

# LOOPER PEDAL EXERCISES

## EXERCISE 1

This exercise will get you used to opening and closing the loop – an important skill to create effective loops. While some looper pedals are able to quantize your loop, it's still important to develop this skill.

Here are the steps to follow for this exercise:

1. Pick any chord (Am in this example)
2. Count out four beats in your head at a slow tempo to get ready for the loop (eg: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4)
3. Hit the looper's record footswitch just as you count 'one' and immediately strum the chord (eg: 1, 2, 3, 4, **hit**)
4. Continue counting the beat in your head while you let the chord ring out
5. Hit the footswitch just before you count 'one' again (eg: 1, 2, 3, 4, **hit**)

The image shows musical notation for Exercise 1. The top staff is in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. It contains a single chord, Am, represented by a whole note chord symbol with a repeat sign. The bottom staff is labeled 'TAB' and shows the fret numbers for the Am chord: 0 on the 1st string, 2 on the 2nd string, 2 on the 3rd string, and 0 on the 4th string. There are repeat signs at the beginning and end of the TAB staff.

This exercise is very forgiving with your timing so don't rush on to the next exercise until you can repeatedly create a steady loop without any problems in your counting.

## EXERCISE 2

This exercise is almost the same as Exercise 1, but this time you will strum the chord along with the beat.

Follow the same steps as Exercise 1 and this time strum the chord at every count. Practice creating a two bar loop.

The image shows musical notation for Exercise 2. The top staff is in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. It contains a two-bar loop of Am chords, represented by whole notes in each of the four beats, with a repeat sign. The bottom staff is labeled 'TAB' and shows the fret numbers for the Am chord in each of the four beats: 0 on the 1st string, 2 on the 2nd string, 2 on the 3rd string, and 0 on the 4th string. There are repeat signs at the beginning and end of the TAB staff.

### EXERCISE 3

If you have mastered the earlier exercises, now you can try something more musical. This exercise will produce a blues shuffle which you can use to solo over.

In the below example, you will start the loop, play the first position for two bars, play the second position for two bars, then end the loop. The end result should be a smooth transition back to the first position without any jumps in the rhythm. Listen to the audio clip on the website to get a feel for what this sounds like.

Musical notation for Exercise 3, showing a 4/4 blues shuffle. The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth notes and a triplet of eighth notes. The guitar TAB below shows the fret numbers for each string.

### EXERCISE 4

This exercise introduces overdubbing to your loop. In this exercise we start with Exercise 3 already recorded on the looper and add an overdub.

1. Practice playing the two chords along with the existing loop to get used to the timing
2. When you're ready, hit the overdub footswitch to start overdubbing
3. Strum the first chord as soon as the loop repeats
4. Strum the second chord when the loop reaches the second position
5. Hit the footswitch at the repeat of the loop to stop recording

Musical notation for Exercise 4, showing two chords in 4/4 time. The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The chords are represented by whole notes. The guitar TAB below shows the fret numbers for each string.

When timed properly, you should hear your two chords perfectly line up with the blues shuffle. If you hear any problems with the timing or the last chord rings out over the top of the start of the loop, hit your looper's undo pedal to try again.

Creating well timed overdubs is an important skill so practice this simple exercise until it feels like second nature.

## BONUS – ONE BY METALLICA

Some songs use two guitar parts and a looper pedal is an excellent way to play both parts on your own. In this example we will look at how to play both guitars in the intro to 'One' by Metallica using the looper pedal. The intro to 'Fade to Black' by Metallica is a similar riff and lead section worth practicing. Check out [this book](#) for full guitar parts.

Here is the rhythm guitar part (clean sound) which you will record using your looper:

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

T  
A  
B

2 4 2 0 3 3 2 4 2 0 3 3 4 0 0

Practice the part along with a metronome set to around 98 bpm before trying to record it with your looper.

Record the above loop and once you get the timing right at the start and end, you can practice playing the lead guitar parts. Here is the first part of the lead (also a clean sound – but use a different pickup so it stands out):

9 10 11

12 13 14 15

full

2 4 2 4 3 2 4 3 2 2 3 3 2 4

11 9 7 9 7 6 7 6 0 6 4 0 2 2 4 2 4 2 3 2 2 4 2 3 2 4 2 4