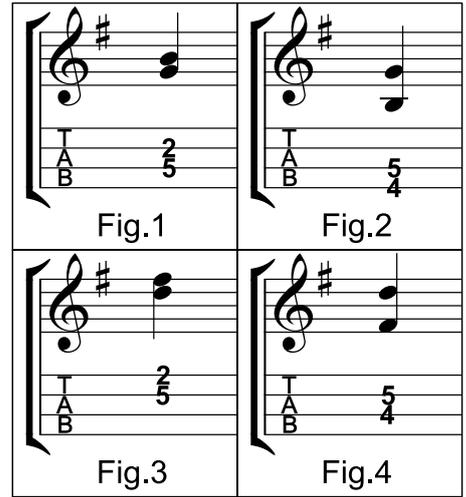


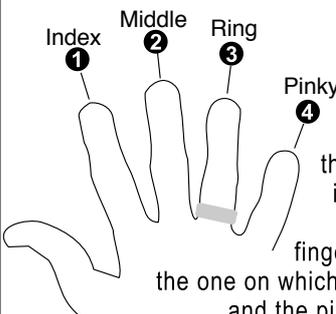
Double Stops 1

DDOUBLE STOPS ARE A way of playing harmony with yourself, and the use of double stops can contribute to a richer, fuller sound. Double stops are a pair of notes from the scale you are using, and usually (but not always) a partial chord. The most common harmony note in western music is the "third interval", in other words, two notes up the scale from the melody note. If you're playing, say, the G note in a G scale (5th fret on the D string), the third interval is two notes up from that, the B note (2nd fret on the A string, see fig.1). It doesn't always have to be played higher than the first note, however. You can still play a B note, but this time play it an octave below (4th fret on the G string - see fig.2). Go up to the D note and the third interval is two notes in the scale above that, which is F# (fig.3); or again play it lower (fig.4) on the D string.



Double Stops - a System

I have formulated a simple system for playing double stops over the years. There are others, I guess, but rather than learning all the double stops in all the scales, my simple system gives you an easy starting point. In this system all the harmony notes are lower than the actual notes, and all played on the string next to the actual note. If the actual note is played with your index finger, the harmony will be played on the string below with your ring finger. Actual note middle finger, harmony index finger; actual note ring finger, harmony note



Terminology
I grew up calling my fingers "index", "middle", "ring" and "pinky", but not everyone is familiar with these terms. The index finger is the 1st, or pointing finger; the middle finger is the 2nd finger; the ring finger is the 3rd, the one on which you'd wear a wedding ring; and the pinky is the 4th or little finger.

middle finger. Finally, if the actual note is an open string, harmony note is played with the middle finger.

Double Stops in the G Scale

- 1 First note in the scale is G (5th fret on the D string). In my system the higher note of the two is going to be the real note, the lower is going to be the harmony. Since you're playing the G note with your ring finger, the harmony note is played with the middle finger on the string below, so that's the 4th fret on the G string.
- 2 Next is the A note, played with the open A string. When you're playing an open string, the harmony note is played

- with the middle finger on the string below: the 4th fret of the D string.
- 3 Next the B. You're playing it with your index finger, so the harmony is played with the ring finger, the 5th fret on the D string.
- 4 The C note is played with the middle finger, so the harmony is played with the index finger: 2nd fret, D string.
- 5 We're now on the D, 5th fret on the A string. Ring finger, so

- harmony note with the middle finger on the string below, so that's the 4th fret on the D string.
- 6 Another open string, so the harmony note is middle finger, 3rd fret on the A string.
- 7 F#: 2nd fret E string, so harmony ring finger, 5th fret A string.
- 8 Finally we're up to high G. It's the 3rd fret on the E string, so the harmony is index finger on the A string: 2nd fret.

Fig.5

Double Stops 2

Double Stops in the D Scale

THE D SCALE FOLLOWS the same pattern except the low D, the first note of the scale, which I feel needs a stronger harmony, so I tend to play the low A note, 2nd fret on the G string (Fig.6)

Also, because there's a C sharp in the D scale, when you play the E note (2nd fret D string) you're still playing the harmony note with your ring finger, but this time it's on the 6th fret rather than the 5th (Fig.7).

Similarly, when you reach the C sharp note, you play the 4th fret on the A string rather than the 3rd (Fig.8).

Whatever scale you're in, you still use the same fingers for the harmony notes, but on the notes of the scale you're in: in G major you play the C natural, 3rd fret on the A string. In D major, you play C sharp, 4th fret on the A string.

Fig. 9

FORNETH HOUSE IS IN Perthshire, and the air was published in Robert Petrie's collection of 1790. It was also published by Nathaniel Gow under the title *Mrs Crawford's Favourite* in Gow's Fourth Collection, 1800.

The double stop system described by me over the two sheets was devised by myself from over 40 years of playing. I didn't know much of the theory in the early days, but I did know that it worked for me, and it might work for you too.

Forneth House (Robert Petrie)

slow air