

Contemporary Guitar Grade 2 - Technical Exercise 1

As part of your Grade 2 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 2.

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

The tempo of this exercise is 75bpm, you can also play this with, or without a metronome to guide you.

This exercise focuses on rhythm and chord changes. The exercise is an 8 bar chord progression that is played twice, with a different ending each time, giving you a total of 16 bars. This should be strummed but the notated strumming patterns are just for guidance.

♩ = 75

Guitar

Chords: G, Em cont., C, D, Dsus4, D

Guitar

T: 3 3 3 3 3 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 2 2 3 3 2

A: 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 3 3 3 3 3

B: 0 0 0 0 0 | 2 2 2 2 2 | 2 2 2 2 2 | 0 0 0 0 0

3 3 3 | 0 0 0 | 3 3 3 | 3 3 3

Gtr.

Chords: Am, Aadd9, Am, D, Dadd9, D, Am, Aadd9, Am

Gtr.

0 0 0 0 0 | 2 2 0 2 | 0 0 0 0 0

1 1 1 0 1 | 3 3 3 3 | 1 1 1 0 1

2 2 2 2 2 | 2 2 2 2 | 2 2 2 2 2

0 0 0 2 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0

Gtr.

Chords: D, D, G

Gtr.

2 2 2 2 2 | 2 2 3 3 0 | 3 0 0 0 3

3 3 3 3 3 | 3 3 3 3 | 0 0 0 0 0

0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 2 2 2 2 2

3 3 | 3 3 | 3

1. 2.

This piece features a few rhythms shifts and some chord alterations so pay close attention to where the chords are changing inside of bars to make sure you're making any adjustments at the right place.

The linked video provides a full breakdown of each of the changes but here are the main areas to watch out for:

- Bar 3 – The C chord adds an additional strum on the 3rd beat that is not present in the first and second bars.
- Bar 4 – The addition of the Dsus4 over two strums
- Bar 5 – The rhythm change and the quick transition in and out of the Aadd9
- Bar 6 – Another rhythm change with an addition of the Dadd9

The final bar of the first pass stays on a D major chord, then you head back to the top and repeat the piece. On getting to the second ending, you will be playing the D chord twice, before finishing the piece on a sustained G.

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](#) 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.