



Play That Guitar. Pt 2

A beginner's guide by Brian Powell

I hope you have managed to practice and enjoy last month's exercises. You will need plenty of Patience, Determination and Discipline. So will your family and friends!

Try to play for 10 or 15 minutes every day rather than an hour once a week and always remember, the slower you practice the quicker you will learn.

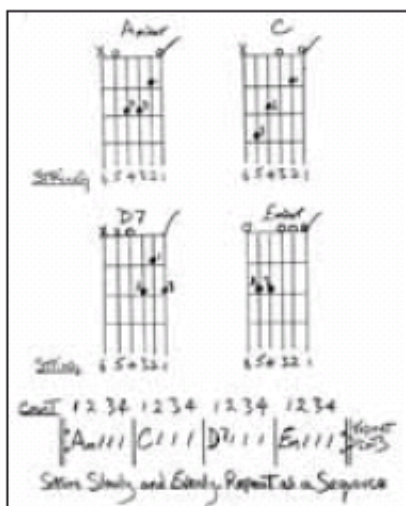
Top Tip

Spend time tuning your guitar before you start practicing. If you haven't got your own tuner there is an easy to use online guitar tuner at www.guitarforbeginners.com

A handful of chords.

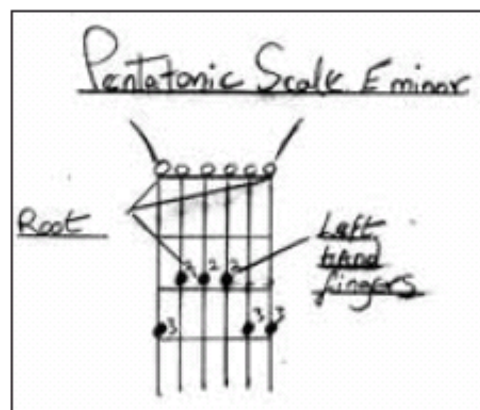
Fig 1 Chord diagrams and chord sequence

Place the tips of your fingers accurately and arch them down onto the fretboard. Tap your foot along as you strum. Note that Am, C and D7 all use the left hand 1st finger in the same place. Leave it in place as you change between these chords. Repeat this chord sequence slowly and aim to achieve smooth and accurate chord changes.



Pentatonic Scale E minor.

Fig 2 E minor pentatonic scale pattern



This scale is the 'backbone' of improvisation on the guitar. It moves up or down an octave every 5 notes, hence 'penta' (5). Start by learning the pattern in the open position. The guitar works on patterns and

shapes repeating themselves over the fingerboard to create new chords and scales in different keys. The Pentatonic scale is one of the main patterns to learn.

Try ascending and then descending this scale. Start on the open 6th (thickest) string and 'walk up the stairs' to the 3rd fret 1st (thinnest) string. Make sure you use the correct left

hand fingers and only play the notes in the pattern. Don't forget to play the open string notes.

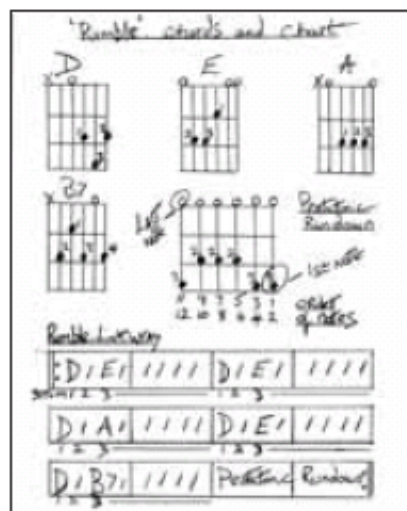
Use downstrokes evenly with your plectrum. And practice slowly.

Try jumbling up the notes and making random tunes, little 'runs' and rhythmic variations. This is the beginning of a Guitar Solo.

Guitarist Carlos Santana has made a career out of this scale give or take a few notes!

Rumble by Link Wray

This fantastic guitar instrumental from 1958 uses open position chords and the Em Pentatonic scale for the main theme. The Pentatonic scale is played descending from 1st string to 6th. Link Wray used a 'trashy' electric guitar fuzz tone for this record. The sound was achieved, so legend tells us, by slicing the amplifier's speaker cone with a razor blade. This was adopted by British 60's bands The Kinks and The Yardbirds to create a raw Rock Guitar sound. The distorted guitar sound defined an era of rock music and has helped to create the rock music of today.



The tune 'Rumble' works just as well when played on an acoustic guitar. The musical principles are the same; however you won't need the razor blades! If you are not familiar with the tune track it down on www.youtube.co.uk or the soundtrack to the movie 'Pulp Fiction'

Fig 3 Rumble Chords and Chart

Next month The Blues, Improvisation and Right Hand Technique.

In the meantime practice 'a little often' and listen to John Lee Hooker, Howlin'Wolf, Johnny Cash and of course...Hank Williams.

I have designed these 6 lessons to build the students ability a month at a time. Keep these articles and refer back to previous lessons. This page and all other 'Play That Guitar' lessons are posted at www.fivewaysdirectory.co.uk

Brian Powell is an RGT registered guitar teacher and teaches in the Fiveways area. More information available at www.brianguitar.co.uk and Tel 01273 565600. Copyright B Powell