



GUITAR COURSE COMPENDIUM

Written by Andrew Wasson for Creative Guitar Studio

ACOUSTIC GUITAR

NOTE: The Acoustic Guitar Course is a program for steel-string & nylon guitar players. As a student, you can work through these lessons in any order you choose. Enjoy!

1) Tracking Simple Melodies

Study the acoustic guitar technique behind taking simple melodic lines and adding bass tones into the low register. The lesson covers complimentary bass tones, stressing the downbeat, sustained arpeggios and supporting a melody by including octaves.

2) Pattern Picking Basics

Pattern picking is one of the most important skills that acoustic players need to develop. This lesson combines several pattern picking ideas to allow for everything from simple to complex plucking techniques. The goal of the lesson is to promote variety through simplicity.

3) Using Chords as Templates

Expand your acoustic guitar ability by learning to base your plucking & strumming on chord templates. Study how to use chord shapes as a “template” to format all of your playing patterns. The template system will greatly expand your acoustic technique sound.

4) Travis Picking Accompaniment Style

Legendary guitarist Merle Travis developed a unique finger-picked pattern that could be taken across any chord type anywhere on the neck. This lesson demonstrates how to perform the technique. Examples cover both simple and authentic Travis style.

5) Rhythm Comping Technique

This lesson explains guitar chord comping. This is one of the most popular rhythm techniques that is used by acoustic players. It involves simultaneously plucking groups of strings all together at once, (similar to how a chord is played on piano).



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6) Chord Strumming with Grid Systems

Strumming technique is one of the most important skills of the acoustic player. This lesson breaks down several strum techniques by focusing on the grid system of rhythm duration. String set targeting and isolated strumming are also discussed.

7) Inversions for Acoustic Songwriting

This lesson studies the Inversion process of chord changes across the neck and how acoustic pieces can benefit from the voice leading produced by inversions. A combination of drills, comping and fingerpicked melody help to demonstrate these ideas.

8) Acoustic Guitar Technique Exercises

Great technique is developed through long practice hours on the instrument. But, technique can be accelerated through the study of specific isolation drills. In this lesson we'll break down important exercises for improving your acoustic technique.

9) Chords & Patterns of DADGAD Tuning

The open tuning of DADGAD offers a very interesting suspended chord sound. This lesson contains five examples showing how sixteen popular chord shapes can be used in this tuning. You'll also learn examples of their application in the supplied progression.

10) Classical Guitar Proficiency

Many techniques used by Classical guitar players are excellent for all types of musical styles. In this lesson, we'll study several Classical Guitar techniques like; arpeggios, 2-Note chords, 3-Note chords, upper and lower melody, and fast bursts.

11) Chordal Picking Technique

Discover Chordal Picking. A picking pattern technique used to highlight chords. The lesson demonstrates flat-picking technique for brighter dynamics. The chordal picking lesson explores how to use several different picked pattern concepts.



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12) Acoustic Blues Harmonies and Riffs

Study riff building ideas based on the style of Acoustic Blues. Learn to develop a non-traditional Blues approach for this style. Understand the originality involved with “I-IV-V” Blues harmonies. Practice creating acoustic riffs for songs & development.

13) Bossa /Samba Latin Guitar Style

Latin style acoustic guitar is one of the most interesting styles of acoustic playing. The foundation of this style is based upon the Latin Clave. It encompasses the Samba, Bossa, Mambo and Cha Cha rhythms. This lesson explores all of the primary grooves.

14) Gypsy Jazz Chords and Rhythm

Practice the skills involved with performing Gypsy Jazz chords & rhythm. This lesson breaks down “La Pompe” strumming technique along with rapid chord moves of the styles harmony. Techniques of 3-note chord voicings and chord arrangement are shown.

15) Percussive Guitar Technique

Body taps & hits on the top & sides of an acoustic guitar make up a unique form of percussive playing used in many styles of guitar music. This lesson explores how to apply this idea across fingerstyle pieces within styles of; pop, folk and country.

16) Acoustic Fingerstyle Jazz

Combine ideas of jazz guitar with fingerpicking technique on the acoustic to create the style of “acoustic jazz.” Learn ways of connecting statements using; free, swing and straight time. Study acoustic jazz arpeggios, phrasing, and altered harmony.

17) Folk Fingerpicking Patterns Vol. 1

Volume 1 of a 2 volume lesson: This episode deals with establishing basic fingerpicking patterns in the Folk guitar style. Examples include; open position patterns based on chords, arpeggiated patterns, adding melody, 16th-note ideas and triplet patterns.



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18) Folk Fingerpicking Patterns Vol. 2

Volume 2 of a 2 volume lesson: This episode takes the technique of folk fingerpicking a step further with; alternating bass concepts, compound meter, bass-line melody, single-note lines, advanced arpeggios and a Travis picking example.

19) Clawhammer Strum Technique

The art of playing “Clawhammer” strum style involves perfecting the technique of down-strumming. Melody is added by way of the index fingernail and the rhythm involves use of a specific meter. This lesson explores Clawhammer picking /strumming approach.

20) FINAL REVIEW: Continuing Acoustic Education

REVIEW: Take what you’ve studied in the course and learn how to expand upon all of the playing principles. Includes exercises on; simple to advanced melodic phrasing, pattern picking, fingerstyle exercises, acoustic blues, classical & jazz proficiency.