

# Rock Workshop 103: Getting the Feel

**61** Getting the right “feel” is everything when playing rock guitar. Two techniques that will help you get that feel are: **Accents** and **Palm Muting**.

**Palm Mute:** Gently lay the palm of your pick hand on the bridge of your guitar. If your hand is too far in front of the bridge, the strings will be too muted and not produce any tone at all. If your hand is too far behind the bridge, the strings will not be muted enough. The palm mute produces a short, muffled, percussive attack which greatly adds to the rhythmic drive and intensity of your playing.

The palm mute is indicated by the abbreviation: **P.M.**

The **E5 Power Chord** has its *root* on the sixth string. Notice that although each of the three power chords (E5, A5 and D5) are played on different string groups, they all look alike and are fingered alike—with the first finger at the second fret.

E5

O	x	x	x	x
1				

E5

In the following three examples, work on getting a short, percussive attack on the muted chords. Note the contrast between the muted and unmuted sections.

**1**

E5

**2**

A5

**3**

D5



**Accents:** An accent mark (>) tells you to emphasize a note or chord. The accents in this next example form a pattern which breaks the eight notes in each measure into three groups. You may want to try counting the pattern as shown, until you can “feel” it:

1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2

**4** Muted rhythm with accents:

*Rock Steady* is a 12-bar blues in “A.” The three chords are: A5 (I), D5 (IV) and E5 (V). Use the palm mute throughout and the accent pattern where indicated.

## Rock Steady

**Medium rock**

A5 A.S.

P.M. throughout

D5 A5

E5 A5