

The image shows a logo for 'TRAVIS PICKING BOOT CAMP' in a distressed, metallic font. The logo is set against a background of a dark wooden surface and the body and neck of an acoustic guitar. The guitar's body is light-colored wood, and the neck is dark wood with frets and a white dot on the fretboard.

TRAVIS PICKING BOOT CAMP

Travis Picking Bootcamp

Do you love the music of Merle Travis, Chet Atkins and Thom Bresh?

The Travis picking style is based off of a few fundamental techniques.

For the next few sessions, we'll be doing a short series on Travis Picking.

You'll learn...

- **Proper Travis Picking Technique**
- **Finger Independence and Palm Muting**
- **Alternating Bass on 6th, 5th and 4th String Chords**
- **How to Play "Freight Train"**

Developing Thumb Independence


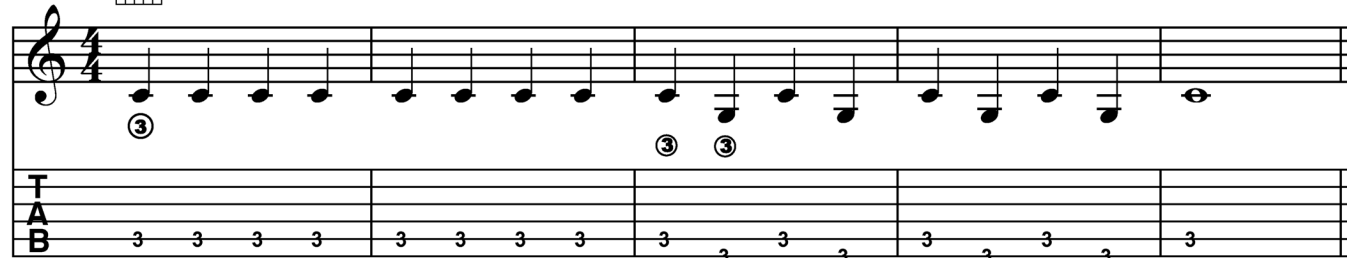
The main pulse – the engine - of Travis picking lies with the thumb. Some players playing Travis picking use a thumb pick and some players just use their thumb.

The thumb will be playing the ROOT and FIFTH of the chords. The string that the root is on can be on the 6th, 5th or 4th strings. Depending on which string the root is on determines where the fifth can be found.

Step One: Alternating the Bass – 5th String Roots


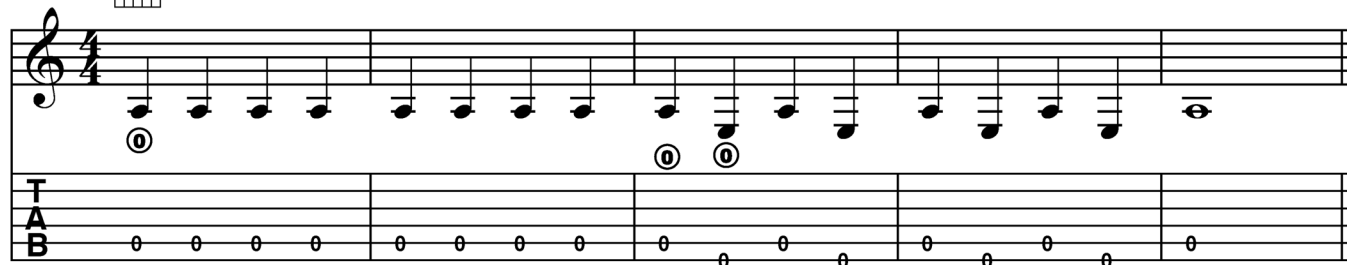
Let's start with basic chords with roots on the 5th strings – C Major, A Minor, B7. Play through the exercises slowly trying to get a clear sound with the thumb. Form the chord shown – even though you are only playing the root note at this point. Finger notations are circled notes.

C


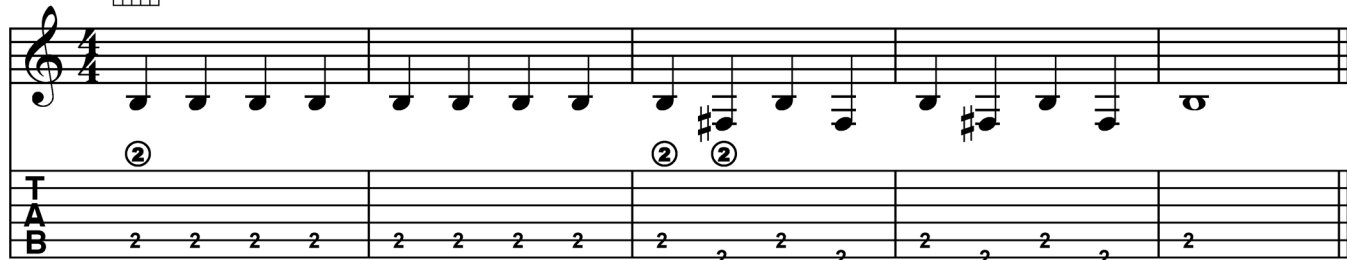
T
A
B 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Am






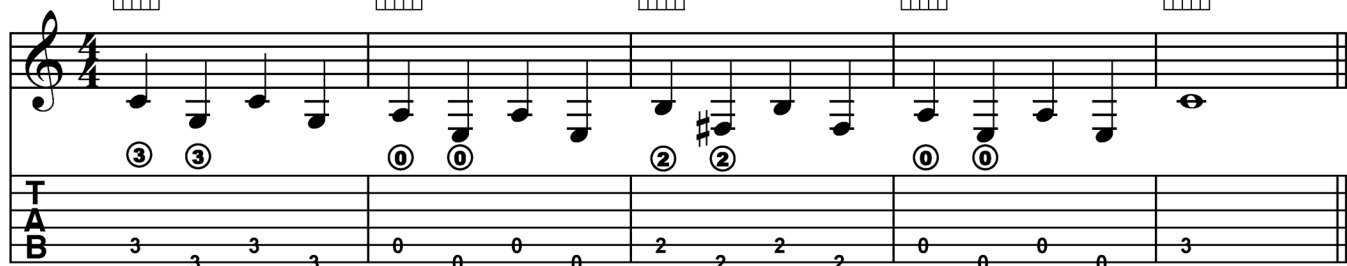
T
A
B 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

B7

T
A
B 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

C Am B7 Am C

T
A
B 3 3 3 3 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 3

G

G 3fr.

Open Pos. ③

3rd Pos. ① ③

TAB

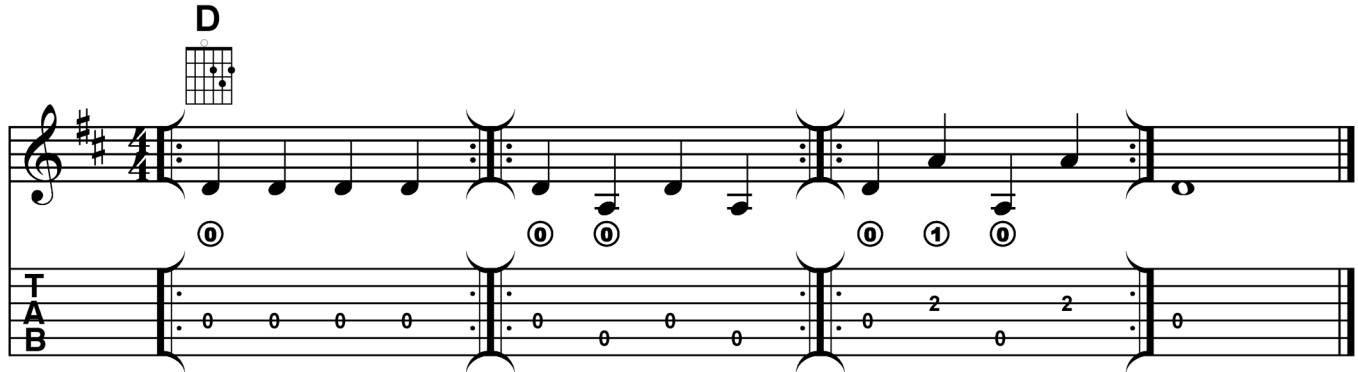
3 3 3 3 0 0 0 2 0 3 5 3 5 3

[illegible][illegible]

Alternating the Bass – 4th String Root

Finally, let's move to chords with roots on the 4th string – the D Family, D Major, D Minor, D7.

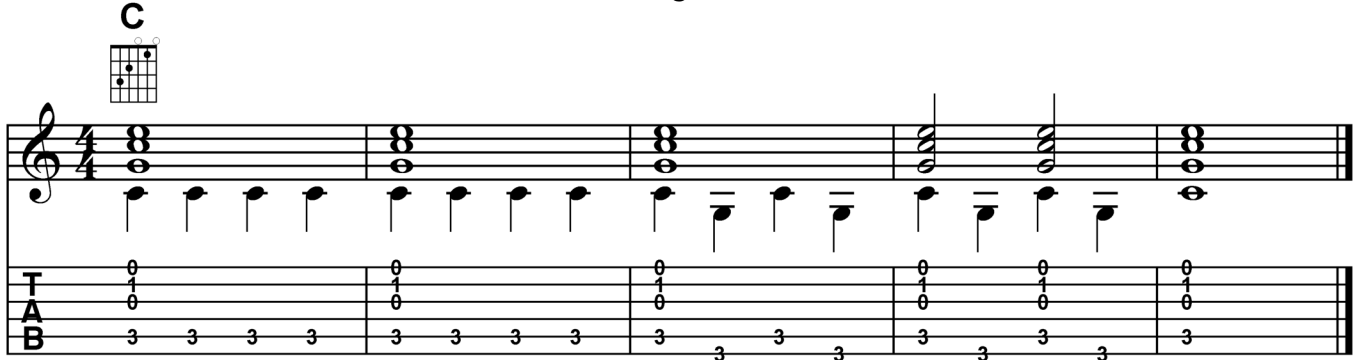
D



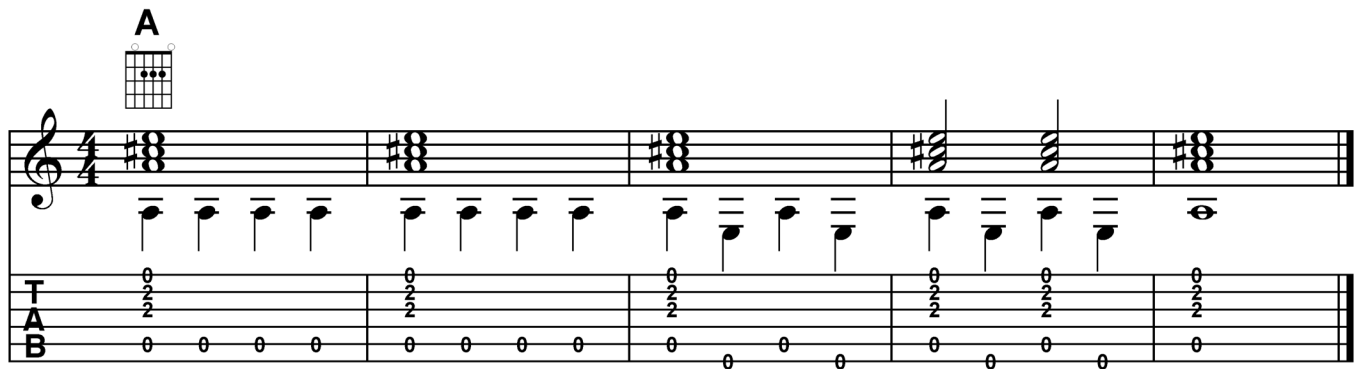
Step Two: Adding Chords to the Bass Line

Now, let's add the rest of the chord to our moving bass line.

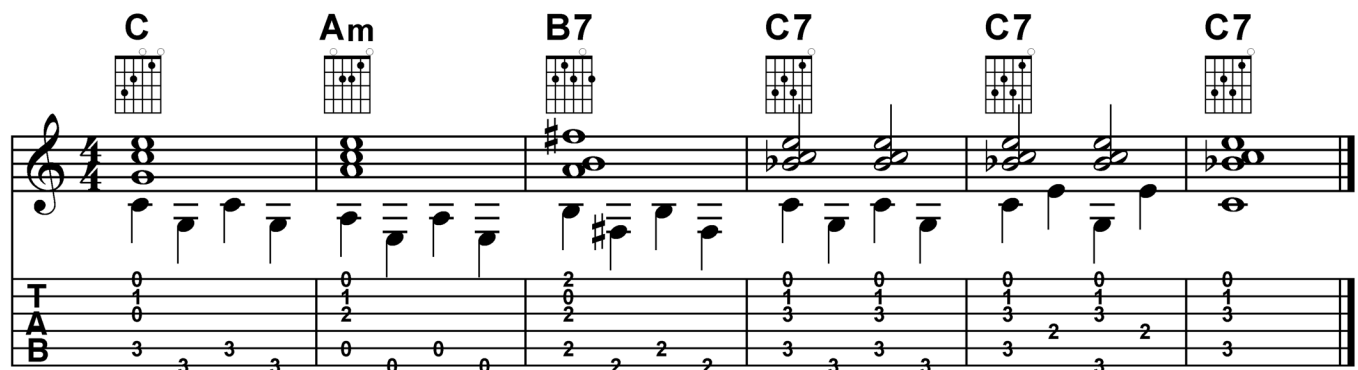
C

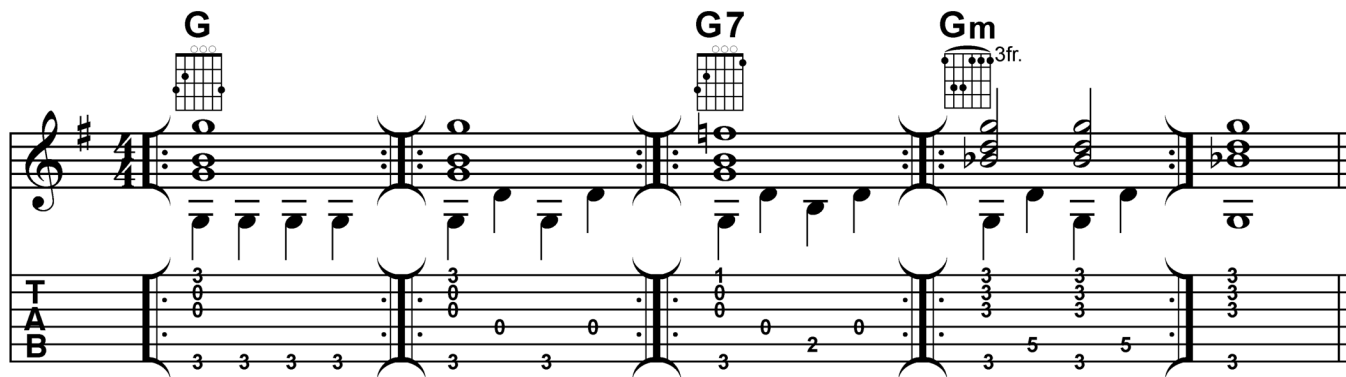



A





C Am B7 C7 C7 C7





G


G7


Gm


TAB
 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 2 0 3 5 3 5 3