

BLO8 - REVIEW - What We've Learned So Far

BL02 - Learning Your First Chords

CHORD:

A chord is a combination of at least 3 tones played at the same time. (can have more)

Chord Chart / String Names / Fret Board / Fret Bars / "Frets"

FRET = space between 2 fret bars

To get the best sound, play as close as possible to the upper fret bar

HAND POSITION:

Fingers should be pointing back at your face

Thumb goes behind the neck / it drops your wrist / allows for playing with your fingertips

Avoid touching other strings

MUSCLE MEMORY:

Like a professional athlete, you must have consistency to develop muscle memory!

Muscle memory is essential to changing guitar chords quickly and effectively.

Your goal is to develop muscle memory in your fingers to learn the "shape" of each chord so that all your fingers will arrive effortlessly on the correct strings at the same time.

STRUMMING:

Strumming uses the forearm, not the wrist. Bend from the elbow.

The upstroke is a place-keeper - don't try to hit all 6 strings going up.

*** IMPORTANT ***

It is very important to develop good habits from the start because it is much more difficult to correct a bad habit down the road. It may be hard, but don't take any shortcuts!

LESSON DEMONSTRATION SONG: "Let It Be"

BL03 - Count to "4" and You Can Strum

STRUMMING ARM:

It's VERY important to keep your strumming arm going.

The strumming arm acts like a metronome keeping the beat and the strum steady.

Learned strum #3 and #4.

Land on the new chord on beat "1". You may have to leave a bit early to get there.

LESSON DEMONSTRATION SONGS: "Knockin' On Heavens' Door" and "Country Roads"

BL04 - Meet the "G" Family

FAMILY = KEY:

All the chords in the "G" family are related to each other.

Chords in the Key of G: G, Em, C, D, Am, D7

NEW FINGERING FOR G CHORD:

We learned the importance of playing G with the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th fingers.

BL04 - Meet the “G” Family *continued*

ECONOMY OF MOTION:

It's VERY important to have as little movement as possible between chord changes.
It is necessary to develop speed with your chord changes.

NEW FINGERING FOR THE “G” CHORD:

We learned the importance of playing the “G” chord with the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th fingers.
This new fingering will prove to be VERY important in future lessons & songs.

PRACTICE:

Practicing 10-minutes here and there will add up quickly.
Mute the volume during commercials while watching TV and practice!

LESSON DEMONSTRATION SONGS: “Wonderful Tonight” and “Sweet Home Alabama.”

BL05, BL06 - Resting On the Down Strum

GUITAR TUNER:

It is VERY important to have a good guitar tuner.
The SNARK clip on tuner is a very good inexpensive tuner.
You can also get a good FREE tuner “app” for your cell phone.

STRUM:

Your arm is like a metronome so always keep it moving, smoothly and consistently.
You decide when, and when NOT, to put the pick on the strings.
DO NOT STOP at the top of the strum. Take the “fake” strum down over the strings.

FEEL THE RHYTHM:

Begin to “feel” the rhythm and try to stop counting the beats.
Remember: Music is an art, not a science. You have “artistic license.”

MAKE A MISTAKE?

Don't stop and start over. Keep pushing through.
Don't reveal to anyone that you made a mistake!
Smooth and successful chord changes require:
- Consistent Practice (a little bit every day)
- Muscle Memory in your fingers

BL07 - Introducing the Half-Strum

DOWN - DOWN UP:

Every circled chord gets the same “down — down up” half strum
Introducing the “A” chord
If a string is not sounding correctly, check to see if you are moved up high enough
in the fret, and see if one of your fingers is touching another string.

REMEDY:

1. Get your thumb behind the neck
2. This will drop your wrist down so you can...
3. Play the strings with your fingertips

LESSON DEMONSTRATION SONGS: “Bad Moon Rising” and “Take It Easy.”