



Level 2 Week 1 Assignment

Our goals for this term are:

1. Improving scale and chord playing skills, and preparing to meet the criteria of the second term syllabus.
2. Begin working on reading music written on the staff in open position.
3. Developing skills to allow for interplay with others by starting a basic song list. We will begin with the Blues and extend to some free song selections to be made by each individual student.
4. Developing “bar chord” skills and making the “Five Chord Forms of the Neck” a real usable template that will extend your knowledge base for later advanced development in this essential area.

It is important, if you have not completed the first term of this course, that you test and jury with the instructor to be sure you can meet the criteria to start second term. You may find this information by reading the first term syllabus and contacting Mr. Grandstaff through

email or by phone. BE SURE TO SET UP YOUR COMMUNICATION LINK WITH THE INSTRUCTOR RIGHT AWAY. This way you will get the attention you need and will be assured of starting your study at a comfortable level.

Assignment 1st Week 2nd Term:

We will start with a review of what has come so far. You should be able to play scales as 1/4 notes and 1/8 notes at the rate indicated by the syllabus and the same for the strumming exercises (Chord Primers One, Two, and Three) often referred to as cadences or progressions.

It is crucial that while you continue to practice the fundamentals that you pay particular attention to your left and right hand address.

There will be a tendency for you to bunch your fingers, even into the third term of practicing, SO... keep the left hand open, aligning four fingers-four frets. Also, always be able to play the lowest string with the pinkie no matter where the first finger is.

You can refer to the video section on proper address of both hands. Right hand, keep the thumb out and keep the fingers at a right angle to the strings.

These are essentials to gaining good habits and will prevent developing bad technique.

1. REVIEW:

Continue practice regime and increase speed of metronome for scales and chord studies to 125 or 130. Our goal will be to become comfortable at this tempo over your second term development.

2. Start practice with the Five Chord Forms of the Neck. This exercise requires you do 30 reps per day at 70 bpm for the first week (7 days). Refer to Segment #6 for your video lesson on this set of exercises.

You will have to bar four of the five forms. You will also let each chord ring for 3 counts. On the fourth count of the measure you will move up the next form, strum once, and let ring for 3 counts. Again on the fourth count you will move to the next form and so on until you have moved all the way up and back down through the five forms.

Once this is accomplished, with all the right strings ringing clearly, and your movement is even and in time with your metronome, you will be moved forward into the next level of practicing the "Five Forms" in a universal exercise.

3. Put some time into the Chord Primers. Work on

smooth transitions between chords and seamless rhythm strumming both with 1/4 notes and 1/8 note strumming figures. Refer to video Segment #8 for a review of proper strumming techniques.