```
1           1           1           1
        2       2       2       2       2       2       2       2
0       0   0       0   0       0   0       0   0       0   0
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +   1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +   1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +   1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +
```

I recommend that you use your right-hand *Middle finger* to play this new note, a C note. Moreover, I would say that for now, you should station your **picking fingers** as follows:

> Index finger = **1st** finger = forefinger.............stationed on..........**3rd** string
> Middle finger = **2nd** finger = long finger.......stationed on..........**2nd** string
> Ring finger = **3rd** finger = floppy finger........stationed on.......... **1st** string

Makes sense: The Thumb handles the three bass strings and each adjacent finger handles one of three adjacent treble strings. *Regard these positions as **home base**.*

And make sure you let that melody note ring out for the whole measure (it's a Whole note).

So far, we've got a 4-note bassline and a single melody note on Count 1 of a repeating measure. If you know anything about ragtime piano playing, you might recognize what's going on. On the piano, the left hand maintains a bouncy bassline while the right hand plays the independent melody. Pity the poor guitarist, who is forced to use up his entire left hand simply to hold down the notes and chords, leaving only one hand to perform both bass and melody functions. For the pianist, the wall is between the two hands; for the guitarist, it's between the Thumb and fingers of *one* hand.

Now, I'm not going to throw dozens of mindless exercises at you just to shamelessly pump up the number of pages in this book to some arbitrary, pre-ordained number [85], but we've got a lot of work to do on that Thumb of yours, so please try all the variations.

First let's add another pinch at Count 3, producing a string of Half notes:

```
1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1
    2       2       2       2       2       2       2       2
0       0   0       0   0       0   0       0   0       0
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +   1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +   1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +   1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +
```

Sorry, but I'm not going to count this as another parakeet, since it's identical to the pinch on Count 1. It's just the same "melody" played double-time and against the same 5th-string bass. But if we move the pinch to Count 2, (below) now *that's* another parakeet, because now the pinch is between the 2nd and 4 strings. Should feel a bit different. Then we'll double-time the melody in the 3rd and 4th measures:

```
    1           1           1       1       1       1
    2       2       2       2       2       2       2       2
0       0   0       0   0       0   0       0   0
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +   1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +   1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +   1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +
```