

# A Beginner's Guide to the Chet Atkins Sound

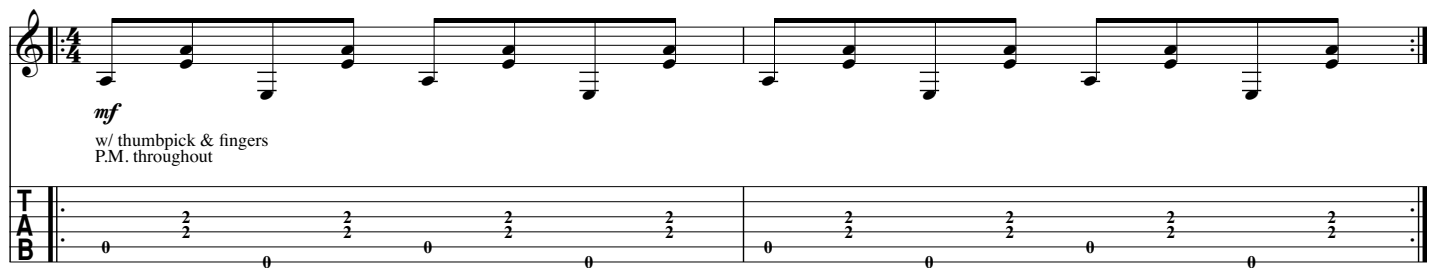
By Jon MacLennan

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Ex. 1

Moderately slow  $\text{♩} = 70$

Am



The musical notation for Ex. 1 is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of quarter notes: C4, Bb3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, Bb3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, Bb3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, Bb3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3. The guitar tablature shows fret numbers for the strings: 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2.


*mf*  
w/ thumbpick & fingers  
P.M. throughout

TAB

Ex. 2

Moderately slow  $\text{♩} = 70$

C/G



The musical notation for Ex. 2 is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of quarter notes: C4, Bb3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, Bb3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, Bb3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, Bb3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3. The guitar tablature shows fret numbers for the strings: 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2.

*mf*  
w/ thumbpick & fingers  
P.M. throughout

TAB

Ex. 3

Moderately slow  $\text{♩} = 70$

D/F#



The musical notation for Ex. 3 is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (D major). The melody consists of quarter notes: D4, C#4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C#4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C#4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C#4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C#4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3. The guitar tablature shows fret numbers for the strings: 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2.

*mf*  
w/ thumbpick & fingers  
P.M. throughout

TAB

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Ex. 4

Moderately slow ♩ = 70

F

*mf*  
w/ thumbpick & fingers  
P.M. throughout

TAB: 1 3 3 3 1 3 3 3 1 3 3 3

Detailed description: This exercise is for the F major chord. It consists of two measures of music in 4/4 time. The first measure contains four eighth notes: F4, A4, C5, and F5. The second measure contains four eighth notes: F4, A4, C5, and F5. The TAB below shows the fretting: 1 on the 1st string, 3 on the 2nd, 3 on the 3rd, and 3 on the 4th string.

Ex. 5

Moderately slow ♩ = 70

E7

*mf*  
w/ thumbpick & fingers  
P.M. throughout

TAB: 0 0 2 0 0 2 0 0 2 0 0 2 0

Detailed description: This exercise is for the E7 chord. It consists of two measures of music in 4/4 time. The first measure contains four eighth notes: E4, G#4, B4, and E5. The second measure contains four eighth notes: E4, G#4, B4, and E5. The TAB below shows the fretting: 0 on the 1st string, 0 on the 2nd, 2 on the 3rd, and 0 on the 4th string.

Ex. 6

Moderately slow ♩ = 70

Am

C/G

D/F#

F

Am

C/G

E7

*mf*  
w/ thumbpick & fingers  
P.M. throughout

TAB: 0 2 2 0 0 | 2 2 2 2 | 0 2 2 0 0 | 1 1 1 1

Detailed description: This exercise is a chord progression in 4/4 time. It consists of two measures of music. The first measure contains four eighth notes: A4, C4, G4, and A4. The second measure contains four eighth notes: A4, C4, G4, and A4. The TAB below shows the fretting for each chord: Am (0, 2, 2, 0), C/G (2, 2, 2, 2), D/F# (0, 2, 2, 0), F (1, 1, 1, 1).

Am

C/G

D/F#

F

Am

E7

Am

E7

Am

TAB: 0 2 2 0 0 | 2 2 2 2 | 0 2 2 0 0 | 2 2 2 1 1

Detailed description: This exercise continues the chord progression from Ex. 6. It consists of two measures of music. The first measure contains four eighth notes: A4, C4, G4, and A4. The second measure contains four eighth notes: A4, C4, G4, and A4. The TAB below shows the fretting for each chord: Am (0, 2, 2, 0), C/G (2, 2, 2, 2), D/F# (0, 2, 2, 0), F (1, 1, 1, 1).

\*Lift P.M.

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Ex. 7

Moderately slow  $\text{♩} = 70$  ( $\text{♩} = \text{♩} = \text{♩}$ )

Am C/G D/F# F Am C/G E7

*mf*  
w/ thumbpick & fingers  
\*P.M. throughout

T  
A  
B

\*Refers to downstemmed notes only.

Am C/G D/F# F Am E7 Am E7 Am

\*

\*Lift P.M.

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Ex. 8

Moderately slow  $\text{♩} = 70$

Am C/G D/F# F Am C/G

*mf*  
w/ thumbpick & fingers  
\*P.M. throughout

T  
A  
B

0 0 0 0 2 2 1 1 0 0 0 0  
1 2 2 0 0 0 3 2 2 2 0 0  
0 2 2 0 2 0 2 0 3 3 2 2

\*Refers to downstemmed notes only.

E7 *mf* Am C/G D/F# F

0 0 0 0 0 0 2 2 1 1  
1 0 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 3 2 3  
0 2 0 0 2 0 0 0 2 3 3 3

Am E7 Am E7 Am

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0  
1 1 2 2 1 0 1 2 2 1 0 1  
0 2 2 2 0 0 2 0 0 2 0

\*Lift P.M.

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Ex. 9

Moderately slow ♩ = 70

Am C/G D/F# F Am C/G E7

*mf*

T  
A  
B

Am C/G D/F# F Am E7 Am E7

5 5 3 0 3 3 2 1 2 2 2 1 1 2

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Ex. 10

Moderately slow  $\text{♩} = 86$

Am C/G D/F# F Am C/G

*mf*  
w/ thumbpick & fingers  
\*P.M. throughout

T  
A  
B

\*Refers to downstemmed notes only.

E7 Am C/G D/F# F

E7 Am C/G D/F# F

Am E7 Am E7 Am

Am E7 Am E7 Am

\*Lift P.M.