

## Six Tones for the Dragon: Beginning Level Back-up Chords and Arpeggio Patterns

Here are some interesting ways you can back up this round-like pattern of 8 measures. First we have an ascending chord sequence, where the lowest note of each chord form ascends through an E minor 6-tone scale (called hexatonic officially). Then we descend with roughly the same chord forms. Sometimes I like to use the ascending forms while my top line or melody part is descending, and then reverse roles when my melody part is ascending. Don't worry, though, because it will sound fine even if they are both going in the same direction.

The arpeggio patterns are eight different ideas all applied to the first Em chord. But of course you should try them on for size on the other chords as they occur in each of these sequences. Since I don't really read tablature, I usually just mix and match these patterns at will, and I suggest you do the same. If you have to look at some tablature, just refer to the block form whole note patterns for the ascending and descending chords. Then tell yourself: "I'm going to break these three notes up in time - any way I want to" -- something like this may help you keep everything loose and creative.

### Ascending Chords:

	Em	D	Em	D	Em	D	Em	Bm	Em
	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	5	8
	4 1	0	1	3	4	5	6	5	6
	4 1	0	0	2	3	4	5	5	5

### Descending Chords:

	Em	D	Em	D	Em	D	Em	Bm	Em
	8	7	5	4	3	2	1		1
	6	5	4	3	1	0		1	1
	5	4	3	2	1	0	1	1	1

### Em Arpeggio Patterns to try - apply these to all chords:

	1.	2.	3.	4.
	1	1	1	1
		1	1	1
			1	1

	5.	6.	7.	8.
	8	8	8	8
	6	5	5	5
	6	6	6	6
	5	5	5	5