

## Right-Hand Fingerstyle Insights

Use the following photos to illustrate right-hand fingerstyle technique.

Figures 1 and 2: The right forearm rests at a spot below the elbow on the lower bout of the guitar. The guitar should not be placed in the crook of the elbow as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 1 (correct)



Figure 2 (incorrect)



Figure 3 shows the proper right-hand “plant.” Figure 4 is improper because the thumb is placed behind the fingers.

Figure 3 (correct)



Figure 4 (incorrect)



Figure 5 shows proper right-hand wrist alignment, while Figures 6 and 7 show an improper approach in which the wrist is deviated and not in the natural relaxed position shown in Figure 5. The wrist needs to be aligned with the arm’s muscles so that the fingers pull the strings in a straight line.

Figure 5 (correct)



Figure 6 (incorrect)



Figure 7 (incorrect)



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Figures 8–10 demonstrate why it is important for the right hand to have a slight tilt to the left. This will allow the fingers to align with the four strings.

Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figures 11–13 are designed to demonstrate a proper arch for the right hand. Note that Figures 12 (high arch) and 13 (collapsed arch) are incorrect.

Figure 11 (correct)



Figure 12 (incorrect)

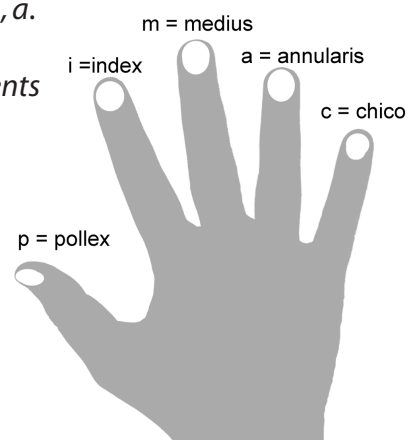


Figure 13 (incorrect)



The standard labeling for the thumb and right hand fingers is *p, i, m, a*. These names are derived from Latin terms.

*Note: For now, the little finger of the right hand will follow the movements of "a."*



NAMES OF THE RIGHT HAND FINGERS

*Note: Students can practice in front of a mirror and use this supplement as a guide to accelerate the process of becoming familiar with fingerstyle guitar. Many instructors have a mirror in their studio to use for this purpose. A trip to a thrift store can also yield a larger mirror for the classroom.*

*Photos by Lynn Purse*