



Level 1 Week 6 Assignment

Here we are at the 6th week and all I can say is PRACTICE. Now, Keeping your guitar in tune is something that we have taken as a given but, truly being able to “stay in tune” and “play in tune” on a stringed instrument (even one with frets) is at least 3 to 7 years worth of experience. You can help this time factor greatly by learning, from the text, how to tune one string to a note given to you by a tuning fork or a piano that is in proper tune, and then using either the traditional method or the harmonic method of tuning your instrument. It takes a bit of listening to perform this task but it is also essential and basic.

To help, we have a technology that has come along in the last 25 years. Electronic tuners have made a quantum leap beyond the old strobe tuners, and they can be used to help a student learn what an in tune note sounds like. Many of these modern marvels are chromatic (not just a guitar tuner). These chromatic tuners are extremely flexible and a novice should not be without one.

Secondly we have been studying exercises that require certain metronomic speeds to develop your sense of time. Onsite students or music majors can't take lessons without

one so be sure you have one or the equivalent. A good drum machine with BPM (beats per minute) settings on it will be a lot of fun and much more flexible in the long run than just the single click type metronome. But either way you need a time creating unit to develop good "relative time" with a given pulse. As a matter of interest, some of the modern drum modules in keyboard units (Casio, Yamaha both make good cheap keyboards with these modules built in) will help you learn a variety of strums and rhythm patterns so a person could learn a ton of different styles while getting your left and right hand facility going through scale studies and Chord Cadences in your text.

This will be your next assignment:

1. All 5 scale studies 5reps at each fret, times 7 frets up and back. Remember this means you play the "E" form at the 3rd fret 5 times then move up to the 4th fret and repeat 5 times and so on until you reach the 10th fret then start back down going to the 9th fret and so on until you get back to the 3rd fret. 70 reps total "A" form 3rd to 10th "C" form and "G" Form 5th to 12 "D" form 2nd to 9th. Do these exercises every day at 3 different metronome settings over the week. Absolute beginners 60bpm 80 bpm 100 bpm 1/4 notes (a note on every click) Beginners with 1-2 years experience 80bpm 100bpm 120bpm 1/4notes. Do this for this week then bring the settings up in 10 point increments each day until you reach 200 - 220 bpm, 1/4 notes.

2. Your 3 Chord Primers need to become memory items this week as well as your scale studies. So play your chord studies both with 1/4 note strums and 1/8 note strums. We will shoot for 80 beats a minute for real Beginners and 100 beats a minute for the 1-2 year beginners. Don't forget, like the scale studies we want to move that bpm forward. Our goal is to play smoothly "without a seam" in the rhythm from 80 bpm up to 120 bpm both 1/4 and 1/8 note strums. My hearty suggestion is to put as much time as you can into this. Some people will make the goals and move into the intermediate level in a matter of a couple terms. Others will take a bit longer but everyone that practices the given material in this method will come out playing the guitar and, the music majors and music education students will be glad they took this fast track approach to the instrument.

Remember you are building a dependable simple major scale trail on the neck and each chord form has a scale study that corresponds with it. Think about how the shape of each chord feels as well as memorizing where your fingers fit in the strings Any questions at this point should be directed through email. Thank you for your participation and hard work. Be patient and diligent with yourself. It will payoff, so stay with it.