

Four Finger Patterns

Ex. 1 is a pattern that **Jim Croce** favored. You'll hear it in *Operator*, *I'll Have to Say I Love You in a Song*, *Walkin' Back to Georgia*, and others. It's great for accompanying vocals.

Ex. 2 is a slow clawin' lick, courtesy of **Jerry Reed**. Notice the similarity in structure to **Ex. 1** (two groups of three eighth notes, one group of two). Jerry has said that Jim Croce told him he was influenced by the clawin' style on Jerry's early recordings.

Ex. 3 is a clawhammer banjo lick, adapted for guitar. It's sort of a combination of Carter thumb and brush style, and regular fingerpicking. I sometimes use this pattern to play tunes like *Old Joe Clark*. Play the bass strings with your thumb, strum with your fingers, and play the single treble notes with your index finger

Ex. 4 is a folk pattern based on a roll. Another good choice for accompanying vocals, you'll hear patterns like this one in the playing of **Gordon Lightfoot**.