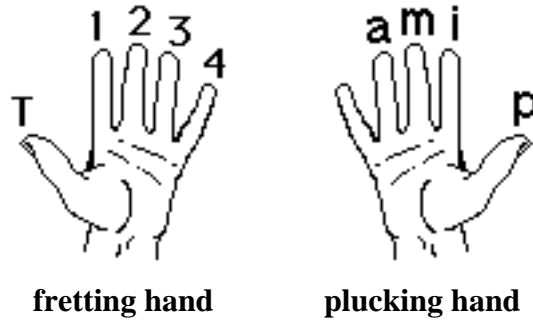


BASIC PLUCKING

Plucking the strings with the fingers and thumb produces a warmer tone than with the pick. There are a wide variety of finger picking styles, most of which involve bass notes with the thumb. The fingers can pluck individual strings in patterns or groups of strings at once. The index finger can be used to strum, down with the fingernail and up with the pad opposite the nail.



Symbols to represent the fingers of the plucking hand are typically shown below or around the notes they pertain to in music notation. Each symbol is the first letter of a Spanish word which represents the finger, since classical guitar developed in Spain. The symbols are shown below. The Spanish word “anular” is relation to the word “annual” and relates to the word ring in regard to the earths “annual ring” around the sun.

<u>symbol</u>	<u>Spanish word</u>	<u>English word</u>
p	pulgar	thumb
i	indice	index finger
m	medio	middle finger
a	anular	ring finger

The wrist should be about two fingers width from the body of the guitar. The thumb and fingers of the plucking hand should move independently of the hand, as much as possible. The thumb should bend at its base, and should be extended toward the guitar neck to avoid interference with the index finger. Each plucking finger should bend mostly at the tip joint, less at the middle joint and very little at the joint where it joins the hand. The tip segment of the plucking fingers should point string toward the body of the guitar, being in a plane perpendicular to that of the guitar body.

With the *rest stroke*, a plucking finger comes to rest against the next larger string after plucking. The thumb would come to rest against the next smaller string. After plucking a string with the *free stroke*, plucking fingers curve away from the next larger string.