

# LESSON PLAN

## Chord Change Fluency

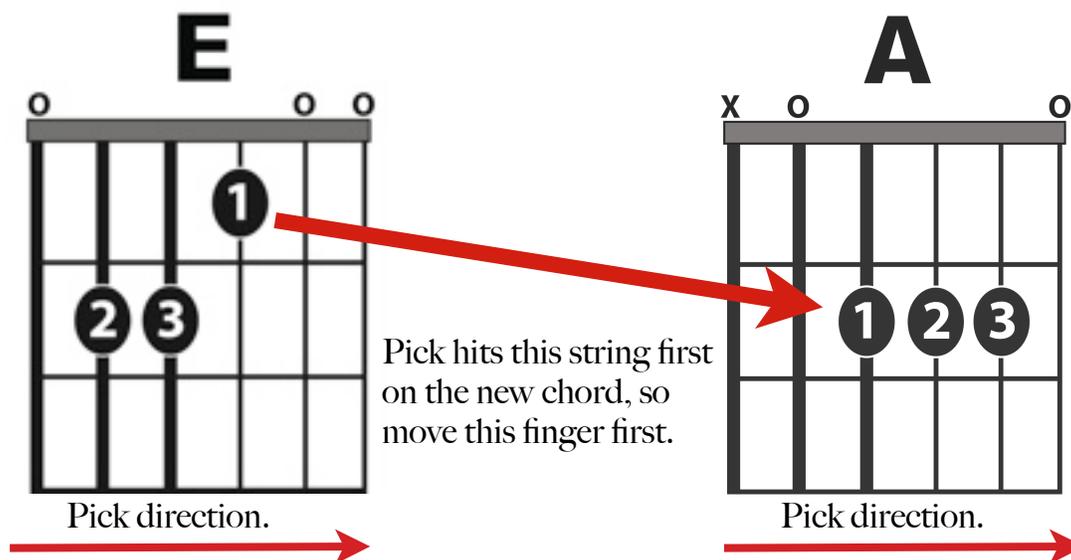
### Objective

Students will learn several several technique to make chord switches smoother.

1. Visualizing the next chord in sequence.
2. Establishing a “base” finger for each chord.
3. Using and open string strum to gain “switch time”

### Concepts

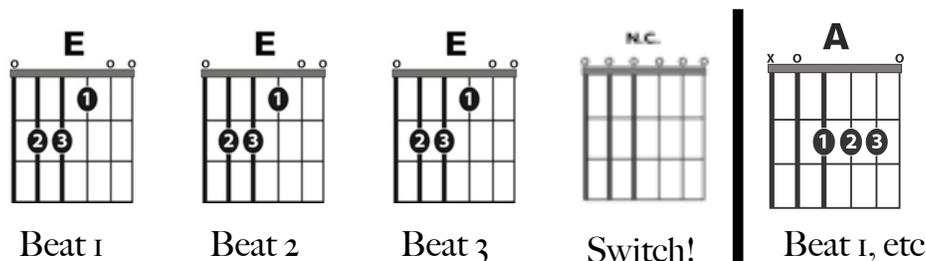
Before we go to the procedures, lets take a look at some important concepts. Lets use an E to A switch as an example.



Look at the direction the pick moves when playing these two chords. When strumming the A chord the first fretted string the pick touches is the D string with the 1<sup>st</sup> finger - so move that finger first then the 2<sup>nd</sup> finger next, then the 3<sup>rd</sup> finger. The fingers are going down a split second before the pick touches them. That split second isn't much, but every little bit helps.

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When practicing the switches, keep your picking hand moving in a steady beat using a down pick for every beat. Switch on beat three, keeping your picking hand going, and letting the open strings ring. Try to have your fingers down for the new chord on beat one.



## Procedures

1. Isolate the chord switch you wish to practice on, again, we'll use E to A. Keep in mind an E to A switch is not the same as an A to E switch.
2. Have students place fingers on the E chord, in their heads visualize where their fingers will go on the A chord.
3. Have the students switch from E to A without strumming, moving the first finger first.
4. Have the students strum quarter notes down-picking picking up and placing their fingers on beat three. Don't let the picking hand stop, you should hear an open string strum on beat three when the fingers are moving. Don't worry if the fingers aren't in place by beat one, what you're looking for is continuity of motion.

## Things to keep in mind:

While it's important that the strings get down on the right frets, when learning new chords the tendency is to stop, place the fingers just right, then continue strumming. It's difficult to gain fluency in playing when you're used to stopping on every chord change.

- Isolate chords, practice E to A first then A to E.
- Visualize where the fingers will go before the switch happens - imagine it in your head.
- Remind students to keep the pick going, just like a machine.
- Use one chord on every beat, or a very simple rhythm.