

The most difficult thing you will discover about this advanced version of the classic song by Bob Dylan is the syncopation that is involved throughout this arrangement. Although not visible by casually looking at the arrangement, it is there, hidded in the eighth notes between the driving alternating bass notes.

Blowin In The Wind

Fingerstyle - Advanced

Bob Dylan

Words & Music by Bob Dylan

3 sharp notes indicate it is played in the key of A major.

Take special note of how the thumb plays an alternating bass all the way through the song, with few exceptions. This is a basic fingerstyle principle and you should master this technique.

Moderate ♩ = 120

Pay special attention to the Right Hand fingering. Do it exactly as shown

T A M T I T
T T T T T T

Form each chord and HOLD IT throughout each measure. Only break the chord form when you are forced to. Let the notes ring through.

Use the open string to get a head start on fingering these notes

To play this A note with the 4th finger of the left hand, you need to play the D chord with a first finger bar chord across the 3 strings.

This can be quite a difficult bass run. Help yourself out with left hand finger placement by using the open strings to get your fingers in place.

Timing is critical with fingerstyle guitar. Here you can see the alternating bass notes that are consistent on each downbeat or on the 1, 2, 3 and 4.

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 & 3 & 4 1 2 & 3 & 4
M I T M T M T M I T M T A M M I M I M I M T A I M I M T M T
T T T T T T T T T T T T T T

One technique that quite a few fingerstyle artists use is called palming the bass. What this means is to place the lower part of the right hand lightly on the three bass strings, near the bridge to slightly mute them. This is almost essential if you use a thumbpick and not as critical if you use bare thumb.

This technique is sometimes called walkin' the bass. Later we will show you exercises to develop this to a even greater degree

This last chord, called a brush or an arpeggio downstroke with the thumbpick, give you a platpick style ending to this song.

You also must be able to play the thumb part without much or any thought as you will be playing lead notes with your other three fingers. So you you are playing 2-part guitar on one guitar, all by your self. Pretty cool. That is the fun and impressive part of fingerstyle guitar.

Once you have absolutely mastered the mechanics of the alternating thumb, you will free up your mind to concentrate on the lead portions and not be too concerned with the thumb or accompanment portion of the songs.