Picking and Arpeggio Styles for 3/4 Time

What is 3/4 Time?

Most pop songs are in 4/4 time. So you’d count along with them “1, 2, 3, 4”. But there are many songs in 3/4 time i.e. you count “1, 2, 3” along with the song.

Thumb and Two Finger Patterns

Three patterns using the thumb and two finger method of picking.

\textit{pim} Pattern \ A very straight forward pattern with the thumb on the C-string.

\begin{center}
\begin{tikzpicture}
\draw (-1,-2) -- (3,2);
\draw (-1,0) -- (3,-4);
\node at (0,0) {p}; \node at (1,0) {i}; \node at (2,0) {m};
\node at (0,-2) {T}; \node at (1,-2) {3}; \node at (2,-2) {2}; \node at (0,-4) {A}; \node at (1,-4) {2}; \node at (2,-4) {4};
\node at (0,-1) {0}; \node at (1,-1) {4}; \node at (2,-1) {0}; \node at (0,-3) {B}; \node at (1,-3) {4}; \node at (2,-3) {5};
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{center}

\textit{pimipi} Pattern \ Similar to the last pattern but now you’re going up and down the strings (and up a bit again).

\begin{center}
\begin{tikzpicture}
\draw (-1,-2) -- (3,2);
\draw (-1,0) -- (3,-4);
\node at (0,0) {p}; \node at (1,0) {i}; \node at (2,0) {m}; \node at (3,0) {i}; \node at (4,0) {p}; \node at (5,0) {i};
\node at (0,-2) {T}; \node at (1,-2) {3}; \node at (2,-2) {2}; \node at (3,-2) {1}; \node at (4,-2) {1}; \node at (0,-4) {A}; \node at (1,-4) {2}; \node at (2,-4) {4}; \node at (3,-4) {5}; \node at (4,-4) {5};
\node at (0,-1) {5}; \node at (1,-1) {5}; \node at (2,-1) {5}; \node at (3,-1) {5}; \node at (4,-1) {5}; \node at (0,-3) {B}; \node at (1,-3) {4}; \node at (2,-3) {5}; \node at (3,-3) {5}; \node at (4,-3) {5};
\node at (0,-1) {3}; \node at (1,-1) {3}; \node at (2,-1) {3}; \node at (3,-1) {3}; \node at (4,-1) {3}; \node at (0,-3) {2}; \node at (1,-3) {3}; \node at (2,-3) {0}; \node at (3,-3) {0}; \node at (4,-3) {0};
\node at (0,-2) {p}; \node at (1,-2) {i}; \node at (2,-2) {m}; \node at (3,-2) {i}; \node at (4,-2) {p}; \node at (5,-2) {i};
\node at (0,-4) {T}; \node at (1,-4) {3}; \node at (2,-4) {2}; \node at (0,-6) {A}; \node at (1,-6) {2}; \node at (2,-6) {4}; \node at (0,-8) {B}; \node at (1,-8) {4}; \node at (2,-8) {5};
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{center}
Unison Pattern  Here you’re playing the E and A-strings at the same time. There’s a bass note then the rest of chord. It’s something you hear a lot in 3/4 time.

One Finger Per String Method  Now for three patterns using the One Finger Per String Picking Method.

pima Pattern  Going straight up the strings. But the first two notes are eighth notes and the second two quarter notes.
**Unison Pattern**

Another example with strings being played in unison. But this time the g and E-strings being played at the same time.

**imp Pattern**