

Lesson Nine : Tremolo

Technique

/// “yao zhi” = thumb plucks outward and inward repeatedly and rapidly

Guzheng is a plucked-string instrument. When a string is plucked, the note decays fast. Thus by playing the same string many times in a fast speed, an illusion of a sustained note is created. Tremolo is often used in pluck-string instrument such as guitar and mandolin.

How to play the tremolo:

1. Use the right side of your index finger to hold your thumb pick. Hold at the place where the adhesive tape is.
2. Rest the thumb pick on the other side of the string. (The resting position for doing the “pi”, thumb flip.) Keep the thumb straight. You may also rest your pinky finger next to the string hole of the string 1-2 strings away from the string you are going to play.
3. Use your wrist to turn the thumb pick to do a thumb flip pluck “pi ㄣ” downward heading the next string.(The string that is close to your body) Please note, this is not a regular flip pluck, where you use your joint to kick out. You turn your wrist to the left so the thumb pick naturally goes right downward like a flip pluck.
4. Turn your wrist left, so the thumb pick plucks the same string away from your body and heading left upward. Again, do not bend your thumb, keep the thumb straight. Turn the wrist to pluck the thumb.
5. Repeat step 3 and 4 continuously.

When doing tremolo, remember to use only your wrist to turn the pick. Do not use your thumb joints, and do not use your arm to turn. While doing the tremolo, make sure the whole hand and arm and wrist are loose and relax. The motion is like turning a door knob.

It takes a lot of time to be fluent in tremolo. Please be patient, and practice the drills slowly. Over time, you will be proficient on the tremolo.

Drill 24

11 11 | 1111 1111 | 1_{..}- | 22 22 | 2222 2222 | 2_{..}- |
33 33 | 3333 3333 | 3_{..}- | 55 55 | 5555 5555 | 5_{..}- |
66 66 | 6666 6666 | 6_{..}- | 11 11 | 1111 1111 | 1_{..}- ||

Drill 25

1_{..}- 5_{..}- | 6_{..}- 3_{..}- | 5_{..}- 2_{..}- | 3_{..}- 1_{..}- | 2_{..}- 6_{..}- | 1_{..}- 5_{..}- |
6_{..}- 3_{..}- | 5_{..}- 2_{..}- | 3_{..}- 1_{..}- | 2_{..}- 6_{..}- | 1_{..}- 5_{..}- | 5_{..}- 1_{..}- |
6_{..}- 2_{..}- | 1_{..}- 3_{..}- | 2_{..}- 5_{..}- | 3_{..}- 6_{..}- | 5_{..}- 1_{..}- | 6_{..}- 2_{..}- |
1_{..}- 3_{..}- | 2_{..}- 5_{..}- | 3_{..}- 6_{..}- | 5_{..}- 1_{..}- ||

(24) Edelweiss

1=D 3/4
♩ = 92

Richard Rodgers

3_♯- 5̣ | 2_♯- - | i_♯- 5̣ | 4_♯- - | 3_♯- 3̣ | 3̣ 4̣ 5̣ |

6_♯- - | 5_♯- - | 3_♯- 5̣ | 2_♯- - | i_♯- 5̣ | 4_♯- - |

3_♯- 5̣ | 5̣ 6̣ 7̣ | i_♯- - | i_♯- - | 2_♯- 5̣ | 7̣ 6̣ 5̣ |

3_♯- 5̣ | i_♯- - | 6_♯- ị | 2_♯- ị | 7_♯- - | 5_♯- - |

3_♯- 5̣ | 2_♯- - | i_♯- 5̣ | 4_♯- - | 3_♯- 5̣ | 5̣ 6̣ 7̣ |

i_♯- - | i_♯- - ||

Drill 26

1 _♯ -	2 _♯ -	3 _♯ -	5 _♯ -	6 _♯ -	i _♯ -	2 _♯ -	3 _♯ -
1 1 2 2	3 3 5 5	6 6 1 1	2 2 3 3				
<u>15</u> <u>15</u> <u>26</u> <u>26</u>	<u>31</u> <u>31</u> <u>52</u> <u>52</u>	<u>63</u> <u>63</u> <u>15</u> <u>15</u>	<u>26</u> <u>26</u> <u>31</u> <u>31</u>				

5 _♯ -	6 _♯ -	i _♯ -	i _♯ -	6 _♯ -	5 _♯ -	3 _♯ -	2 _♯ -
5 5 6 6	i i i i	6 6 5 5	3 3 2 2				
<u>52</u> <u>52</u> <u>63</u> <u>63</u>	<u>15</u> <u>15</u> <u>15</u> <u>15</u>	<u>63</u> <u>63</u> <u>52</u> <u>52</u>	<u>31</u> <u>31</u> <u>26</u> <u>26</u>				

i _♯ -	6 _♯ -	5 _♯ -	3 _♯ -	2 _♯ -	1 _♯ -	1 _♯ -	- - -
1 1 6 6	5 5 3 3	2 2 1 1					
<u>15</u> <u>15</u> <u>63</u> <u>63</u>	<u>52</u> <u>52</u> <u>31</u> <u>31</u>	<u>26</u> <u>26</u> <u>15</u> <u>15</u>	<u>11</u> <u>51</u> <u>11</u> <u>51</u>				

2 _♯ -	- - -	3 _♯ -	- - -	5 _♯ -	- - -	6 _♯ -	- - -
<u>22</u> <u>62</u> <u>22</u> <u>62</u>	<u>33</u> <u>13</u> <u>33</u> <u>13</u>	<u>55</u> <u>25</u> <u>55</u> <u>25</u>	<u>66</u> <u>36</u> <u>66</u> <u>36</u>				

i _♯ -	- - -
<u>11</u> <u>51</u> <u>11</u> <u>51</u>	

(25) Nocturne of Suzhou 蘇州夜曲

1=D 4/4

Hattori Ryouichi

♩ = 72

$\overset{*}{5}$ $\overset{\backslash}{5}$ - $\overset{\backslash}{6}$ $\overset{\backslash}{3}$	$\overset{\backslash}{2}$ $\overset{\backslash}{1}$ $\overset{\backslash}{2}$ $\overset{\backslash}{6}$ -	$\overset{\backslash}{6}$ $\overset{\backslash}{5}$ $\overset{\backslash}{3}$ $\overset{\backslash}{5}$ $\overset{\backslash}{6}$ $\overset{\backslash}{1}$ $\overset{\backslash}{7}$ $\overset{\backslash}{5}$	$\overset{\backslash}{6}$ - - -
$\overset{\cdot}{5}$ - - -	$\overset{\cdot}{2}$ $\overset{\cdot}{6}$ $\overset{\cdot}{2}$ $\overset{\cdot}{0}$ $\overset{\cdot}{6}$	$\overset{\cdot}{5}$ - - -	$\overset{\cdot}{0}$ $\overset{\cdot}{0}$ $\overset{\cdot}{3}$ $\overset{\cdot}{6}$

$\overset{\backslash}{6}$ - $\overset{\backslash}{7}$ $\overset{\backslash}{1}$	$\overset{\backslash}{7}$ $\overset{\backslash}{6}$ $\overset{\backslash}{7}$ $\overset{\backslash}{6}$ $\overset{\backslash}{3}$ -	$\overset{\backslash}{3}$ $\overset{\backslash}{2}$ $\overset{\backslash}{3}$ $\overset{\backslash}{2}$ $\overset{\backslash}{1}$ $\overset{\backslash}{2}$	$\overset{\backslash}{5}$ - - -
$\overset{\cdot}{6}$ - - -	$\overset{\cdot}{0}$ $\overset{\cdot}{0}$ $\overset{\cdot}{0}$ $\overset{\cdot}{3}$	$\overset{\cdot}{2}$ - - -	

$\overset{\backslash}{6}$ $\overset{\backslash}{1}$ $\overset{\backslash}{2}$ $\overset{\backslash}{1}$	$\overset{\backslash}{3}$ $\overset{\backslash}{2}$ $\overset{\backslash}{1}$ $\overset{\backslash}{2}$ $\overset{\backslash}{6}$ -	$\overset{\backslash}{6}$ $\overset{\backslash}{5}$ $\overset{\backslash}{3}$ $\overset{\backslash}{5}$ $\overset{\backslash}{6}$ $\overset{\backslash}{1}$ $\overset{\backslash}{7}$ $\overset{\backslash}{5}$	$\overset{\backslash}{6}$ - - -
$\overset{\cdot}{6}$ $\overset{\cdot}{3}$ $\overset{\cdot}{6}$ $\overset{\cdot}{0}$ $\overset{\cdot}{0}$	$\overset{\cdot}{0}$ $\overset{\cdot}{0}$ $\overset{\cdot}{0}$ $\overset{\cdot}{6}$	$\overset{\cdot}{5}$ - - -	$\overset{\cdot}{0}$ $\overset{\cdot}{0}$ $\overset{\cdot}{3}$ $\overset{\cdot}{2}$

$\overset{\backslash}{6}$ $\overset{\backslash}{1}$ $\overset{\backslash}{2}$ $\overset{\backslash}{1}$	$\overset{*}{6}$ $\overset{\backslash}{1}$ $\overset{\backslash}{5}$ $\overset{\backslash}{6}$ $\overset{\backslash}{3}$ -	$\overset{\backslash}{3}$ $\overset{\backslash}{2}$ $\overset{\backslash}{1}$ $\overset{\backslash}{2}$ $\overset{\backslash}{3}$ $\overset{\backslash}{5}$ $\overset{\backslash}{6}$ $\overset{\backslash}{5}$ $\overset{\backslash}{6}$	$\overset{\backslash}{5}$ - - -
$\overset{\cdot}{6}$ $\overset{\cdot}{3}$ $\overset{\cdot}{6}$ $\overset{\cdot}{0}$ $\overset{\cdot}{0}$	$\overset{\cdot}{0}$ $\overset{\cdot}{0}$ $\overset{\cdot}{0}$ $\overset{\cdot}{3}$	$\overset{\cdot}{2}$ - - -	