

Contemporary Guitar Grade 1 - Technical Exercise 3

As part of your Grade 1 exam on the Contemporary Guitar syllabus, you will be required to play through a number of technical exercises.

In this lesson, and accompanying video, we will be looking at Technical Exercise 3.

This exercise can be played on an electric or an acoustic guitar using your fingers or a plectrum.

The tempo of this exercise is 85bpm, you can also play this with, or without a metronome to guide you.

This Technical Exercise combines arpeggiated chords and strummed chords as well as a diverse selection of chord types.

♩=85 M.Pleass

Let notes ring.....

D major D major 7th D6

Em A7 Bm

The first 6 bar phrase of the exercise is played twice, with two different endings, so focus on learning this bit to start as this will be used again on the second repeat.

This starts with a run through 3 variations of a D chord. Starting with the D major, moving to the Dmaj7 and ending on a D6. Typically the Dmaj7 would be played by barring a single finger across the 2nd fret of the G, B and E strings, but in this instance, and to aid the change to the D6, it's easier to play this by keeping your index finger on the 2nd fret of the G and adding a partial barre onto the B string while using your middle finger to play the high E string.

You'll also notice the 3rd fret on the high E string is added to each D chord variant.

After moving through the D chord phrase, you land on an E minor chord which is rung out for a whole bar. The A7 bar contains the same picking rhythm as the D chord with the addition of the

third fret on the B string. Choose your fingers carefully for this chord to make sure you can comfortably add the extra note.

The musical score is for a guitar exercise in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of 12 measures. The first ending (marked '1.') covers measures 1-6 and ends with a repeat sign. The second ending (marked '2.') covers measures 7-12 and ends with a final double bar line. Chord diagrams for G, A7, and D are provided above the staff. The guitar part is written in standard notation with fret numbers below the strings.

The two endings are fairly similar, both using a G and A7 chord, but the second ending reverts back to the D chord to end on the same chord the exercise started.

The first ending takes place after the first run through the initial 6 bars. At the end of the first ending, you return back to the start of the piece and work through the 6 bar phrase again before going straight to the second ending to finish.

This piece is played at 85bpm which is faster than the previous two technical exercises. As this one is fairly demanding, make sure to spend the time playing it on a slower tempo to achieve consistency and accuracy before pushing it up to full tempo.

About the Author

Leigh is an experienced guitar teacher and professional guitarist, helping students of all learning abilities to progress their guitar playing. He is part of a guitar teaching team at [MusicTeacher.com](https://www.musicteacher.com) who are able offer [guitar lessons](https://www.musicteacher.com/guitar-lessons) to students across the world. To find your perfect guitar teacher to help with your Music Teachers Board graded exam, search our international music teacher database at MusicTeacher.com.