

Sequence Document
“Flamenco Improvisation” by Travis Marcum

An essential part of many state and NASM curricula, improvisation can be an extremely engaging and rewarding activity for your class if approached in a sequential, organized manner. Below is a lesson plan for a fun Flamenco improvisation activity. Intended for level 4 students, you may adjust the lesson for less advanced students by using 3 note chords, or for more advanced students by moving the *ostinato* (a persistently repeated musical phrase) to upper positions or different octaves. This lesson can be taught entirely by rote or by using the notated music. Teacher and student should feel free to change *ostinato* rhythms and notes, or create new *rasgueado* patterns with the chord progression.

CHORD PROGRESSION

Students will:

1. Sit in good position
2. Place left hand finger 1 on string 2 C, finger 3 on string 3 fret 2 A, finger 2 on string 4 fret 2 E. (A minor chord), fingers arched to the tip
3. Place right hand thumb on string 5
4. Roll the full first position A minor chord with thumb listening for the last note, open first string E to sound on the beat and together.
5. Play quarter note down strum A minor chords together in $\frac{3}{4}$
6. Move all left hand fingers in the A minor chord from strings 2, 3, and 4 to strings 3, 4, and 5 retaining the same chord shape creating E major.
7. Place right hand thumb on string 6 and strum down together.
8. Scoot chord shape up one fret to create F/E chord.
9. Listen to the teacher play the chord progression with dynamics
10. Play repeated chord progression together with crescendo/decrescendo

OSTINATO LEAD

Students will:

1. Sit in good position with right hand thumb on string 5 and *i* on string 3
2. Listen to teacher play *ostinato* #1
3. Finger along in the left hand while the teacher performs *ostinato* #1
4. Play *ostinato* #1 alternating *i* and *m*
5. Play *ostinato* #1 repeated while the teacher plays the chord progression
6. Split into two groups $\frac{1}{2}$ playing chords and $\frac{1}{2}$ playing *ostinatos*
7. Repeat steps 1-6 with *ostinato* #2
8. Individual students perform lead while teacher plays chords. Student will decide the order of the *ostinatos* while he plays. Ex. 1-2-2-1
9. Split into pairs
10. Write their own *ostinato* part using notes in the A minor scale exploring different rhythms while their partner plays the chord progression
11. Duos perform flamenco improvisation choosing the order of *ostinatos* 1-3
12. Class performs improvisation, changing soloists every 4X through chord progression.

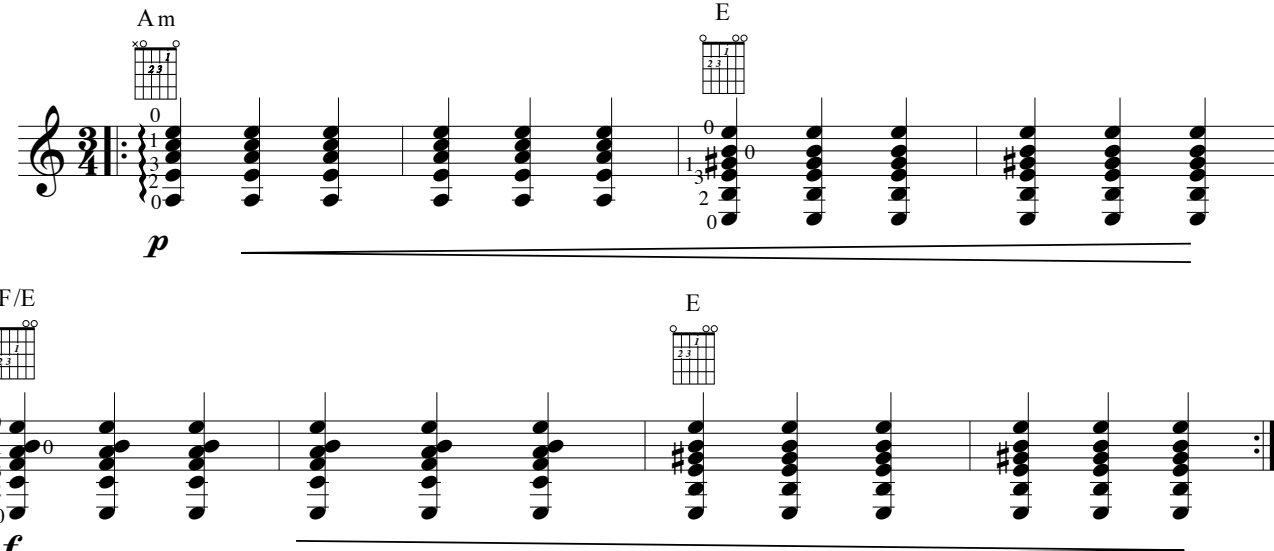
Flamenco Improvisation

Marcum

CHORD PROGRESSION


Roll chords with *p* or use another rasgueado pattern in 3/4

Guitar Level 4



The notation shows two staves of guitar music in 3/4 time. The first staff starts with an Am chord (fingerings: 2, 3, 1, 0, 0, 0) and an E chord (fingerings: 1, 2, 3, 0, 0, 0). The second staff starts with an F/E chord (fingerings: 1, 2, 3, 0, 0, 0) and an E chord (fingerings: 1, 2, 3, 0, 0, 0). The first staff is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic, and the second staff is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Chord diagrams are provided for Am, E, and F/E.

OSTINATO 1



A single staff of music in treble clef, 3/4 time. The notes are: quarter note G (2), quarter note E (0), quarter note F (1), quarter note G (4), quarter note E (1), quarter note F (0), quarter note G (0), quarter note E (0), quarter note G (0), quarter note E (0), quarter note G (0), quarter note E (0).

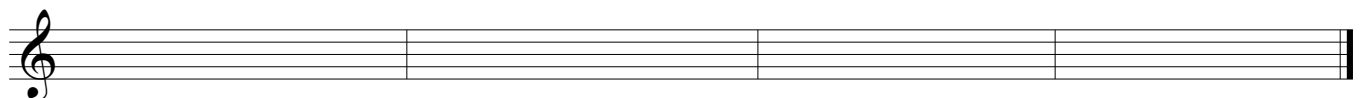
OSTINATO 2



A single staff of music in treble clef, 3/4 time. The notes are: quarter note G (4), quarter note E (1), quarter note F (0), quarter note G (4), quarter note E (0), quarter note F (1), quarter note G (0), quarter note E (0), quarter note G (0), quarter note E (0), quarter note G (0), quarter note E (0).

CREATE YOUR OWN OSTINATO

End your ostinato with the note E, G#, or B



A blank staff of music in treble clef, 3/4 time, intended for the student to create their own ostinato.