



Level 1 Week 2 Assignment

First:

This is where you really need to put in the effort.

Make sure you start using your metronome with all exercises. And don't short yourself. DO THE REPS. The scale studies should also move forward to the "A" Form. You will note, in the text, there are two methods of playing this scale study. The video shows this as well. The first one you ascend and descend shifting on the fourth finger through the first to the second octave. The second way is to ascend with the first, or "ascending" scale frame and descend with the second or "descending" scale frame shifting twice on your way back down in pitch.

Next:

Take on Chord Primer#1 while using the metronome you may have to set it slower than 60 bpm to make all the changes without a stop or hesitation. Even as slow as 40 bpm is not bad for starters. Try to make your chord transitions smooth and on time for the count of each measure. Your chordal transitions will get better with more practice on your scales. Believe it or not, the training you give your individual fingers is paramount to making good

“chordal rhythm playing” as well. It is imperative you learn to strum in time with another time source, whether it is a person playing with you or a metronome just keeping a 'clic'. Playing in time is of the essence and it is primary to playing real music and “being the note”.

Next:

Go to half reps on your first scale study but do not stop playing any of the scale studies during this crucial time of the first term. And get used to the metronome. It will be difficult to get to a musical sounding level if you are a real beginner and have never tried to play the guitar before but, many of my first term students who have really applied themselves, have found themselves playing (strumming and singing) through familiar material and songs that they have heard their favorite artists play. By the end of even just one term many of you will have really gained a skill on the instrument just by staying with it. You are, after all, studying a craft with some academics attached, not just an academic subject. So keep practicing. It will get a lot better by the 5th week or so. For all of the beginners who take the course, but have actually been “noodling around” on the guitar for a year or so, this won't be nearly as tough. But, keep with the regime for optimum results, and we will give all the students the resources to look for, and find, simple chord charts with strummable rhythms that we will all be able to play. Be sure to check out other resources on this site.