

SYLLABUS: THE QUICKSTART GUITAR COURSE

Week 1—Intro To Guitar: The Guitar Place In Pop Music; How To Read Tablature; How To Read Chord Diagrams; Intro To Rhythm: Whole, Half, Quarter, and 8th note Rhythms; Basic Open Chording & Fingerboard Integration

Playing Assignment: Reading Tablature Examples 1-2 [8], Open Chords: G, C, D, & Am [12]. Set a goal of obtaining clear sounding chords with proper fingerings. "Eyes Shut" [11]

BRAINWORK--Memorize the names of the open strings [2]: E, A, D, G, B, & E (Remember: Even Armadillos Drink Gatorade Before Eating)

Week 2—Open String Chord & Tablature Review; Examining "Knockin' On Heaven's Door;" Practice Tips;" "Move Exercises;" Intro To Basic Power Chords, Intro To The 12-Bar Blues Forms

Playing Assignment: Learn the E, A & D Open String Chords [14]; "Knockin' On Heaven's Door," break down and practice song into 2-Chord "MOVE" exercises [15-16]; eventually experimenting with Whole, Half, and Quarter Note Rhythms [3]. Once you've obtained clear sounding chords, each with their proper fingering, set your goals toward getting from chord to chord quicker. EXTRA: Basic Chord Progressions [19].

Week 3—Intro Open Power Chording; Review "Knockin' On Heaven's Door" Lesson: E, A & D Progressions; Intro To The 12-Bar Blues Progression (Blues in A); Intro To Applied Music Theory Basic Theory: Whole Step/Half Step/Sharps/Flats

Playing Assignment: E, A, & D Progressions: Examples 11-12 [20]. Memorize Open Power Chords E5, A5, D5 [26-27]; Open Power Chord Exercises [28-29]; Open Power Chording: the Blues [30].

Written Assignment: Music Theory Lessons 1-3 [32-34].

BRAINWORK—Memorize the notes of the low E and A Strings, note the half steps between E & F and between B & C.

Week 4— Intro To Movable Power Chording; Major Scale (in the key of G); Construction and application of the major scale within the basic power chord format.

Playing Assignment: Movable Power Review all lessons thus far; analyze progressions (all in G); Class Power Chording Progressions: Examples 1 & 2 [38]; Example 9 [40]; Basic Power Chording Progressions [41, 54, 55]; In The Style Of... Green Day [57]

Written Assignment: Construct G Major Scale using the Major Scale Pattern of Half & Whole Steps [51]

BRAINWORK—Memorize the notes that make up the key of G Major (G A B C D E F# G): Music Theory Lesson Six [52]; Map out G Major Notes on E & A Strings [2]

Week 5—Guitar Accompaniment; 8th Note Strumming; Broken Chording; Single Note Line Playing

Playing Assignment: 8th Note Strumming Examples 1-8 [63, 66]; Ghost Stroke Explanation [64]; 8th Note Strumming Example 10; 8th Note Strumming Songs Examples 1 & 4 [68]; Reading Tab: Example 3 [9]; Broken Chording [78]

Week 6—Dominant 7th Chord Forms; The Blues;

Playing Assignment: Blues Chords In Three Keys [88]; A Blues Variation 1 [90]; The Blues: Chuck Berry [91].

Reading Assignment: The Verse/Chorus Song Form [103].

BRAINWORK—Song Form; pick songs from the list [105]; listen and identify the form.

Week 7—Sight-reading For Guitar; Guitar Gear

Playing Assignment: 1st String Reading (supplemental sheet); Basic Rhythms (supplemental sheet). EXTRA: Mel Bay Grade 1 (pages 7-8)

Reading Assignment: Quickstart Guitar (pages 106-111); Extra: Mel Bay (pages 4-6)

Week 8—Understanding Song Form; Songwriting 101 (Crash Course)

Writing Assignment: Experiment with the sounds of chords, come up with your own two (and four) chord progressions... chords that you think sound good together. Once you've with found a few of these tow and four chord progressions, try singing over top of these chords... your own melodies... non-sense words, sounds, etc. Choose better words for the melodies you come up with as they come to you.

Reading Assignment: Songwriting: The Germ Theory (101); The Verse/Chorus Song Form [103].

BRAINWORK—Song Form; pick songs from the list [105]; listen and identify the form.