

## More Triplets

In the previous section on triplets we looked at single-note triplets and how to pick them. Remember, these triplets are played in place of a crotchet. They take up the same length of time as a crotchet, and as with a crotchet, you pick Down afterwards.

Now we're going to have a look at some busier triplets, with a bit more work for the left hand. I recommend you read through this section and have a look at the different ones before you try picking them.

### Variations of Single-note Triplets

Instead of just playing the same note three times, a musician may change the middle one to another note from the scale to add variety, like this (*Tr.33*).

The diagram shows a four-string guitar fretboard with strings E, A, D, and G. The D string is the focus. Four asterisks (\*) are placed above the staff, marking the start of four triplet exercises. Each exercise consists of a triplet of notes on the D string, indicated by a bracket with a '3' underneath. The notes and their fret numbers are: 0-0-2, 0-2-2, 5-5-4, and 2-2-5. Below each triplet, the picking pattern is written as D U D, where 'D' is underlined and 'U' is uppercase.

This isn't as easy as playing one note three times. In particular, if you try these out, you'll probably find playing 545 (on any string) is harder than playing 555. But they're all worth learning; it's good to have choices, and you can use these kinds of variations in lots of places.

### Three-note Triplets

These triplets have three different notes which go up or down the scale. They seem to give the music a little kick – 'move along there!' It's a very different effect to single-note triplets, which seem to jump up and down on the spot.

These triplets are made by replacing a pair of quavers, usually by adding an extra note in between them (you can also make a triplet by adding a note before or after a pair of quavers). Unless you want a particular effect, this note should be part of the scale.

The following are in the D scale, and are made by adding an extra note between quavers (*Tr.34*).

The diagram shows a four-string guitar fretboard with strings E, A, D, and G. The D string is the focus. The notation shows a sequence of notes on the D string: 0-4-0-2-4, 2-5-2-4-5, 0-4-0-2-4, and 0-3-0-2-3. Each triplet of notes is indicated by a bracket with a '3' underneath. Below each triplet, the picking pattern is written as D U D U D, where the first 'D' and the second 'D' are underlined and 'U' is uppercase.

You're playing three evenly-spaced notes in the time it would take to play two. The easiest way to practise this is to play the two notes and then play the triplet, and make sure they take up the same amount of time.

Here are two good exercises to get you used to adding in the extra note. Start very slowly! You can build up a bit of speed later, but first it's essential to get the picking and timing right (*Tr.35*).