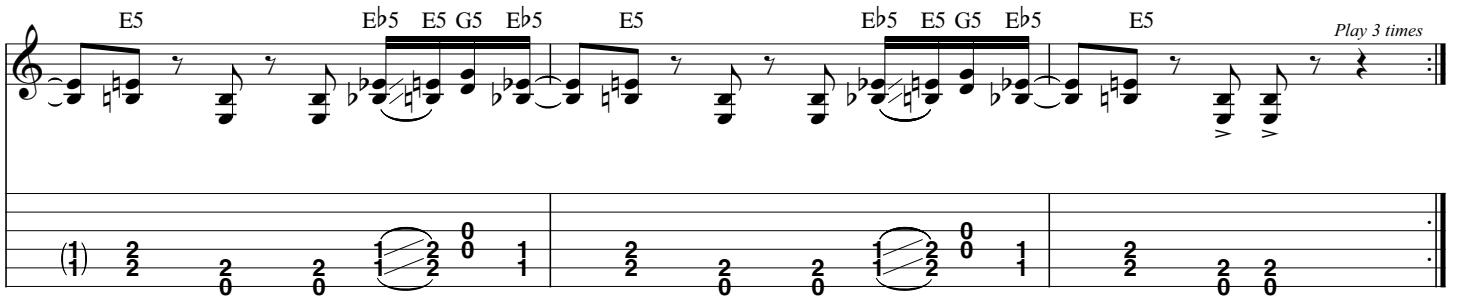


w/ dist.
P.M. -----

TAB

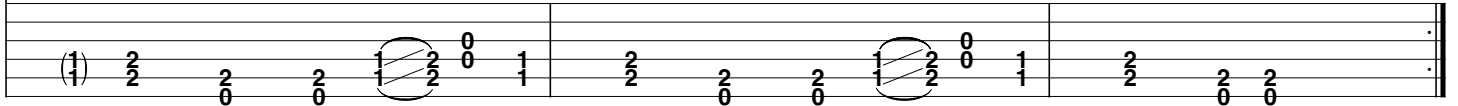


E5 Eb5 E5 G5 Eb5 E5 Eb5 E5 G5 Eb5 E5



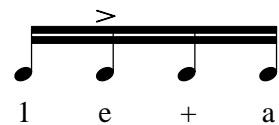
Play 3 times

TAB



Sixteenth-Note Accents

Now let's try accenting some of the various sixteenth notes. Here's the "e":

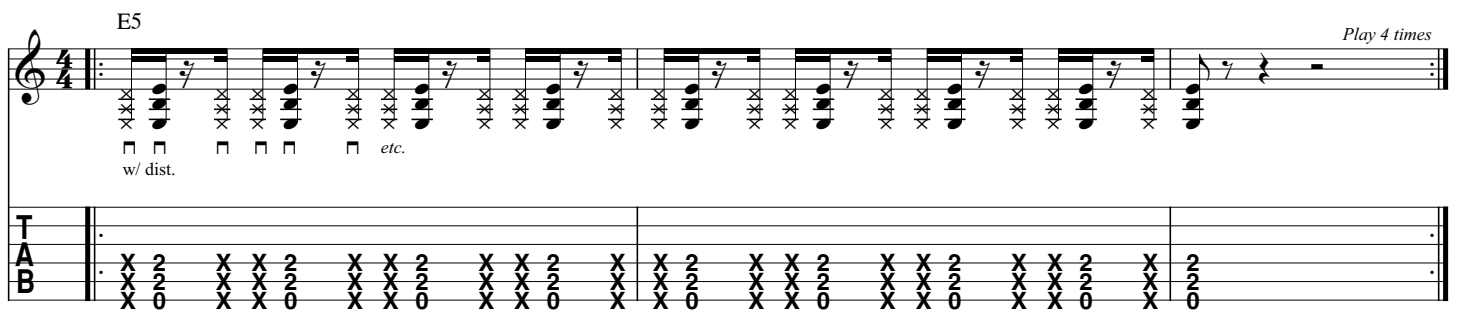


l e + a

Here's how that sounds:

AUDIO CLIP 

E5



w/ dist.
etc.

Play 4 times

TAB

