



Right Hand Disciplines: The Segovian Right Hand

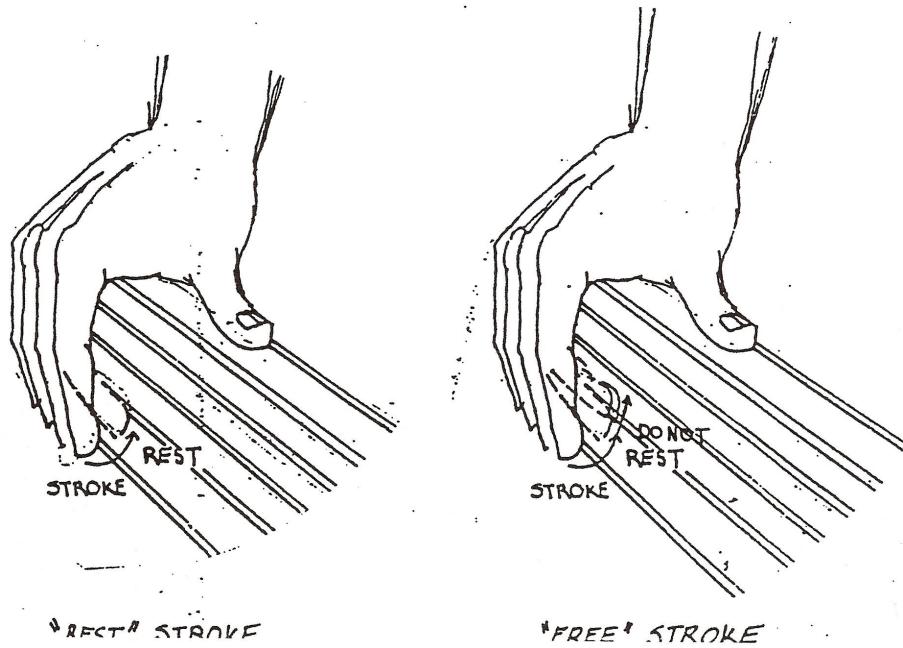
Andres Segovia was the premier Classical guitarist of the last century. I was fortunate enough to actually see him perform two different times in my life before he passed and it was truly magnificent. I was also fortunate enough to start my studies at age ten with one of his master class students Zane Casey. I must say, though the technique is simple, it takes true discipline and practice to master the right hand but it is worth every minute spent. It is a universally agreed upon "fact" that playing the guitar "finger style" as opposed to "pick style" allows you to really experience the depth of the instrument. It is more than merely a tuned percussion instrument. It becomes a Lap-Piano. Lap-Piano is a term George Van Eps (seven string guitarist and another of the "all time greats of guitar") uses to describe the true essence of our instrument. I wish to pass this technique along.

We start with the thumb out (like a hitchhiker) and resting on the lowest string (6th) with the wrist down close to the face of the instrument but not touching (see photos or quick time movie) and the index, middle, and ring fingers resting on the 3rd, 2nd, and 1st strings respectively. Pinkie out and not resting on the wood.

Now raise the fingers off the strings slightly and bring the index finger to the first string. Strike the first string with the index, resting it on the next string (2nd). Next strike the first

string with the middle finger resting on the next string (2nd) as you lift the index to strike the first string again. Repeat this action on the first string until a smooth ("fingers do the walking") walking action develops. Now go to the next (2nd) string and repeat until smooth, then the third string. This is called the rest stroke. Free stroke with the fingers is used for chordal play and arpeggiation. See Video.

Use your thumb in a free stroke (not striking and resting on the next string, see video) for the lower three strings while keeping your index middle and ring fingers at proper rest position on the 3rd, 2nd, and 1st strings. Use this method of right hand positioning when exercising with "Right Hand Studies", "Line Study", "Etude in G", and all of the "Five Major Scale Disciplines". Your right hand should develop quickly with the scale reps that are indicated so.... "Do The Reps".



RIGHT HAND STUDIES

PRACTICE 30 TIMES

I = INDEX FINGER
M = MIDDLE FINGER
R = RING FINGER

"E" OR FIRST STRING



1ST TIME I,M,I,M, ETC.

2ND TIME I,R,I,R, ETC.

3RD TIME M,R,M,R, ETC.



"B" OR SECOND STRING



C B D

NOTE: TO DEVELOP THE RIGHT HAND,
USE 'REST STROKE' ALTERNATING
FINGERS WITH EACH NOTE. 3 REPETITIONS X 30



"G" OR 3RD STRING



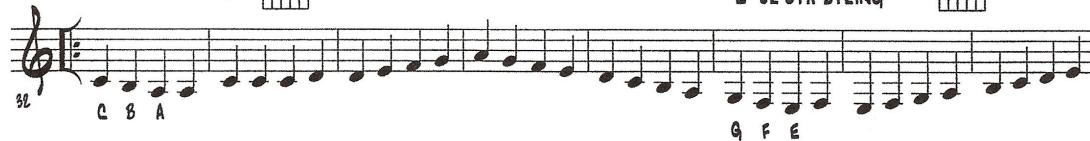
"D" OR 4TH STRING



"A" OR 5TH STRING



"E" OR 6TH STRING



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