

I'm sure you can think of other combinations of pinches to try, such as:

1		1			1	1			1		1	1	1			
0	2	0	2		0	2	0	2		0	2	0	2			
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+		1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+

Next we'll switch to the Index finger, which is assigned to the 3rd string:

2		2			2	2			2	2			2			
0	2	0	2		0	2	0	2		0	2	0	2			
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+		1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+

Depending on how you are holding your right hand, that second measure might be traumatic. This is what I call a *tight pinch*, where the Thumb plays the 4th string just as the Index finger plays the 3rd string, and they're probably running into each other, no? If yes, rotate your hand so that your fingers are more perpendicular to, or straighter across, the strings.

This nudges the Thumb a bit toward the neck, so now the two digits can move past each other. Indeed, this is the recommended orientation of the right hand in any case, and keeps you from striking the strings at too much of an angle, which would make a *scraping* sound on the attack.

This "righter" angle is what a classical player achieves when he sits with his guitar over his *left* knee instead of his right and elevates the neck. Try it and see how it feels.

Now let's try the 3rd finger (Old Floppy) on the 1st string:

0		0			0	0			0	0			0			
0	2	0	2		0	2	0	2		0	2	0	2			
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+		1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+

This may feel *very* odd if you've never used the 3rd finger very much. It's too bad, but Old Floppy will be called upon to do at least as much work as your two stronger fingers, since melody notes frequently wind up on the 1st string. Doesn't seem fair.

Hey, let's try playing more than one string at a time:

1	1	1		0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0		
2	2	2		1	1	1		1	1	1		2	2	2		
0	2	0	2		0	2	0	2		0	2	0	2			
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+		1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+

How did that last one feel, using the Index and Ring fingers *without* the Middle finger to help maintain the spacing? Keeping your fingers stationed on specific strings helps here. But we'll back away from multiple fingers for now and use just the Thumb and one finger.