



GUITAR COURSE COMPENDIUM

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QWIK SONGS SERIES

Each Qwik Song lesson includes a downloadable handout with the summary song charts.

The Qwik Song course is accessible to paid members of the Creative Guitar Studio website.

NOTE: These stand-alone lessons were developed to explore specific areas of study. As a student, you can work through these lessons in any order you choose. Enjoy!

Qwik Songs 001) “MIDNIGHT RIDER” by the Allman Brothers Band

This classic Southern Rock number contains a wealth of interesting ideas. The Mixolydian verse riff and Dorian chorus offer several ways to study, explore and improve your own songwriting and soloing style.

Qwik Songs 002) “EMPIRE” by Queensryche

This song appeared as the title track off of their 1990 album Empire. The song applies several interesting musical directions to the melody, harmony and timing. In this video discussion we'll cover several sections of this piece.

Qwik Songs 003) “HOW I GOT TO MEMPHIS” by Bobby Bare

Originally written by Tom T. Hall, this Country Music classic was covered by Bobby Bare in 1970. The arrangement is in “D Major” and has a number of nice rhythm guitar ideas along with a smooth key change.

Qwik Songs 004) “SANTERIA” by Sublime

This song rose to the top 5 on Billboard's Modern Rock chart and was used in the computer games; “Guitar Hero” and “Rock Smith.” It's catchy arpeggiated intro. and Reggae vibe made it a must learn guitar song of the 90's music era.



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Qwik Songs 005) “DANCING WITH MYSELF” by Billy Idol

This song was Billy Idol's breakthrough piece in the USA reaching #26 on the Billboard charts. Based upon an easy I-IV-V progression in the key of “E,” the catchy intro riff and solo use simple intervals of the key.

Qwik Songs 006) “NEARLY FORGOT MY BROKEN HEART” by Chris Cornell

Learn about the highlights for how elements of harmony and key center concepts work through the songs verse and chorus. Layers of mandolin & guitar create interesting arpeggiated riffs.

Qwik Songs 007) “ONE HEADLIGHT” by The Wallflowers

Jump into the sounds of “Drop D” tuning with this simple but effectively catchy song by Jakob Dylan's (Bob Dylan's son), band, The Wallflowers. Emphasis is placed upon the unique chord patterns and riffs.

Qwik Songs 008) “THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME” by Jim Reeves

A country classic that offers a popular 16-bar Nashville chord progression in the key of “C Major.” The 2/4 time signature with alternate bass-note strumming come together to create a fantastic gospel ballad.

Qwik Songs 009) “TEQUILA SUNRISE” by The Eagles

This song takes a common country rock format and establishes the Intro, Verse, Chorus and guitar solo around the same key signature. In the session we discuss the feel, strum technique and solo concepts.

Qwik Songs 010) “THE ONE I LOVE” by R.E.M.

Learn its catchy groove that supports the songs main riff. Practice the steady feel of 8th-note chord strumming (used in the Verse). Plus, there's an easy pop rock guitar solo organized around the key center of “E Minor.”



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Qwik Songs 011) “LANDSLIDE” by Fleetwood Mac

This classic fingerpicked acoustic piece uses a pattern picking concept that only slightly changes through the song parts. Study the basic overview of the songs finger-picked intro., verse and chorus breakdown.

Qwik Songs 012) “El Paso” by Marty Robbins

This is an interesting country western number that applies the “3 in 1” counting structure within 3/4 time signature. The intro of the song is also special in how it uses arpeggios and dyads to phrase a catchy melody line.

Qwik Songs 013) “BREAKDOWN” by Tom Petty

This piece is one of the hits off of Tom Petty’s first self-titled album, “Tom Petty and the Heart Breakers,” (released in 1977). It’s a catchy rock tune based in the key of “A Minor,” applying a mix of classic riffs & licks.

Qwik Songs 014) “IN MY LIFE” by The Beatles

One of their greatest hits from off the 1965 Rubber Soul album. The piece includes a catchy guitar melody along with unique sounding chord changes that apply both modal interchange and secondary dominant chords.

Qwik Songs 015) “I SHOT THE SHERIFF” by Bob Marley

This 1973 hit from Marley and his band “the Wailers” works around a repetitive structure in the key of “G Minor.” The harmony of the piece uses four chords and applies a catchy Pentatonic scale hook.

Qwik Songs 016) “OLD MAN” by Neil Young

Written for his 1972 Harvest album, this song uses a great deal of modal interchange by drifting the quality of the songs tonality between the tonal colors of “D Minor” and “D Major. I discuss the chord riffs and patterns.



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Qwik Songs 017) “SCAR TISSUE” by The Red Hot Chile Peppers

This incredibly catchy song is most well known for a two-note chord riff that applies wide intervals across the string sets. A slide solo in the song is well appointed for beginner slide players.

Qwik Songs 018) “WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD” as sung by Louis Armstrong

A classic pop-Jazz piece that applies a series of interesting chord changes within the key of “F Major.” This Qwik-Songs episode runs through the song sections and chord patterns.

Qwik Songs 019) “I BELIEVE IN YOU” by Don Williams

An easy going slow moving Country Western piece that focuses on basic chord harmony and a smooth strumming style. The song features a catchy lead guitar intro from “G Major” Pentatonic scale.

Qwik Songs 020) “JUMP IN THE FIRE” by Metallica

This song features widespread use of “G Blues” and “G Phrygian” mode across this fast paced heavy metal song structure. This is the first studio recorded EP released by Metallica and demonstrates both a strong groove and harmony.

Qwik Songs 021) “CRYIN” by Aerosmith

This song contains a heavy power chord riff intro with smooth arpeggiated picking covering the Verse and the Chorus song sections. Another interesting factor within the piece is the shift from the unrelated keys of, “G Minor” into, “A Major.”