

Guzheng Techniques English Words

- └ read as “**tuō**” = thumb plucks a string forward and inward toward your palm
- ┘ read as “**mō**” = index finger plucks a string inward toward your palm
- ┐ read as “**gō**” = middle finger plucks a string inward toward your palm
- └┐ “**da cuo**” = Octave block. Thumb and middle finger pluck at the same time inward toward the palm
- └┘ “**xiao cuo**” = Little block. Thumb and index finger pluck at the same time inward toward the palm
- 〰 “**can**” or “**rou**” = vibrato. The “**rou**” vibrato is casual and light; the “**can**” vibrato is stronger and faster.
- * “**hua zhi**” (flower finger) = gliss into a playing note using thumb
- ↗ ↘ “**gua zou**” = glissando. Arrow going up is glissando across the strings upward from bass to treble notes using the index finger; arrow going down is glissando across the strings downward from treble to bass notes using the thumb.
- ^ read as “**da**” = ring finger plucks a string inward toward your palm, it is often used in advanced fingering and arpeggio.
- ↵ read as “**pi**” = thumb flip plucks a string outward away from your hand heading your body.
- / read as “**tiao**” = index flip plucks a string outward and upward away from your hand and body.
- ↶ read as “**ti**” = middle finger plucks a string outward and upward away from your hand and body.

4 (fa) and 7 (ti)

1. We make the **3** string into a **4** sound by pressing down the string to raise the tension to produce a higher pitch. The distance between a **3 (mi)** and a **4 (fa)** is a minor second or half a note. So we use left hand to press down the left side of the bridge of the **3** string slight down to produce a **4 (fa)** sound.



2. We make the **6 (la)** into a **7 (ti)**. **6** and **7** is a major second or a whole step apart. A heavier bending is required to get the accurate pitch. The force needed is approximately twice as strong as bending **3** into a **4**. (Remember **3** and **4** is only a half-step apart.)

$3 \overset{\curvearrowright}{\rightarrow} 5$ “**shang hua yin**” = forward portamento, upward bending to a higher pitch note.

$3 \overset{\curvearrowleft}{\leftarrow} 5$ “**xia hua yin**” = Reverse/backward portamento, release bending from a higher pitch note back to a lower pitch.

/// or ✂ “**yao zhi**” = tremolos. Index finger or thumb plucks outward and inward repeatedly and rapidly.

“**pa yin**” = Arpeggio; “**fenjiehexuan**” = Broken Chords

◦ “**fan yin**” = Harmonic

✦ “**lun zhi**” - rotates fingers plucking on the same string repeatedly.

☺ “**yanchangyin**”, to extend the sound

Sharp. Raises the pitch of a note by one semitone.

b **Flat**. Lowers the pitch of a note by one semitone.

< **Crescendo**. A gradual increase in volume.

> **Decrescendo**. A gradual decrease in volume.

ppp Pianississimo. Extremely soft.

pp Pianissimo. Very soft.

P Piano. Soft.

mp Mezzo piano. Literally, half as soft as *piano*.

mf Mezzo forte. Similarly, half as loud as *forte*.

f Forte. Loud.

ff Fortissimo. Very loud.

fff Fortississimo. Extremely loud.

pp Forte-piano. A section of music in which the music should initially be played loudly (*forte*), then immediately softly (*piano*).

