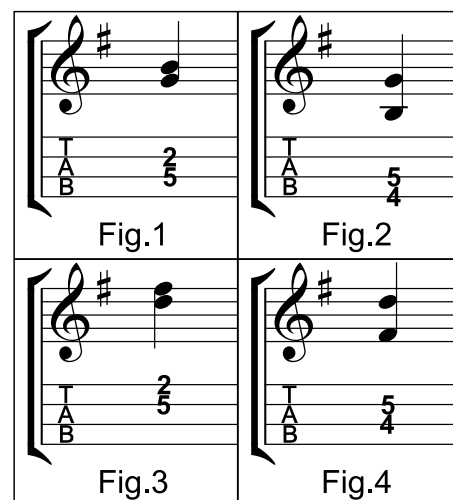


Theory and Application



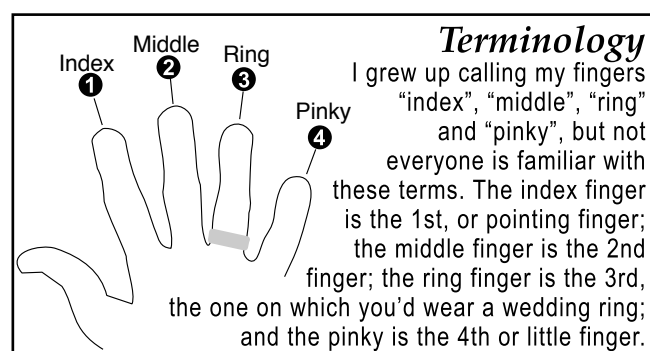
Double Stops 1

DDOUBLE STOPS ARE A way of playing harmony with yourself, and the use of double stops can contribute to a richer, fuller sound. Double stops are a pair of notes from the scale you are using, and usually (but not always) a partial chord. The most common harmony note in western music is the "third interval", in other words, two notes up the scale from the melody note. If you're playing, say, the G note in a G scale (5th fret on the D string), the third interval is two notes up from that, the B note (2nd fret on the A string, see fig.1). It doesn't always have to be played higher than the first note, however. You can still play a B note, but this time play it an octave below (4th fret on the G string - see fig.2). Go up to the D note and the third interval is two notes in the scale above that, which is F# (fig.3); or again play it lower (fig.4) on the D string.



Double Stops - a System

I have formulated a simple system for playing double stops over the years. There are others, I guess, but rather than learning all the double stops in all the scales, my simple system gives you an easy starting point. In this system all the harmony notes are lower than the actual notes, and all played on the string next to the actual note. If the actual note is played with your index finger, the harmony will be played on the string below with your ring finger. Actual note middle finger, harmony index finger; actual note ring finger, harmony note middle finger. Finally, if the actual note is an open string, harmony note is played with the middle finger.

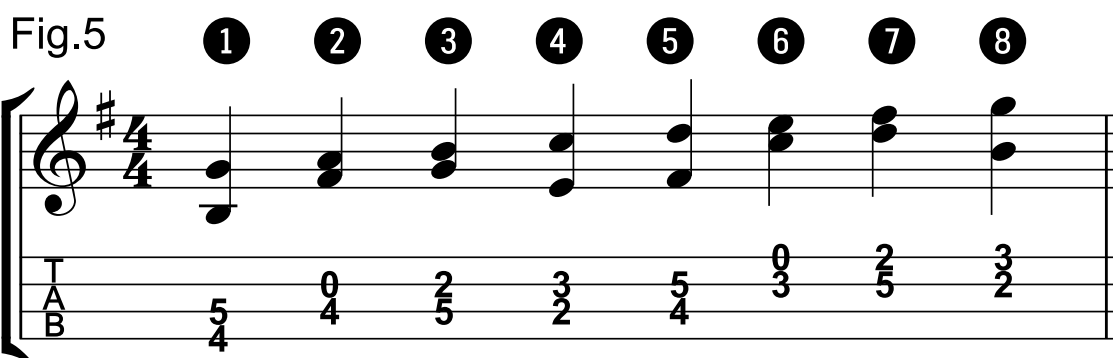


Double Stops in the G Scale

- 1 First note in the scale is G (5th fret on the D string). In my system the higher note of the two is going to be the real note, the lower is going to be the harmony. Since you're playing the G note with your ring finger, the harmony note is played with the middle finger on the string below, so that's the 4th fret on the G string.
- 2 Next is the A note, played with the open A string. When you're playing an open string, the harmony note is played

- with the middle finger on the string below: the 4th fret of the D string.
- 3 Next the B. You're playing it with your index finger, so the harmony is played with the ring finger, the 5th fret on the D string.
- 4 The C note is played with the middle finger, so the harmony is played with the index finger: 2nd fret, D string.
- 5 We're now on the D, 5th fret on the A string. Ring finger, so

- harmony note with the middle finger on the string below, so that's the 4th fret on the D string.
- 6 Another open string, so the harmony note is middle finger, 3rd fret on the A string.
- 7 F#: 2nd fret E string, so harmony ring finger, 5th fret A string.
- 8 Finally we're up to high G. It's the 3rd fret on the E string, so the harmony is index finger on the A string: 2nd fret.



Double Stops 1