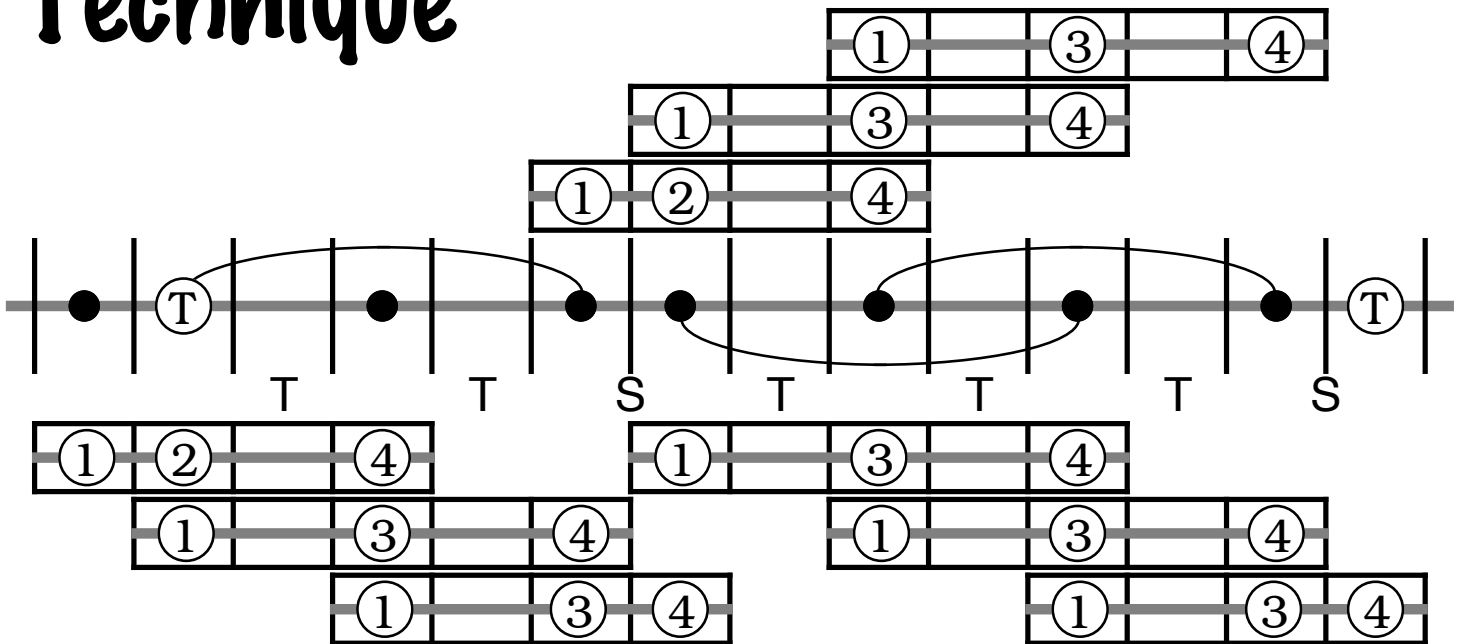


# Single String Technique

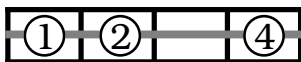


When improvising to music, if you select a note at random and play it and it is not right (that is to say it does not belong to the same key) then you are only ever one fret away from a note that is in key. If you do select a right note then you are only one or two notes away from the next right note.

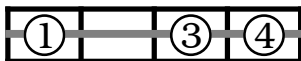
Whatever the style of music, whatever the key, whatever string you are on, this is true for all major and minor modes based on the diatonic major scale. This represents possibly up to 90% of the music you are listening to.

The single string technique will open a whole new area of playing to you. You will be able to solo in any style of music in any key anywhere on the guitar neck. We can also use the single string technique to determine the key signature of music based on the diatonic major scale. There is however one slight catch; you must have an **ear** for music.

When we determine a correct note then there are 3 possible shapes that can follow on from this:-  
a 124



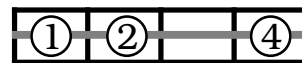
a 134



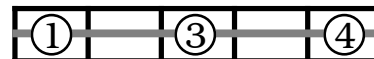
or a stretch.



If we discover a 134 first then this is always followed by a 124



A 124 is always followed by a stretch



After a stretch there are 2 possible shapes that can follow on; a 134 or another stretch.

As shown in the diagram at the top of the page; the tonic note for the key signature is either the first note of stretch one or the note following the double stretch. If we are trying to work out the key signature and we come across a stretch, then we need to go through a process of elimination to determine which stretch we have discovered.

