

Guitar 101: Fast-Track to Professional Guitar

Course Description:

The typical course in guitar should include competency in several musical skills. At the completion of a basic guitar program, the student should be expected to know:

1. Major, Minor, and 7th chords in first position,
2. C Major scale in first position, and
3. Basic picking and plectrum techniques.

The complete set of skills should include an understanding of elementary harmony, the circle of fifths, blues scale patterns using the pentatonic scale, major and minor scales, modern three-chord progressions, the seven modes of harmony, the five scale improvisation patterns, scale modality, progression modulation and return, chord substitutions, chord dissonance, harmonic chord fusion, parallel and horizontal scaling, pick and plectrum techniques, and rhythm embellishments.

Here is a fast-track example to learning the guitar in 12 weeks:

I. First week

- A. The Blues
- B. E minor pentatonic scale patterns
- C. Three cord progressions, .ie I IV V
- D. Arpeggios and minor scale patterns
- E. Arpeggios and major scale patterns
- F. Basic chord and scale reading

II. Second Week

- A. Handout of E minor scale patterns
- B. Review of basic chord and scale reading
- C. Begin ensemble workout by performing an E minor scale pattern
- D. Rhythm patterns, listening and review of hand posture
- E. The Five Basic Chords
- F. Circle of fifths and elementary chord harmony
- G. E major and its contrast with E minor – a definition of Major and Minor

III. Third Week

- A. Review of Circle of Fifths
- B. Review of Major and Minor Scales
- C. Introduction to scale positions
- D. Guitar Chord Solo: ***Satin Doll***

IV. Fourth week

- A. Review E minor scale and arpeggios
- B. Major scales and I IV V
- C. Intonation and Dynamic Scaling
- B. Detail the scale degrees of Major and Minor
- C. Learn the Minor scale in 5 different keys
- D. Learn the Major scale in 5 different keys
- E. Review – Guitar Solo: ***Misty***

V. Fifth week

- A. Review Guitar Solos: ***Misty and Satin Doll***

VI. Sixth week

- A. Review of music theory
- B. Circle of fifths
- C. One sharp to 5
- D. Major scales in 5 keys
- E. Five basic chords and I IV V from each of them
- F. Guitar Solo: ***The Shadow of Your Smile***

VII. Seventh week

- A. The 7 modes
- B. Half step motion in chords
- C. The Phrygian mode
- D. Establishing grooves and applying modal scales
- E. Analysis of Triplet and Swing feels
- F. Chord Solo: ***When Sunny Gets Blue***

VIII. Eighth week

Ensemble performance of:

Misty

Satin Doll

When Sunny Gets Blue

The Shadow of Your Smile

IX. Ninth week

Introduction to Samba rhythm

Chord Solo: ***Girl From Ipanema***

X. Tenth Week

Introduction to Blues

A. Pentatonic Scale

B. Chord Solo: ***Stormy Monday Blues***

XI. Eleventh week

A. Rehearsal of entire music program

Misty

Satin Doll

When Sunny Gets Blue

The Shadow of Your Smile

Stormy Monday Blues

Girl From Ipanema

Moonlight In Vermont

Watch What Happens

Over The Rainbow

XII. Final week

A. Performance before audience:

Chord Solos (Three of the following)

1. ***Misty***

2. ***Satin Doll***

3. ***When Sunny Gets Blue***

4. ***The Shadow of Your Smile***

5. ***Stormy Monday Blues***

6. ***Girl From Ipanema***

7. ***Watch What Happens***

8. ***I'll Remember April***

9. ***Over The Rainbow***

10. ***Moonlight In Vermont***

