

The Shred Decoder's Guide to Sweep Picking

By Al Joseph
premierguitar.com

Ex. 1

Moderately slow ♩ = 85

N.C.(D)

mf

5 4 2 3 2 5 2 3 2 4 5 4 | 2 3 2 5 2 3 2 4 5 4 2 3 | 2 5 2 3 2 4 5 4 2 3 2 5

2 3 2 4 5 4 2 3 2 5 2 3 | 2 4 5 4 2 3 2 5 2 3 2 4 | 5 4 2 3 2 5 2 3 2 4 5 4

2 3 2 5 2 3 2 4 5 4 2 3 | 2 5 2 3 2 4 5 4 2 3 2 5 | 3

The Shred Decoder's Guide to Sweep Picking

By Al Joseph
premierguitar.com

Ex. 2

Moderately slow ♩ = 85

N.C.(F#m)

The musical score for Ex. 2 is presented in three systems. Each system consists of a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line with fret numbers. The key signature is F#m (one sharp) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is moderately slow at 85 beats per minute. The first system begins with a melodic line marked *mf* and a bass line with fret numbers 9, 7, 6, 7, 5, 9, 5, 7, 6, 7, 9, 7. The second system continues the melodic line with triplets and a bass line with fret numbers 5, 7, 6, 7, 9, 7, 6, 7, 5, 9, 5, 7, 6, 7. The third system concludes the melodic line with a tremolo effect and a bass line with fret numbers 6, 7, 5, 9, 5, 7, 6, 7, 9, 7, 6, 7, 5, 9, 7.

The Shred Decoder's Guide to Sweep Picking

By Al Joseph
premierguitar.com

EX. 3

Moderately slow ♩ = 85

N.C.(G#°)

mf

T
A
B
6 9 7 9 7 10 7 9 7 9 6 9

7 9 7 9 6 9 7 9 7 10 7 9 7 9 6 9 7 9 6 9 7 9 6 9

7 9 7 10 7 9 7 9 6 9 7 9 7 10 7 9 7 9 6 9 7 9 7 10 9

The Shred Decoder's Guide to Sweep Picking

By Al Joseph
premierguitar.com

Ex. 4

Moderately slow ♩ = 85

N.C.(D)

The first system of musical notation for Ex. 4. It consists of a treble clef staff with a melody in 4/4 time, marked *mf*. The melody features eighth notes and triplets. Below it is a guitar tablature staff with fret numbers 5, 4, 2, 3, 2, 5, 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 4, 2, 3, 2, 5, 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 4, 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 4.

The second system of musical notation for Ex. 4. It continues the melody from the first system, featuring eighth notes and triplets. The guitar tablature below shows fret numbers: 5, 4, 2, 3, 2, 5, 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 4, 2, 3, 2, 5, 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 4, 2, 3, 2, 5, 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 4.

The third system of musical notation for Ex. 4. The melody continues with eighth notes and triplets. The guitar tablature below shows fret numbers: 5, 4, 2, 3, 2, 5, 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 4, 2, 3, 2, 5, 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 4, 2, 3, 2, 5, 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 4.

The fourth system of musical notation for Ex. 4. The melody continues with eighth notes and triplets. The guitar tablature below shows fret numbers: 2, 3, 2, 5, 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 4, 2, 3, 2, 5, 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 4, 2, 3, 2, 5, 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 4.

The fifth system of musical notation for Ex. 4. The melody concludes with eighth notes and triplets, ending with a wavy line. The guitar tablature below shows fret numbers: 2, 3, 2, 5, 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 4, 2, 3, 2, 5, 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 4, 2, 3, 2, 5, 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 4, 5.

The Shred Decoder's Guide to Sweep Picking

By Al Joseph
premierguitar.com

Ex. 5

Moderately slow ♩ = 85

N.C.(F#m)

The musical score for Ex. 5 is presented in five systems. Each system consists of a treble clef staff with a melody and a bass clef staff with guitar tablature. The key signature is F#m (one sharp) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Moderately slow' with a quarter note equal to 85 beats per minute. The dynamic marking is 'mf' (mezzo-forte). The score includes various guitar techniques: triplets (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes), sweep picking (indicated by a curved line over a sequence of notes), and slurs. The tablature uses numbers 5, 6, 7, and 9 to indicate fret positions. The first system starts with a dynamic marking of 'mf'. The second system features a triplet of eighth notes. The third system continues the sweep picking pattern. The fourth system includes a triplet of eighth notes. The fifth system concludes with a wavy line indicating a tremolo effect on the final note.

The Shred Decoder's Guide to Sweep Picking

By Al Joseph
premierguitar.com

Ex. 6

Moderately slow ♩ = 85

N.C.(G#°)

mf

6 9 7 9 7 10 7 9 7 9 6 9 7 9 7 10 7 9 7 9

6 9 7 9 7 10 7 9 7 9 6 9 7 9 7 10 7 9 7 9 6 9 7 9 7 10 7 9 7 9

6 9 7 9 7 10 7 9 7 9 6 9 7 9 7 10 7 9 7 9 6 9 7 9 7 10 7 9 7 9

7 9 7 10 7 9 7 9 6 9 7 9 7 10 7 9 7 9 6 9 7 9 7 10 7 9 7 9 6 9

7 9 7 10 7 9 7 9 6 9 7 9 7 10 7 9 7 9 6 9 7 9 6 9 6

The Shred Decoder's Guide to Sweep Picking

By Al Joseph
premierguitar.com

Ex. 7

Very fast ♩ = 180

The first system of musical notation for Ex. 7 consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef staff in 4/4 time, featuring a melody of eighth notes with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature staff with six lines, showing fret numbers and sweep picking directions (up and down strokes) for each note.

The second system of musical notation for Ex. 7 consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef staff in 4/4 time, continuing the melody from the first system. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature staff with six lines, showing fret numbers and sweep picking directions for the second system.

The third system of musical notation for Ex. 7 consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef staff in 4/4 time, showing a long note with a wavy line above it, indicating a tremolo effect. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature staff with six lines, showing the fret number 2 and a wavy line above it, indicating a tremolo effect on the second fret.

The Shred Decoder's Guide to Sweep Picking

By Al Joseph
premierguitar.com

Ex. 8

Very fast ♩ = 180

mf

T
A
B

T
A
B

T
A
B

T
A
B

T
A
B

The Shred Decoder's Guide to Sweep Picking

By Al Joseph
premierguitar.com

Ex. 9

Very fast ♩ = 180

mf

T
A
B

T
A
B

T
A
B

T
A
B

T
A
B

The Shred Decoder's Guide to Sweep Picking

By Al Joseph
premierguitar.com

Ex. 10

Very fast ♩ = 180

Musical notation for Ex. 10, measures 1-4. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked 'Very fast' with a quarter note equal to 180 beats per minute. The dynamic is 'mf'. The notation includes a treble clef and a guitar tablature below. The first measure contains a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, an eighth note B4, and a quarter note C5. The second measure contains a quarter note B4, an eighth note A4, an eighth note G4, and a quarter note F#4. The third measure contains a quarter note E4, an eighth note D4, an eighth note C4, and a quarter note B3. The fourth measure contains a quarter note A3, an eighth note G3, an eighth note F#3, and a quarter note E3. The tablature shows fret numbers: 9 7 7 7 10 10/12 12 for the first measure, and 9 9 11 9 7 7 7 10 10/12 12 9 9 11 9 7 7 10 10/12 12 for the second measure. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Play 4 times

Diagram for Ex. 10 showing sweep picking technique. The top staff shows a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. A wavy line above the staff indicates a sweep. The notes G4, A4, B4, and C5 are shown with stems pointing up, and the notes B4, A4, G4, and F#4 are shown with stems pointing down. The bottom staff shows a guitar tablature with fret numbers 12 and 14. A wavy line above the staff indicates a sweep. The notes G4 and A4 are shown with stems pointing up, and the notes B4 and C5 are shown with stems pointing down. The tablature shows fret numbers 12 14 (14) for the first measure.

Ex. 11

Very fast ♩ = 180

Musical notation for Ex. 11, measures 1-4. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked 'Very fast' with a quarter note equal to 180 beats per minute. The dynamic is 'mf'. The notation includes a treble clef and a guitar tablature below. The first measure contains a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, an eighth note B4, and a quarter note C5. The second measure contains a quarter note B4, an eighth note A4, an eighth note G4, and a quarter note F#4. The third measure contains a quarter note E4, an eighth note D4, an eighth note C4, and a quarter note B3. The fourth measure contains a quarter note A3, an eighth note G3, an eighth note F#3, and a quarter note E3. The tablature shows fret numbers: 12 12 11 10 10 14/16 12 for the first measure, and 12 13 14 14 12 12 11 10 10 14/16 12 12 13 14 14 12 12 11 10 10 14/16 12 for the second measure. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Play 4 times

Diagram for Ex. 11 showing sweep picking technique. The top staff shows a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. A wavy line above the staff indicates a sweep. The notes G4, A4, B4, and C5 are shown with stems pointing up, and the notes B4, A4, G4, and F#4 are shown with stems pointing down. The bottom staff shows a guitar tablature with fret numbers 14 and (14). A wavy line above the staff indicates a sweep. The notes G4 and A4 are shown with stems pointing up, and the notes B4 and C5 are shown with stems pointing down. The tablature shows fret numbers 14 (14) for the first measure.

The Shred Decoder's Guide to Sweep Picking

By Al Joseph
premierguitar.com

Ex. 12

Very fast ♩ = 180

mf

T
A
B

5 4 2 3 2 5 7 4 | 5 4 6 7 9 7 7 7 | 10 10 12 7 9 9 9 | 11 12 12 11 10 10 14 16 12

12 13 14 14 17 16 14 15 | 14 17 19 16 17 16 16 16 14 15 14 17 16 12 | 12 13 12 14 12 11 10

10 14 12 12 13 14 14 11 9 7 7 7 10 10 9 | 9 9 6 7 5 4 2 3 | 2 5 7 4 5 4 6 7

9 7 7 7 10 10 12 7 | 9 9 9 11 12 12 11 10 | 10 14 16 12 12 13 14 14 14 15 14 17 19 16

14 (14)