

Country Guitar Mastery: From Basics to Ensemble Playing

Learn essential techniques for country guitar, including chord progressions, soloing, and playing with a band. Ideal for guitarists ready to explore country music.

Guitar Instructor: Ethan Brooks • 5 sections • 50 lessons • 18.50h total

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About this course

Many guitarists admire country music but find its specific techniques and styles challenging to master. Whether it's the intricate fingerpicking of western swing or the soulful bends that mimic pedal steel guitar, country guitar has unique demands that require focused practice.

In this course, you'll learn step-by-step how to play country guitar from the ground up. We cover chord structures, rhythm patterns, melody lines, and improvisation across various sub-genres. Includes video lessons, real-world case studies, and practical exercises to help you play confidently in an ensemble.

Course curriculum

Foundations and Preparation

- **Setting Up Your Guitar for Country Tones (12m)**
Adjust your guitar's action, strings, and tone controls for authentic country sound.
- **Basic Country Chord Shapes and Open Tunings (18m)**
Step-by-step guide to essential chords and open tunings used in country music.
- **Strumming Patterns for Country Rhythm (15m)**
Practice common strumming patterns that drive country songs.
- **Introduction to Country Melody Lines (20m)**
Build your first melody lines using scales and intervals.
- **Chord Progressions in Country Music (22m)**
Explore typical progressions like I-IV-V and their variations.
- **Developing Finger Strength and Dexterity (10m)**
Exercises to improve your playing precision for country techniques.
- **Understanding Country Music Theory Basics (25m)**
Key theory concepts tailored for country guitarists.

Core Country Guitar Techniques

- **Playing Melody and Bass Lines Simultaneously (28m)**
Technique for combining melody with bass notes in chord progressions.
- **Country Rhythm Guitar: Boom-Chick Pattern (18m)**
Master the classic boom-chick rhythm essential for country.
- **Lead Guitar Basics: Bends and Slides (22m)**
Introduction to bends and slides for expressive lead playing.
- **Soloing Over Country Chord Changes (25m)**
How to construct solos that fit country progressions.
- **Improvisation Techniques for Country (30m)**
Guidelines and exercises for spontaneous country solos.
- **Chord Inversions for Country Guitar (20m)**
Using inversions to add variety to your rhythm playing.
- **Country Guitar Fills and Embellishments (15m)**
Adding fills between chords to enhance your playing.
- **Practice Routines for Country Guitar (12m)**
Structured practice sessions to build skills efficiently.
- **Case Study: Analyzing a Classic Country Song (35m)**
Break down the guitar parts of a well-known country track.
- **Country Guitar Tone and Gear Basics (20m)**
Optimize your amp settings and effects for country sound.

Deep Dive into Sub-Genres

- **Western Swing Guitar Essentials (25m)**
Techniques for the jazzy, upbeat style of western swing.
- **Fingerstyle Country Guitar: Travis Picking (30m)**
Step-by-step Travis picking patterns and applications.
- **Truck-Drivin' Song Guitar Styles (22m)**
The driving rhythms and motifs in truck-driving country.
- **Modern Pop/Rock Country Guitar (28m)**
Adapting country techniques for contemporary hits.
- **Blues Influence in Country Guitar (20m)**
How blues elements shape country solos and rhythms.
- **Country Ballad Guitar Techniques (18m)**
Playing slow, emotional country ballads with expression.
- **Instrumental Country Guitar Arrangements (32m)**
Creating full arrangements for instrumental country pieces.
- **Case Study: Sub-Genre Comparison (40m)**
Compare guitar approaches across different country sub-genres.

Advanced Application and Instruments

- **Mimicking Pedal Steel Guitar on Standard Guitar (35m)**
Use bends, slides, and volume swells to emulate pedal steel sounds.
- **Baritone Guitar Textures on Standard Tuning (30m)**
How to achieve baritone-like depth with your regular guitar.
- **Advanced Country Soloing Techniques (28m)**
Complex licks, hybrid picking, and fast runs for country solos.
- **Improvisation in Western Swing (25m)**
Advanced improvisation over chord changes in swing style.
- **Country Guitar in Open Tunings (22m)**
Exploring open G, D, and other tunings for country guitar.
- **Playing with a Country Rhythm Section (20m)**
How to interact with bass and drums in a country band.
- **Country Guitar Recording Techniques (18m)**
Tips for recording country guitar parts in a studio.
- **Dynamic Control and Expression (15m)**
Using dynamics to add emotion to your country playing.
- **Case Study: Pedal Steel Mimicry Session (32m)**
Real-world example of translating pedal steel lines to guitar.
- **Advanced Chord-Melody Approaches (25m)**
Combining chords and melody in sophisticated arrangements.
- **Problem-Solving: Common Country Guitar Challenges (20m)**
Addressing issues like timing, intonation, and tone.

- **Guitar Maintenance for Optimal Performance (10m)**

Keep your guitar in top shape for country playing.

Implementation and Next Steps

- **Preparing for Ensemble Performance (18m)**
How to rehearse and prepare for playing with other musicians.
- **Country Guitar in a Live Setting (22m)**
Tips for stage presence and live country guitar playing.
- **Building a Country Guitar Repertoire (25m)**
Selecting and learning songs for your country setlist.
- **Collaborating with Vocalists and Other Instruments (20m)**
Techniques for supporting singers and blending with the band.
- **Country Guitar Improvisation in Performance (28m)**
Applying improvisation skills in live or jam scenarios.
- **Recording Your Country Guitar Tracks (15m)**
Step-by-step guide to laying down country guitar parts.
- **Feedback and Self-Assessment (12m)**
How to evaluate your playing and identify areas for improvement.
- **Case Study: Full Band Country Performance (35m)**
Analyze a complete country band performance focusing on guitar.
- **Exploring Further Country Guitar Resources (10m)**
Books, videos, and communities for continued learning.
- **Developing Your Personal Country Guitar Style (20m)**
Tips for creating a unique sound within country traditions.
- **Final Review and Course Summary (18m)**
Recap of key techniques and concepts from the course.
- **Next Steps: Joining a Country Band or Project (12m)**
Guidance on finding and joining country music groups.
- **Bonus: Country Guitar Jam Session (30m)**
Apply everything in a simulated jam session with backing tracks.

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