

# Referential Playing

## An Introduction

In this first lesson, we've assigned the D major scale as our referential set. The notes in this scale are: D, E, F#, G, A, B, C#. Our goal is to familiarize ourselves with the location of these notes across as much of the fretboard as possible. This lesson restricts our focus to the D, G, and B strings, helping to increase our knowledge of the fretboard's upper register.

Ex.01: Referential Set = D major scale <D, E, F#, G, A, B, C#>

Musical notation for Ex.01: Referential Set = D major scale. The notation shows a treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff, and the fretboard is shown below with strings T, A, and B. The fret numbers are: 0 2 4 0 | 2 0 2 3 | 3 2 0 2 | 0 4 2 0.

Ex.02: Playing our referential set *horizontally* along the D string = <D, E, F#, G, A, B, C#>

Musical notation for Ex.02: Playing our referential set *horizontally* along the D string = <D, E, F#, G, A, B, C#>. The notation shows a treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff, and the fretboard is shown below with strings T, A, and B. The fret numbers are: 0 2 4 5 | 7 9 11 12 | 12 11 9 7 | 5 4 2 0.

Ex.03: Playing our referential set *horizontally* along the G string = <G, A, B, C#, D, E, F#>

Musical notation for Ex.03: Playing our referential set *horizontally* along the G string = <G, A, B, C#, D, E, F#>. The notation shows a treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff, and the fretboard is shown below with strings T, A, and B. The fret numbers are: 0 2 4 6 | 7 9 11 12 | 12 11 9 7 | 6 4 2 0.

Ex.04: Playing our referential set *horizontally* along the B string = <B, C#, D, E, F#, G, A>

Musical notation for Ex.04: Playing our referential set *horizontally* along the B string = <B, C#, D, E, F#, G, A>. The notation shows a treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff, and the fretboard is shown below with strings T, A, and B. The fret numbers are: 0 2 3 5 | 7 8 10 12 | 12 10 8 7 | 5 3 2 0.

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Ex.05: When playing the referential set *in thirds* along the D and G strings, we get the following note pairs:  
<E,G>, <F#,A>, <G,B>, <A,C#>, <B,D>, <C#,E>, <D,F#>

Musical notation for Ex.05. The top staff is a treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is a guitar TAB with two lines labeled 'T' (top) and 'B' (bottom). The notes are: 2, 4, 5, 9 | 7, 9, 12, 14 | 14, 12, 9, 7 | 9, 4, 2, 0.

Ex.06: When playing the referential set *in thirds* along the G and B strings, we get the following note pairs:  
<G,B>, <A,C#>, <B,D>, <C#,E>, <D,F#>, <E,G>, <F#,A>

Musical notation for Ex.06. The top staff is a treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is a guitar TAB with two lines labeled 'T' (top) and 'B' (bottom). The notes are: 0, 2, 3, 6 | 7, 8, 10, 12 | 12, 10, 8, 7 | 6, 4, 2, 0.

Ex.07: Playing the referential set *in thirds* on all three strings simultaneously results in the following triads:  
<E,G,B>, <F#,A,C#>, <G,B,D>, <A,C#,E>, <B,D,F#>, <C#,E,G>, <D,F#,A>

Musical notation for Ex.07. The top staff is a treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is a guitar TAB with two lines labeled 'T' (top) and 'B' (bottom). The notes are: 0, 2, 3, 5 | 7, 8, 10, 12 | 12, 10, 8, 7 | 6, 4, 2, 0.

Ex.08: The chord names of the three-note groups ("triads") that were layered in Ex.07 are the following:

Eminor, F#minor, GMajor, AMajor, Bminor, C#diminished, and DMajor