

NOTE: A slide can also be fast, beginning and ending with the duration of the 1st beat. Or it can begin on the 3rd beat (being struck by the fingers brushing down) and carry on behind the regular stroke, finishing on the 4th beat (behind the usual thumb stroke). A more complicated slide follows, altering considerably the actual basic stroke (you are still in g tuning):

1. Index finger plucks the 3rd string.
2. Nothing happens.
3. Index finger plucks the 4th string which has been fretted on the 2nd fret by the left hand 2nd finger.
4. Nothing happens.
1. On the *following* first beat, the left hand finger slides up to the 5th fret of the 4th string which is still sounding from the previous 3rd beat. The right hand does not touch the string during this beat.
2. Nothing happens.
3. Brush down with the fingers as usual.
4. Thumb plucks the 5th string as usual.

Such variations as this cannot be taken in large doses. Like all the elaborations in this section, it is used more as a spice in passages of basic stroke, and can become tiresome or out of proportion if overused.

B. **Double thumbing.** This technique is actually a further variation on the basic stroke, but it is also a step towards the single string picking styles. The thumb will now begin to fill that pause on the second beat, and will alternate with the index finger pluck and the brush down stroke of the fingers. When you use double thumbing, you need not use hammering on or pulling off as outlined above, as it is no use packing every variation you know into that one little pause. The rhythm of double thumbing makes use of every one

of the four beats, *bump-a-did-dy, bump-a-did-dy* ().

1. **Simple "forward" double thumbing.** Four equal beats:
 1. Index finger plucks upwards on a string (1st).
 2. Thumb plucks downward on a string (2nd-5th).
 3. Brush down with the fingers as before.
 4. Thumb plucks the 5th string as before.
2. **Complex "forward" double thumbing.** This is true double thumbing, where only single strings are picked.
 1. Index finger plucks upwards on a string (1st).
 2. Thumb plucks downward on a fairly adjacent string (2nd or 3rd).
 3. Index finger plucks again, on the same string as before.
 4. Thumb plucks the 5th string.

NOTE TO "FORWARD" DOUBLE THUMBING: Perhaps this style is called "forward" because it can be led into directly from the basic stroke, as it has the same first step. Many patterns, combinations of strings may be used - these are usually determined by what tune is being played, in what key, and where on the finger-board. In general, in this style, the melody is most easily played by the index finger (which has the two most important beats, 1 and 3) on the top two strings. It is best to keep the thumb on strings below those played by the index finger, so as to avoid crossing or tangling.